

**KOSCIUSKO COUNTY  
DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 24, 2024**

**PRESENT**

CARY GRONINGER - CHAIRMAN  
JIM SCOTT  
DENNIS DARR  
JOE IRWIN  
STEVE METZGER

**ALSO PRESENT**

MIKE KISSINGER – SURVEYOR  
SANDY ANGEL – DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY  
AMY HURD – GIS TECHNICIAN

CARY GRONINGER – CHAIRMAN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER.

**SEPTEMBER CLAIMS AND MINUTES**

STEVE METZGER MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CLAIMS AND MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER AS PRESENTED SUBJECT TO ANY AND ALL AUDITS. DENNIS DARR SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

**LARRY COPLEN VACATION REQUEST/ISAAC HALL**

MIKE KISSINGER EXPLAINED THAT LARRY COPLEN HAS STORAGE UNITS NORTH OF WARSAW ON SR 15. THE ISAAC HALL RUNS THROUGH THIS PROPERTY AND THEY ALREADY RECEIVED A VARIANCE TO REDUCE THE EASEMENT FROM 150' TO 60'. COPLEN WANTS TO BUILD MORE STORAGE UNITS AND WOULD LIKE TO VACATE THE CURRENT STRETCH OF DRAIN IN THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE PROPERTY. HE WOULD LIKE TO REROUTE THE DRAIN AT HIS OWN EXPENSE. MIKE SAID HE WOULD HAVE HIM CLEAR ANY TREES ON THE PROPERTY AND REPLACE IT WITH 15" TILE, WHICH IS WHAT WE HAVE THERE NOW. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION, JOE IRWIN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE VACATION OF THE CURRENT DRAIN PORTION AND REROUTING TO A LOCATION 30' FROM THE PROPERTY LINE AND A TOTAL RIGHT OF WAY WIDTH OF 60'. THIS IS TO BE DONE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE SURVEYOR'S OFFICE AND AT THE OWNER'S EXPENSE. JIM SCOTT SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

**SYRACUSE PUBLIC LIBRARY VARIANCE REQUEST/TURKEY CREEK**

KIM BLAHA WAS PRESENT TO REPRESENT THE SYRACUSE PUBLIC LIBRARY. MIKE KISSINGER SAID THIS PROPERTY WAS PREVIOUSLY OWNED BY THE TOWN OF SYRACUSE. WE HAD DEBRUSHED THROUGH THE AREA ON THE NORTHEAST SIDE OF TURKEY CREEK. SHORTLY AFTER WE DID THAT, THE TOWN OF SYRACUSE PLANTED TREES THERE. MIKE HAS CONTINUOUSLY REQUESTED THAT THE TOWN REMOVE THE TREES AND THEY HAVE STILL NOT BEEN REMOVED. IF A VARIANCE IS GRANTED, MIKE WOULD LIKE REMOVAL OF THOSE TREES TO BE PART OF THE VARIANCE. THE LIBRARY IS CONSTRUCTING A NEW FACILITY AT THIS LOCATION AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE EASEMENT REDUCED FROM 75' TO 35'. KIM SAID THEY COULD MAKE IT WORK WITH A 50' EASEMENT. THE BOARD REVIEWED A SCHEMATIC OF THE STRUCTURE THAT WAS PROVIDED. MIKE MENTIONED THAT IF WE HAVE TO DO WORK ON THE DRAIN AND THERE IS NOT ROOM TO LEVEL THE SPOIL, IT WOULD BE THE PROPERTY OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PAY FOR REMOVAL OF THE SPOIL. THE BOARD FELT ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION WAS NEEDED ON THE EASEMENTS SHOWN ON THE SCHEMATIC. JOE IRWIN MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THE DECISION UNTIL THE NOVEMBER MEETING. MIKE IS TO VISIT THE LOCATION AND MARK THE 50' EASEMENT ON THE GROUND SO THE ARCHITECT CAN SEE

IF IT WILL WORK FOR THEM. STEVE METZGER SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

#### **MARTIN PROPOSAL/WALNUT CREEK**

MIKE EXPLAINED THAT THE PROPERTY OWNERS WOULD LIKE TO REPLACE A 4,100 FEET STRETCH OF WALNUT CREEK RUNNING SOUTHEAST FROM 800S WITH 24 INCH TILE AND CHANGE THE GRADE. IT IS CURRENTLY 24 INCH TO 12 INCH TILE. THERE IS 450 FEET OF 24 INCH, 2900 FEET OF 18 INCH AND 700 FEET OF 12 INCH. THE OWNERS DO NOT WANT TO WAIT ON A RECONSTRUCTION AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF THE DRAINAGE BOARD WOULD LIKE TO DO SOME SORT OF COST SHARE. MIKE SAID TO REPLACE THE TILE WITH THE SAME SIZE TILE THAT IS CURRENTLY THERE, THE MATERIALS WOULD BE \$50,350. TO REPLACE THE TILE WITH WHAT WE WOULD USE IF DOING A RECONSTRUCTION, THE MATERIAL COST WOULD BE \$74,592. LAROY MARTIN WAS PRESENT TO REPRESENT THE PROPERTY OWNERS. AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION, JOE IRWIN MADE A MOTION TO PAY \$75,000 TOWARD MATERIALS FOR THE PROJECT USING 24" TILE AND 18" TILE AT THE SOUTH END. INVOICES WILL NEED TO BE SUBMITTED FOR ANY MATERIALS. THE PROPERTY OWNERS ARE TO PAY FOR INSTALLATION AND ANY NEEDED STONE. DENNIS DARR SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

#### **FUTURE BEAVER CONTROL DISCUSSION**

AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING, THE BOARD ASKED FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON FUTURE BEAVER CONTROL COSTS AND HOW IT MIGHT AFFECT POLE RUN. MIKE KISSINGER SHARED INFORMATION HE GATHERED ON BEAVER CONTROL FROM BOYNE'S CRITTER CONTROL. NOBLE AND FULTON COUNTY HAVE USED THIS COMPANY FOR BEAVER CONTROL. THE PRICES SHARED WOULD BE FOR THE WESTERN HALF OF KOSCIUSKO COUNTY. THE PRICE WOULD GO UP 20% FOR THE EASTERN HALF. WE CURRENTLY USE GARY DANT FOR THIS SERVICE. THE COST FROM BOYNE'S FOR A TYPICAL TRIP FOR BEAVER CONTROL WITH ONE HOUR TO SHOW UP, TRAPPING TWO BEAVERS AND TWO HOURS FOR REMOVING ONE DAM WAS \$710. GARY DANT WOULD CHARGE \$210 FOR THE SAME SERVICE. GARY IS CURRENTLY IN HIS LATE SIXTIES TO EARLY SEVENTIES AND THERE WILL COME A TIME HE WILL NOT BE OFFERING HIS SERVICES ANY LONGER. WE LIKELY WILL BE LOOKING AT A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN COST AT THAT TIME. JIM MOYER SHARED RESEARCH ON POLE RUN. OVER A TWELVE-YEAR PERIOD, GARY DANT WENT TO POLE RUN 207 TIMES AND WAS PAID \$12,000. WHEN DAMS ARE REMOVED THE STICK AND LUMBER ARE REMOVED, BUT SEDIMENT REMAINS.

#### **MATT MEERSMAN/SAINT JOSEPH RIVER BASIN COMMISSION**

MATT MEERSMAN OF THE SAINT JOSEPH RIVER BASIN COMMISSION SHARED INFORMATION REGARDING DRAINAGE BOARD WORK AND ASSESSMENT PRACTICES. HE FELT THAT WHEN LOOKING AT SURROUNDING COUNTIES, KOSCIUSKO IS DOING A GOOD JOB WITH OUR DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT. HE DISCUSSED VARIABLE ASSESSMENT OPTIONS AND HOW THE COMMISSION COULD ASSIST IN THE CALCULATION OF THOSE ASSESSMENTS. THE COMMISSION IS ALSO MONITORING WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY. THEY ARE ALSO LOOKING AT WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE LAND AS THAT WILL AFFECT THE WATER.

#### **DRAINS ELIGIBLE FOR 25% INCREASE**

MIKE KISSINGER SAID THERE ARE A NUMBER OF DRAINS THAT ARE IN DEBT THAT ARE ELIGIBLE TO HAVE A 25% INCREASE WITHOUT HAVING A HEARING. IT MAY NOT REMEDY THE PROBLEM, BUT IT WOULD BE A BENEFIT. MIKE IS TO PUT A LIST OF THESE DRAINS TOGETHER TO PRESENT TO THE BOARD.



**ATWOOD/POLE RUN PROJECT UPDATE**

MIKE KISSINGER SAID THAT L.I. EXCAVATING WILL BE STARTING THE PROJECT THIS WEEK AND SHOULD BE FINISHING UP SOMETIME NEXT WEEK.

**ADJOURN**

BEING OF NO FURTHER BUSINESS JIM SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. JOE IRWIN SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

**CLAIMS**

**10/08/24**

COPPESS	TIMBER VALLEY	\$520.00	2700
COPPESS	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$938.84	2700
COPPESS	TIMBER VALLEY	\$11,350.00	2700
DANNER	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,350.00	2700
DANNER	WARSAW WHOLESALE	\$307.85	2700
DANNER RECON	RANDY KLOTZ	\$2,700.00	2600
DANNER RECON	SCHWARTZ FAMILY	\$2,700.00	2600
ELDER	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,040.00	2700
MILLER JB	BOLINGER EXC	\$13,810.80	1158
PETERSON	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,925.00	2700
PLUNGE CREEK	TIMBER VALLEY	\$480.00	2700
PLUNGE CREEK	TIMBER VALLEY	\$640.00	2700
SHILLING WILLIAM	TIMBER VALLEY	\$900.00	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	TIMBER VALLEY	\$640.00	2700
VANCUREN	TIMBER VALLEY	\$640.00	2700
VANCUREN	TIMBER VALLEY	\$320.00	2700
WALNUT CREEK	TIMBER VALLEY	\$2,320.00	2700
WALNUT CREEK	TIMBER VALLEY	\$225.00	2700
WALNUT CREEK	WERTENBERGER TILING	\$4,630.00	2700
WILLIAMSON SARAH	TIMBER VALLEY	\$160.00	2700

MAINTENANCE: \$ 28,386.69  
DANNER RECONSTRUCTION: \$ 5,400.00  
GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 13,810.80

**10/22/24**

ALSPAUGH HAINES	TIMBER VALLEY	\$800.00	2700
CAUFFMAN	GARY DANT	\$210.00	2700
COPPESS	TIMBER VALLEY	\$4,920.00	2700
DEEDS CREEK	GARY DANT	\$180.00	2700
ELDER	GARY DANT	\$180.00	2700
ELDER	DH DEVELOPMENT	\$3,500.00	2700
KOONTZ MARY	LI EXCAVATING	\$910.00	2700
MCCLEARY GOCHENOUR	GARY DANT	\$240.00	2700
MCCLEARY GOCHENOUR	GARY DANT	\$540.00	2700
PETERSON MARTIN	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,125.00	2700
POLK GEORGE	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,250.00	1158
SHATTO CATTELL	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,870.00	1158
STONEBURNER PUTNEY	TIMBER VALLEY	\$480.00	2700
WALNUT CREEK	GARY DANT	\$120.00	2700
WALNUT CREEK	GARY DANT	\$90.00	2700

MAINTENANCE: \$ 16,415.00  
GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 3,120.00

**OCTOBER TOTALS**

MAINTENANCE: \$ 44,801.69

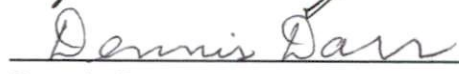
DANNER RECONSTRUCTION: \$5,400.00

GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 16,930.80

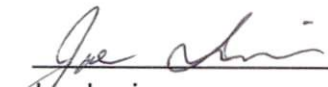
**KOSCIUSKO COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD**

  
Cary Groninger – Chairman

  
Jim Scott – Vice Chairman

  
Dennis Darr

  
Steve Metzger

  
Joe Irwin