

**KOSCIUSKO COUNTY
DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 21, 2023**

PRESENT:

CARY GRONINGER – CHAIRMAN
JIM SCOTT – VICE CHAIRMAN
DENNIS DARR
JOE IRWIN
STEVE METZGER

ALSO, PRESENT:

MIKE KISSINGER – SURVEYOR
MARK MONTEL – DRAINAGE SUPERVISOR
KRISTA BAKER – DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY
SANDY ANGEL – DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY

CARY GRONINGER – CHAIRMAN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER.

NOVEMBER CLAIMS AND MINUTES

JOE IRWIN MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CLAIMS AND MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER AS PRESENTED SUBJECT TO ANY AND ALL AUDITS. STEVE METZGER SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

DEEDS CREEK COST SHARE DISCUSSION – (TABLED FROM NOVEMBER)

THIS WAS A COUNTINUATION OF THE DISCUSSION OF A REQUEST MADE BY THE WATERSHED FOUNDATION AND PIKE LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION TO SHARE IN THE COST OF A 1,800 FOOT PROJECT AT THE UPPER END OF DEEDS CREEK FOR MAJOR STABILIZATION IN A HIGH EROSION AREA. TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF THE PROJECT IS \$209,755.82. THE COUNTY WOULD NORMALLY PAY ABOUT \$100,000 MAINTENANCE ON THIS DITCH. MIKE KISSINGER SPOKE WITH THE WATERSHED FOUNDATION AND THEY DO NOT HAVE AN AMOUNT TARGETED THAT THEY WOULD LIKE US TO CONTRIBUTE. THEY DO NOT HAVE ANY GRANTS SECURED YET, BUT A COMMITMENT BY THE DRAINAGE BOARD THAT WE WILL BE INVOLVED WOULD BE BENEFICIAL IN SECURING A GRANT. JOE IRWIN QUESTIONED WHETHER THE PROJECT WOULD TAKE PLACE IF THEY DID NOT RECEIVE GRANT MONEY. MIKE FELT THAT THEY WOULD NOT PROCEED WITHOUT GRANTS. DEEDS CREEK BRINGS IN APPROXIMATELY \$40,000 PER YEAR AND THE BALANCE IS \$154,387.28. AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION, A MOTION WAS MADE BY JOE IRWIN TO CONTRIBUTE \$40,000 TOWARD THE PROJECT. JIM SCOTT SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

DISCUSSION ON TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM UNRUCH TO WYLAND

MIKE KISSINGER NOTED THAT IN 1970 THE DRAINAGE BOARD DECIDED TO COLLECT AN ASSESSMENT OF \$216 A YEAR ON THE UNRUCH DRAIN. THEY ALSO SPECIFIED THAT WHEN THIS DITCH WAS ABSORBED INTO THE WYLAND SYSTEM, ALL THE MONEY COLLECTED WOULD BE CREDITED TO THE WYLAND DRAIN SYSTEM. THE CURRENT BALANCE OF THE UNRUCH DRAIN IS \$4.31, AND IT COLLECTS A FEW CENTS INTEREST EACH MONTH. IN AN EFFORT TO CLEAN THIS UP, HE SUGGESTED MOVING THESE FUNDS TO THE WYLAND DRAIN. JOE IRWIN MADE A MOTION TO TRANSFER THE CURRENT BALANCE IN THE UNRUCH DITCH FUND PLUS ANY FUTURE INTEREST TO THE WYLAND DRAIN FUND, WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH THE AFOREMENTIONED 1970 DRAINAGE BOARD DECISION. DENNIS DARR SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

WT GRAHAM DISCUSSION OF RATES

THE WT GRAHAM DRAIN IS CURRENTLY \$11,789.75 OR 5.63 YEARS IN DEBT. THE MAINTENANCE FUND WAS IN DEBT FROM 2000 TO 2014 AND WENT BACK IN DEBT IN 2023 FOLLOWING A DEBRUSHING PROJECT. NO FUTURE MAINTENANCE IS PLANNED AT THIS TIME. THE LAST HEARING WAS IN MAY OF 2006 AND IT WAS RAISED 25% IN NOVEMBER OF 2012. THE CURRENT RATE IS \$1.25 PER ACRE WITH A \$25 MINIMUM. MIKE KISSINGER PROPOSED RAISING THE RATE TO \$5 AN ACRE WITH A \$25 MINIMUM, WHICH WOULD YIELD A TOTAL ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF \$6,996.25. A MINIMUM OF \$50 WAS DISCUSSED WHICH WOULD RESULT IN AN ADDITIONAL \$850 PER YEAR. A NEW WATERSHED MAP WAS CREATED FOR THIS DRAIN AND THERE WAS A MAJOR CHANGE IN ACREAGE. THE NUMBER OF PARCELS CHANGED FROM 69 TO 76. PARCELS WERE PULLED FROM THE DAUSMAN DRAIN. RATES OF \$4 AND \$5 WITH A MINIMUM OF \$50 WERE DISCUSSED. JIM SCOTT MOTIONED ADVERTISING THE RATE AT \$4 PER ACRE WITH A \$50 MINIMUM AND A FOUR-YEAR MAXIMUM COLLECTION BALANCE. STEVE METZGER SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEVIN MCCONNELL

DENNIS DARR REQUESTED AN UPDATE ON THE NEVIN MCCONNELL DRAIN. MIKE KISSINGER SAID IF THE STATE WILL ALLOW DIGGING THROUGH THE PARKER HANIFEN PROPERTY, WE WON'T HAVE TO DROP ELECTRICAL LINES. PARKER HANIFEN WILL BE GIVEN A DATE THE FENCE WILL NEED TO BE DOWN AND WE WILL BE LEASING A GRADE ALL EXCAVATOR WITH A TELESCOPIC BOOM TO TAKE CARE OF THE LOWER END. WE WILL PROCEED TO THE HIGH SCHOOL PROPERTY IMMEDIATELY SOUTH OF THERE. A PROPERTY HAS BEEN SECURED SOUTH OF BOWSER ROAD TO TAKE SPOILS AND MIKE IS WORKING WITH STUCKMANS TO GET PROPERTY SECURED TO DEPOSIT SEDIMENT NORTH OF THE ROAD. THERE IS A QUESTION OF HOW CLOSE WE WILL BE ABLE TO GO TO THE LAKE SOUTH OF BOWSER ROAD.

WELCH

DENNIS DARR REQUESTED AN UPDATE ON THE RELOCATION OF TILE OF THE WELCH DRAIN. MIKE KISSINGER SAID THAT LI EXCAVATING WILL BE DOING THE WORK AND IT SHOULD BE COMPLETED WELL BEFORE PLANTING SEASON.

DANNER RECONSTRUCTION

DENNIS DARR REQUESTED AN UPDATE ON THE DANNER RECONSTRUCTION. MIKE HAS CURRENTLY BACKED OFF ON THIS FOR A SHORT TIME BUT PLANS TO HAVE IT DONE BEFORE PLANTING SEASON.

TURKEY CREEK DEBRUSHING

THE LAST STRETCH OF A LARGE DEBRUSHING OF TURKEY CREEK HAS BEEN DONE. WE HAVE NOW DEBRUSHED ONE SIDE AND REMOVED LOG JAMS FROM MILFORD TO SYRACUSE. THE MOST RECENT WORK IMMEDIATELY DROPPED THE WATER LEVEL AT POLYWOOD APPROXIMATELY TWO FEET IMMEDIATELY.

SPRAYING OF DITCHES

JIM SCOTT ASKED WHAT PERCENTAGE OF DITCHES ARE SPRAYED EACH YEAR. MARK MONTEL SAID THAT ABOUT A THIRD OF THE DITCHES. IF THEY ARE NOT DEBRUSHED OR THERE ARE NO FUNDS, THE DITCH IS NOT SPRAYED. JIM SCOTT QUESTIONED WHETHER SPRAYING THE DITCHES YEARLY VERSUS EVERY 3 YEARS WOULD RESULT IN A COST SAVINGS IN THE LONG RUN. MIKE KISSINGER SAID WE MAY MOVE TO EVERY OTHER YEAR SOON.

COPPEs

CARY GROINGER ASKED THE STATUS ON THIS DRAIN. MIKE KISSINGER SAID THERE IS NO WATER IN THIS DRAIN NOW. THERE WILL BE A CONTRACTOR DIPPING IT OUT THIS WINTER.

FUTURE DRAIN HEARINGS

CARY GROINGER REQUESTED A LISTING OF DRAINS WE WOULD NEED TO TARGET FOR HEARINGS NEXT YEAR. MIKE KISSINGER SAID THERE ARE VERY FEW TO BE CONSIDERED.

LIST OF RECONSTRUCTIONS

CARY GRONINGER REQUESTED A LIST OF RECONSTRUCTIONS. MIKE KISSINGER SAID THE KLOTZ ARM OF THE DANNER AND BURKHOLDER ARE FIRST. LEVI EATON IS ALSO ON THE LIST.

NOTE

THE COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED CARY GRONINGER AS CHAIRMAN FOR 2024 AND JIM SCOTT TO A FOUR YEAR TERM.

ADJOURN:

BEING OF NO FURTHER BUSINESS DENNIS DARR MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. STEVE METZGER SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

CLAIMS:

12/5/2023

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|------------|------|
| BIERCE | GARY DANT | \$210.00 | 2700 |
| BIERCE | KLINE TRUCKING & EXE | \$2,034.50 | 2700 |
| DEEDS CREEK | GARY DANT | \$360.00 | 2700 |
| REED JB | KOLESIK CONSTRUCTION | \$6,470.00 | 2700 |
| SHANTON | GARY DANT | \$360.00 | 2700 |
| SWICK MEREDITH | WERTENBERGER TILING | \$535.00 | 2700 |
| WALKER HANNA | KOLESIK COSNTRUCTION | \$6,020.00 | 1158 |
| WALNUT CREEK | LUMBERJACK JIM | \$6,800.00 | 2700 |
| WHITE SEDALIA | WERTENBERGER TILING | \$310.00 | 2700 |

MAINTENANCE: \$17,079.50

GENERAL DRAIN: \$6,020.00

12/19/2023

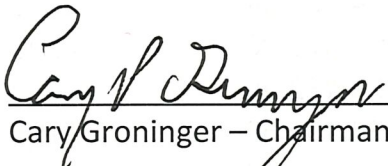
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|----------------|------------------------|------------|------|
| BIERCE | DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS | \$674.33 | 1158 |
| | | \$1,084.40 | 2700 |
| BIERCE | KLINE TRUCKING & EXE | \$4,273.09 | 2700 |
| POLE RUN | GOOD EXCAVATING & HAUL | \$510.00 | 2700 |
| SWICK MEREDITH | SHANKSTER BROS | \$235.11 | 2700 |
| SWICK MEREDITH | SHANKSTER BROS | \$20.25 | 2700 |
| SWICK MEREDITH | WERTENBERGER TILING | \$3,594.75 | 2700 |
| WHITE SEDALIA | SHANKSTER BROS | \$31.20 | 2700 |
| WYLAND | TIMBER VALLEY CLEANING | \$1,025.00 | 2700 |

MAINTENANCE: \$10,773.90


GENERAL DRAIN: \$674.33


DECEMBER TOTALS
MAINTENANCE: \$27,853.40
GENERAL DRAIN: **\$6,694.33**

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD


Cary Groninger – Chairman


Jim Scott – Vice Chairman


Dennis Darr


Steve Metzger


Joe Irwin