

GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

401 South Adams Street
Marion, Indiana 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board meeting was held February 13, 2024, in the Grant County Council Chambers. Chairman Mark Bardsley called the meeting to order at 11:07 am. Other members present were Vice-Chairman Richard Cox, Gordon Gough, Pat Pinkerton, Kenny Cates, Grant County Surveyor Jim Todd, and Drainage Board Secretary Mary Weesner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Richard Cox made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 30, 2023, meeting as presented; seconded by Pat Pinkerton. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

There are no claims for approval.

OLD BUSINESS:

Little Crane Pond

There is nothing new to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

Counts Ditch – Amy Bebe – Request Replacement

Jim Todd stated that there are a couple of landowners present today and they have been working with Raymond Bair. Raymond said that the Counts Ditch is a 1905 tile up by Hanfield Drain. He added that Tom Hix and Amy BeBe are willing to relay and replace the Counts Tile at their own expense. They would like to increase it from a 12” to a 24”. Raymond added that Mr. Hix and Mrs. BeBe are approaching other landowners about getting access with their septic systems to get put into the line. This is a county drain but does not collect maintenance. Gordon Gough asked about the acreage; Raymond told him about 150 acres. Kenny Cates asked if the railroad was abandoned, and Raymond told him that it is. Mr. Hix stated that if they take the rails out, they cannot sell them, they have to take them to Goodman Yard. Jim Todd stated that it has already been taken out in various places so that people can get back there. The county highway department took it

out over the road and then leveled the road. Jim asked Mr. Hix if he had selected a contractor to do the work; Mr. Hix responded that he has Eads & Sons. Mark Bardsley asked Raymond Bair whether or not we are receiving direct discharge from septic tanks; Raymond responded that it's not known. Mark added that individuals could connect, that is the perimeter drains could connect in. Pat Pinkerton asked if this drain would then go on maintenance; Mr. Hix responded that it will not go on maintenance and that they just want permission to replace the tile. Gordon Gough made a motion to approve the request from Tom Hix and Amy Bebe to replace the tile, at their expense. Jim Todd asked them if they were going to put the tile on one side or the other or are they going to put it right where it is; Mr. Hix said that it will be about 30' away from where it is now, Jim said that is okay as it would still be in the easement. Seconded by Richard Cox; motion carried, with support 5-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Jim Todd stated that Mary Weesner told him that she could hold both hearings on the same date, April 30, 2024. Gordon Gough asked where the petitioners are and why they are not present; Mark Bardsley stated that he remembers that they were here when they were told that we needed a petition from them to proceed.

Dry Fork-Peterson Casey, South Prong & White Branch - Request hearing date
This was petitioned by Wendell Cates. There is no current maintenance on this watershed. Jim Todd discussed this watershed and tributaries, informing the Board that this is an open ditch. Wendell Cates is asking \$7.00 per acre, \$50.00 per homesite with a minimum of \$25.00 for a four year collection. With the proposed rate it would bring in \$30,650.77 annually. Richard Cox made a motion to hold a public hearing for the Dry Fork-Peterson Casey, South Prong & White Branch on April 30, 2024, with the rates of \$7.00 per acre, \$50.00 per homesite with a minimum of \$25.00 for a four year collection. This motion was seconded by Gordon Gough; motion carried, with support 5-0.

South Prong of Dry Fork - Request hearing date
This was petitioned by Brian Cates. The current maintenance rate for this watershed is \$1.25 per acre with a \$5.00 minimum, but Brian Cates would like to raise this rate. He is asking for \$25.00 per acre, \$100.00 per homesite with a minimum of \$50.00 for a four year collection. With the proposed rate it would bring in \$23,795.00 annually. Richard Cox made a motion to hold a hearing for the South Prong of Dry Ford on April 30, 2024, with the rates of \$25.00 per acre, \$100.00 per homesite with a minimum of \$50.00 for a four year collection. Motion was seconded by Pat Pinkerton and carried unanimously 5-0.

Spray Program

Raymond Bair asked the Board if they had any input for him. He went on to state that he had talked to Wendell Cates about spraying Pipe Creek and Mr. Cates affirmed that he was going to spray Pipe Creek over by Roseburg and towards his house. Raymond added that he talked with David Devore about spraying part of Harper Ditch. They would like the county to spray south of a line that Mr. Devore showed him on a map. Kenny Cates told Raymond to hit Taylor Creek; Jim Todd agreed. Mark Bardsley asked what is appropriate, every year or every other year; Jim Todd said that they have done it a couple years in a row to get ahead of things and we should be able to skip a year on some of them. Jim said that they were supposed to spray his, they were supposed to open the gate and come on in, but they circled around and left; he did not get sprayed. Kenny added that Matthews Ditch needs touched up, Raymond stated that it is on the list. Raymond added that they are holding off on Barren Creek because there is no money to do it and there is still one more branch of Barren Creek that needs brushed and dredged, Jim Todd added that they are putting rip rap on it as well. Mark Bardsley asked about how many of our open ditches that we have that are not on the spray program, but we still want to get on the program; Jim Todd informed Mark there are a few miles if we had the money. Mark said for next year, could possibly use some of the designated money that we have out of the ARPA funds for at least one year. We can use the funds, but we have to be committed to a project and sign a contract this year so that we can use it next year. Mark Bardsley added that this would help the maintenance fund build up for the following year. Mark Bardsley stated that he would like some numbers with recommendations, maybe we can possibly get these ditches sprayed. Raymond stated that they usually wait for a request to spray the ditches. Jim Todd recommended they send out letters to the landowners on Deer Creek telling them that we will have the funds and not have to use their maintenance fund to brush it so that we can keep it sprayed. After we get a response, we can take quotes from contractors so that we can already have a contractor lined up. Jim added that we can do that this summer, and then as soon as the crops come off, we can tell the contractor to go on in there and cut the rest of this brush down so that we can keep it all sprayed. Raymond Bair stated that they have five new ditches that they are adding this year.

Solar Ordinance

Mark Bardsley asked Kenny Cates if he is still talking to attorneys out of Indianapolis regarding the 150' setback from top of bank. Mark added that we cannot supersede state law which is 75'. Kenny has been talking to a guy from Barnes & Thornburg and that we have a guy that represents the county commissioners. Kenny asked Mark about who is paying for this; Mark stated that he will send it through the Association of County Commissioners and ask Rick. He added that if Kenny wants to follow up on his side. The concept is we can't

supersede state law but, we can make an economical agreement that actually require 150'. Kenny Cates asked Jim Todd if he agrees with him that when putting in a 30" tile in the waterways that are north of Swayzee, it is going to have to be wider; Jim agreed. Kenny added that someone from APEX called him and that they are not giving up. But, he added, they agreed that we was going to have to do the 150'. Mark Bardsley reiterated that we will find out what the recommendation is from Barnes & Thornburg.

ADJOURN:

Kenny Cates made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:48 am; seconded by Gordon Gough. Motion carried with support, 5-0.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting to be held will be February 27, 2024, at 11:00 am 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 February 13, 2024, as presented:

Mark Bardsley

Richard Cox

Gordon Gough

Kenny Cates

Pat Pinkerton