

GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

401 South Adams Street
Marion, Indiana 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board meeting was held July 25, 2023 in the Grant County Council Chambers. Chairman Mark Bardsley called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. Other members present were Vice-Chairman Gordon Gough, Pat Pinkerton, and Grant County Surveyor Jim Todd. Drainage Board secretary Mary Weesner, Kenny Cates and Richard Cox were not in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

By consent of the Board, the minutes from the July 11, 2023 meeting have been tabled until the next meeting (August 8, 2023).

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Newhouse Excavating \$2,695.00 Brumfield Blue; \$2,730.49 in the fund
Irving Aggregates \$1,919.93 Doty Ditch; 30,656.39 in the fund
John's Repair Service \$1,077.00 Aaron Newby; \$3,822.33 in the red
Cates Brothers \$16,880.00 Doty Tile; \$30,656.39 in the fund
Ron Cates \$7,344.00 Doty Tile; \$30,656.39 in the fund
Sullivan Excavating \$1,840.00 Back Creek; \$97,145.00 in the fund
Sullivan Excavating \$4,800.00 Newby Ditch of Back Creek; \$97,145.00
in the fund

Jim Todd informed the Board that Sullivan Excavating has the tile fixed on Little Crane Pond, he went out and looked at it. Pat Pinkerton said that he didn't know if that tile is doing any good as he doesn't know if anything is even connected to it, Jim stated that it did have a little bit of water in it.

Pat Pinkerton made a motion to approve the above claims as presented. Seconded by Mark Bardsley, motion carried 2-0 with Gordon Gough abstaining due to having land on the Back Creek watershed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Little Crane Pond

There is nothing new to discuss

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business to discuss

OTHER BUSINESS:

Sweetser Improvement & Enoch Lee-Set public hearing date

Jim Todd stated that the assessment roll is ready for a public hearing. Raymond Bair said that they came in and requested a high maintenance to get things going on it, the rate was \$25.00 per acre with \$50.00 for homesite. He added that it generates almost \$37,000.00 per year. Todd Stoller, one of the major players, brought in a petition in April, requesting the rate be lowered. Raymond informed Mr. Stoller at the time that there was still a stretch that needed to be done. We just received the bid for this at the last meeting, it was for \$67,000.00 and there is \$95,000.00 in their fund. They will bring in another \$13,000.00 this fall. Raymond Bair added that there is a section along CR 400 N by Van Buren that has a history of having slide ins because it is very deep and very close to the road. He said that he ran numbers for ten years at \$3.00 per acre and Raymond feels that would be sufficient for them to get the whole thing dredged in five years, and to also address some of the slide ins and spraying this year. He said that Stoller was fine, he talked to Harold Turner, which is another major player, but he would rather see it at \$4.00 per acre. Mark Bardsley explained that whatever we advertise, we can go lower than that but cannot go higher. Jim Todd informed the Board that Drainage Board secretary Mary Weesner had a projected date that she would like to have the hearing being either September 12, 2023 or September 26, 2023. Mark Bardsley recommended that they choose the September 26th date so that there is a buffer, asking if they are wanting a reduction in just the acreage but leave it at \$50.00 per homesite. Raymond Bair stated that the Blackford County surveyor told him that they have to go across the board, so everyone is treated fairly.

He added that if they are lowering the acreage down then they would have to change the homesite to \$10.00. Jim Todd stated that he is not in favor of lowering homesite to \$10.00. Pat Pinkerton asked Raymond how he came up with \$10.00 per homesite, Raymond stated that if it is \$25.00 per acre and we take it to \$5.00, then we need to charge the 20% per homesite. Gordon Gough stated that he would like to see \$25.00 per homesite. Mark Bardsley reiterated the requested rates of \$5.00 per acre, \$25.00 per homesite and the minimum at the current rate of \$25.00, Raymond Bair said that we would have to lower the minimum as well. After a brief discussion, Pat Pinkerton made a motion to hold a public hearing for the Sweetser Improvement & Enoch Lee to lower the rates to \$5.00 per acre, \$25.00 per homesite and the minimum rate of \$10.00 for a four year collection. The public hearing will be scheduled for September 26, 2023. Gordon Gough seconded; motion carried 3-0.

Baker Ditch – Amy Beebe – Petition to hold public hearing

Raymond Bair stated that the Baker Ditch has not been on maintenance for as long as he can remember. He added that Jerry Losure fought for 25-30 years to get a blockage under I69 opened up. Amy Beebe was able to get it open a year ago. Not only does it help her, but it helps east of I69. It goes through the woods and there is not a lot of silt, but it has a lot of trees across it. Raymond added that there are 1,500+ acres in this watershed and four homesites. A lot of the homesites in this are already being charged to Brushy Run. Amy got a maintenance fund going on Brushy Run and this year they brushed part of it passed CR 600. She is requesting the part just downstream from CR 725 up to the head of it which is west of CR 600 E. Jim Todd added that she has brought a petition requesting a maintenance hearing. Raymond informed the Board that Mrs. Beebe has dredged the top end from the very top of CR 600 with her own money. Jim Todd that today the Board will accept the petition and that he already has the assessment roll. Jim Todd stated that he would like to talk to Mary Weesner to see what date works best for her; Raymond Bair stated that we can set the date today. Jim asked Mrs. Beebe if she had a rate in mind; she responded that she would like \$7.00 per acre. Jim Todd said that there would not be a homesite since the landowners are already paying a homesite with a rate of \$100.00 on the Carey Branch of Brushy Run, to keep it going. Mrs. Beebe was speaking but the

recording is inaudible. Gordon Gough inquired as to how much this would bring in at \$7.00 per acre, Raymond Bair said that at \$7.50 per acre it would bring in \$11,750.00. Gordon then asked Mrs. Beebe about the work that is needing done on the Baker Ditch; Raymond said there is 2,600 feet from the junction of Tinkle over to I69, adding that it would be \$16,000.00 to \$20,000.00 just to cut a path through there. Mrs. Beebe was speaking but inaudible. Gordon Gough made a motion to advertise the rate for the Baker Ditch at \$10.00 per acre, four homesites at \$50.00 with a minimum of \$10.00 for a four year collection. The public hearing date is set for September 26, 2023. Motion was seconded by Pat Pinkerton, carrying 3-0.

Pond Ordinance

Raymond Bair informed the Board that Ryan Malott reminded him that he will be presenting the pond ordinance on August 7, 2023 for its first reading. Raymond added that if the Board wants adjustments made, they need to make the adjustments. Mark Bardsley asked Jim Todd if there were any changes he would like to see; Jim stated that he is ok with what is being presented.

Raymond Bair stated that he is concerned that there are a lot of departments that have to scrutinize it and it ends up eating time that the departments to spend time on other things. He said that while it does need to be addressed, he feels that they only need to be an advisory. Pat Pinkerton stated that there is a portion in there where it says that the Drainage Board could require a drainage study but depending on what is going on with the pond, the Drainage Board may not even be involved in it. Pat added that if it should be more of an Area Plan thing that would need the drainage study; he asked that Ryan maybe take a look at the language of this. Mark Bardsley stated that this is for ponds under one acre, Ryan agreed stating that ponds over an acre are USDA. Mark added that he feels that the biggest thing is on any type of retention pond is that we just need to accept the water, Jim Todd added that his main goal is to make sure where its discharge will be and that it does not affect anybody upstream or downstream. Ryan Malott stated that he will get with Raymond Bair as there were things he did not like in it.

Spray Program

Raymond Bair stated that he and Jim Todd went out and looked and the only one that they found a problem with is Taylor Creek. Jim Todd added that they did not spray the part down by the treatment plant at all. There is a cattle guard there that you would have to unwire and for some reason they did not go in there. Jim stated that on his 800 feet there is one area that they came in and made a circle, missing 20 feet of the ditch. Raymond Bair sent a letter to Right of Way Management regarding the missed areas.

Ryan Malott stated that the State came up, they had a situation with the Audley property where they built a pole barn and according to the FEMA maps, it was not in the flood plain but the DNR maps said that it was in a flood way. He added that as of July 1st, Senate bill #242 repealed the DNR 2.0, which is the law that says we need to use the DNR maps.

ADJOURN:

Pat Pinkerton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:47 am; seconded by Gordon Gough. Motion carried 3-0.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting to be held will be August 8, 2023 at 11:00 am and will be held in the Grant County Council Chambers.

Minutes recorded by:
Mary R. Weesner
Drainage Board Secretary

The Grant County Drainage Board has approved the minutes for July 25, 2023 as presented:

Mark Bardsley

Gordon Gough

*****Absent*****

Richard Cox

*****Absent*****

Kenny Cates

Pat Pinkerton