

**KOSCIUSKO COUNTY  
DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 24, 2025**

**PRESENT**

CARY GRONINGER - CHAIRMAN  
JIM SCOTT  
DENNIS DARR  
STEVE METZGER  
TODD SMITH

**ALSO PRESENT**

JIM MOYER – SURVEYOR  
SANDY ANGEL – DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY  
AMY HURD – GIS TECHNICIAN

CARY GRONINGER – CHAIRMAN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER.

**MARCH MINUTES/CLAIMS**

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

**WORK ORDER LIST/CLAIMS**

JIM MOYER DIRECTED THE BOARD’S ATTENTION TO WORK ORDERS HIGHLIGHTED IN RED. THESE ARE EMERGENCY WORK ORDERS THAT NEED ATTENTION RIGHT AWAY TO ALLOW FARMERS TO GET IN THEIR FIELDS AND ENSURE SAFETY. MOYER SAID HIS NEXT FOCUS WILL BE ON SPRAYING AND WATCHING THAT CLOSELY. MOYER ALSO SAID IT NOW SAYS ON WORK ORDERS THAT THE WORK NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN A YEAR. JIM SCOTT QUESTIONED WORK ORDER 2025-125 ON THE STONEBURNER PUTNEY. MOYER SAID THERE ARE EIGHT SUCK HOLES ACROSS THAT FIELD AND THERE IS ALSO A RISER THAT KEEPS GETTING KNOCKED OFF AND ALLOWING TOO MUCH TRASH IN. THAT RISER WILL BE REMOVED.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER – TODD SMITH**

CARY GRONINGER WELCOMED TODD SMITH TO THE DRAINAGE BOARD.

**BURKHOLDER RECONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

JIM MOYER REFERENCED A SUMMARY ON ACTIVITY ON THE BURKHOLDER DRAIN. HE SAID DISCUSSION HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR A LONG TIME, BUT THERE HAS NOT BEEN A FORMAL PETITION TO RECONSTRUCT THE DRAIN. IN 2023, MIKE KISSINGER COMMENTED TO THE BOARD THAT THE DRAIN NEEDED TO BE RECONSTRUCTED DUE TO ITS FAILING CONSTRUCTION AND ITS AGE. MOYER SAYS HE HAS NO DETAILED INFORMATION SUPPORTING THIS. IN OCTOBER OF 2023, MIKE KISSINGER AND MARK MONTEL MET WITH SOME LANDOWNERS AT THEIR PROPERTY. THERE WERE NO MINUTES OF THIS MEETING. MOYER SAID THAT SIX DIFFERENT OPTIONS WERE PROPOSED TO THE LANDOWNERS, AND THEIR CHOICE WAS CONFLICTED. DUE TO A LACK OF GOOD INFORMATION, MOYER SAID HE HAS BEEN BACKING UP TO TRY TO DETERMINE THE NEED FOR A RECONSTRUCTION. HE DISPLAYED A PHOTO TAKEN IN 2022 OF A FLOODED AREA THAT IS LOCATED AT THE LOWEST END OF THE BURKHOLDER

ARM. HE SAYS THE PONDING OCCURS REGULARLY AND HE FEELS THIS IS THE WORST AREA OF THE DRAIN. THE WATER COMES DOWN FROM NAPPANEE AND FLOODS IN THIS SPOT, WHICH IS A BOWL, AND THEN THE WATER CAN'T GET TO THE MAIN ARMEY DITCH. WE HAVE SPENT ABOUT \$15,000 OVER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS TO MAINTAIN THIS TILE, WHICH ISN'T VERY MUCH. MOYER SAID HE SPOKE TO ELKHART COUNTY, AND THINGS SEEM TO BE WORKING WELL ON THE BURKHOLDER IN THAT AREA. MOYER STATED HE WOULD LIKE MORE DIRECTION ON WHAT TO DO NEXT. HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A PUBLIC MEETING AND INVITE THE PROPERTY OWNERS AFFECTED, THE CITY OF NAPPANEE AND THE ELKHART COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD. HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE MEETING IN THE NAPPANEE AREA BECAUSE A LOT OF THE LANDOWNERS ARE AMISH, AND IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR THEM TO ATTEND THERE. IF THE PROBLEM IS JUST ON THE LOWER END, HE FEELS THE RECONSTRUCTION DOES NOT NEED TO INVOLVE THE ENTIRE DRAIN. MOYER SAID THAT SEVERAL YEARS AGO MIKE KISSINGER SAID IT WOULD COST OVER \$350,000 TO REPLACE ALL OF THE TILE. HE FEELS AT THAT PRICE, THE COST OUTWEIGHS THE BENEFITS. HE FEELS THAT IF WE WORK ON THE LOWEST END TO GET THE WATER OFF THE SURFACE, WE COULD CUT THAT COST IN HALF. TO UPSIZE THE TILE FOR THAT DRAINAGE AREA, THE COST WOULD BE \$50,000 TO \$100,000, DEPENDING ON THE SIZE OF THE TILE. THE EXISTING TILE IS 24 INCHES. MOYER SAID YOU COULD USE 36 INCH TILE, BUT 42 INCH WOULD BE BETTER. MIKE KISSINGER WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE PREPARED A SURVEYOR'S REPORT AND IT GOT CONFUSING AND WITH KISSINGER RETIRING, THINGS GOT DROPPED. CARY GRONINGER ASKED WHERE THE BULK OF REPAIRS ON THE DITCH HAD BEEN DONE. MOYER SAID MOST WAS ON THE UPPER END. SINCE IT IS A RECONSTRUCTION AND HE IS NOT A LICENSED SURVEYOR, MOYER WOULD LIKE TO INVOLVE AN ENGINEERING FIRM TO ASSIST HIM. HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS RUNNING A NEW TILE DOWN THE EXISTING ROUTE FROM THE OPEN DITCH UP TO WHERE THE WATER PONDS. STEVE METZGER ASKED MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE FLOODING AREA. IT IS APPROXIMATELY SEVEN ACRES THAT FLOODS OUT ALL THE TIME. CARY GRONINGER ASKED ELEVATIONS OF THE POND IN RELATION TO THE ARMEY DITCH. MOYER SAID POND IS A FEW FEET ABOVE THE ARMEY DRAIN, AND HE FELT UPSIZING THE TILE WOULD DRAIN IT AWAY IN AN APPROPRIATE TIME. GRONINGER ASKED ABOUT DOING A RECONSTRUCTION USING A DIFFERENT ROUTE. MOYER SAID THAT THERE WAS AN OPTION OF RUNNING AN OPEN DITCH ALONG A DIFFERENT PROPERTY LINE EAST OF THE POND AND THEN SWITCH TO A TILE. THIS WOULD REQUIRE THE PROPERTY OWNERS TO GIVE UP SOME GROUND AND YOU WOULD ALSO HAVE TO GET RID OF SPOIL. CARY GRONINGER NOTED THAT NAPPANEE HAS DONE A LOT OF DEVELOPMENT ON THE NORTH END OF THIS DRAIN AND THEY MIGHT HAVE MORE ACREAGE THAT WOULD BE TAKEN INTO THE DRAIN. MOYER AGREED THAT THE INPUT OF THE CITY OF NAPPANEE IS ESSENTIAL. CURRENTLY THE NAPPANEE WATER GOES INTO A DETENTION AREA AND IS THEN RELEASED SLOWLY. JIM MOYER INTRODUCED JOHN NELSON, AN ENGINEER FROM VS ENGINEERING. MOYER WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITH NELSON TO DEVELOP A FEW OPTIONS OF WHAT CAN BE DONE THAT CAN BE PRESENTED TO LANDOWNERS. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION, JIM SCOTT MADE A MOTION THAT THE SURVEYOR'S OFFICE SET UP A PUBLIC MEETING WITH OUR OFFICE, ELKHART COUNTY, THE CITY OF NAPPANEE, THE LANDOWNERS AND AN ENGINEERING COMPANY. MONEY FROM THE BURKHOLDER FUND WILL BE USED TO RETAIN THE ENGINEERING COMPANY TO DEVELOP SEVERAL COURSES OF ACTION. MONIES MAY ALSO BE USED FROM THE ARMEY DRAIN FUND, SINCE THE BURKHOLDER FLOWS INTO THAT DRAIN. STEVE METZGER SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.



### **RUSSELL WARNER HEARING**

JIM MOYER EXPLAINED THE RUSSELL WARNER IS A VERY SHORT PIECE OF TILE THAT DRAINS A SMALL AREA. IT COLLECTS \$446 PER YEAR, AND THE CURRENT BALANCE IS OVER \$2,500. WE HAVEN'T DONE ANY MAINTENANCE ON THIS FOR MANY YEARS. MOYER REQUESTED THAT THE MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT BE DISCONTINUED. THE DRAIN WOULD THEN BE A MAINTENANCE NON-REPAYABLE DRAIN. UP TO \$1,500 PER YEAR COULD BE SPENT ON THIS DRAIN FROM THE GENERAL FUND. THE CURRENT BALANCE IN THIS DRAIN FUND WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO THE GENERAL MAINTENANCE FUND. AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION, JIM SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO ELIMINATE THE MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT ON THIS DRAIN, MOVE THE STATUS OF THIS DRAIN TO MAINTENANCE NON-REPAYABLE, AND TRANSFER THE BALANCE IN THIS FUND TO THE GENERAL DRAIN FUND. STEVE METZGER SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

### **VANDERMARK HEARING**

AS A PROPERTY OWNER IN THIS WATERSHED, CARY GRONINGER ABSTAINED FROM THIS DISCUSSION. THE VANDERMARK DRAIN IS IN PALESTINE. IT COLLECTS \$127 PER YEAR AND IT CURRENTLY HAS \$814 IN THE FUND. THIS DRAIN GOES THROUGH MOSTLY WOODED AREA. THE LARGEST LANDOWNER HAS PLANTED TREES OVER THIS TILE AND THEY ARE VERY MATURE. THE LOW PART OF THE DRAIN WAS DUG OUT IN THE EIGHTIES AND THEN NOT MAINTAINED, SO LARGE COTTONWOOD TREES HAVE GROWN INTO THE DRAIN. IT'S NOT REPAIRABLE FOR \$814. MOYER REQUESTED THAT THE MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT BE ELIMINATED AND CHANGE IT TO A MAINTENANCE NON-REPAYABLE. IF CONDITIONS CHANGE, WE CAN COME UP WITH A NEW PLAN FOR THE VANDERMARK DRAINAGE. DENNIS DARR MADE A MOTION TO ELIMINATE THE MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT ON THIS DRAIN, MOVE THE STATUS OF THIS DRAIN TO MAINTENANCE NON-REPAYABLE, AND TRANSFER THE BALANCE IN THIS FUND TO THE GENERAL DRAIN FUND. STEVE METZGER SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR. CARY GRONINGER ASKED IF THE \$1,500 ALLOWED TO BE SPENT OUT OF THE GENERAL DRAIN FUND WAS A STATE STATUTE. MOYER CONFIRMED IT WAS. GRONINGER THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO CONTACT OUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE TO INCREASE THIS AMOUNT TO BE MORE REFLECTIVE OF CURRENT COSTS.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **HC KELLY UPDATE**

JIM MOYER REFERENCED A BILL FROM L.I. EXCAVATING FOR WORK ON THE HC KELLY FOR ABOUT \$40,000. THIS JOB IS NOT COMPLETELY DONE. IT HAS BEEN AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT EMERGENCY SITUATION WHERE PUBLIC SAFETY WAS INVOLVED DUE TO STANDING WATER. THE HC KELLY WHICH RUNS ALONG THE SOUTH SIDE OF OLD ROAD 30 ON THE EAST SIDE OF TOWN, THEN TO THE INTERSECTION OF CR 225 E, THEN MAKES A 90 DEGREE TURN AND THEN GOES TO THE NORTH SIDE OF OLD ROAD 30. THIRTY YEARS AGO, A CORRUGATED METAL PIPE CULVERT WAS INSTALLED. THERE WAS A PLUG IN THIS PIPE. UPON INVESTIGATION THE PIPE HAD DETERIORATED. THIS IS A HEAVILY TRAFFICKED AREA AND THERE ARE LOTS OF UTILITY LINES THERE. WE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH THE CITY, AND THEY HAVE PROVIDED ALL THE MATERIALS AND SOME LABOR WHICH HAS KEPT COST LOWER. THE COUNTY HAS ALSO PROVIDED ASSISTANCE. CARY GRONINGER ASKED HOW MUCH WAS LEFT. MOYER SAID IT WAS PROBABLY \$10,000 TO \$12,000. WE ARE CURRENTLY LETTING THE WATER DRAIN DOWN. THE SURFACE WATER IS NOW GONE AND THE TILE IS RUNNING. L.I. EXCAVATING PLANS TO RETURN TODAY TO LAY THE FINAL 25 FEET OF TILE AND INSTALL THE LAST MANHOLE. MOYER WANTED THE BOARD TO UNDERSTAND WHY THIS WAS SUCH A LARGE BILL.



### FELKNER UPDATE

JIM MOYER EXPLAINED THE FELKNER WAS A MAINTENANCE NON-REPAYABLE DRAIN. THE FIRST OF THE YEAR, IT WAS TAKEN INTO THE TURKEY CREEK SYSTEM AT THE REQUEST OF THE TOWN OF MILFORD, AND IT WAS DEBRUSHED. STEVE METZGER MENTIONED THAT HE FELT IT WAS A GOOD PRACTICE TO DEBRUSH BOTH SIDES OF A DRAIN AND THEN MAINTAIN IT WITH SPRAYING. MOYER SAID HE IS EXPLORING DEBRUSHING BOTH SIDES MORE OFTEN, ESPECIALLY IN AGRICULTURAL AREAS.

### SPRAY PROGRAM

MOYER STATED THAT HE WILL BE CONCENTRATING ON THE SPRAY PROGRAM ONCE PLANTING IS DONE. HE HAS SIX DIFFERENT SPRAYING CONTRACTORS HE IS USING AND THREE OF THEM ARE DRONE SPRAYERS. JIM SCOTT ASKED IF THERE WAS MUCH DIFFERENCE IN COST FROM ONE SPRAYER TO ANOTHER. MOYER SAID THERE ARE A LOT OF DIFFERENT VARIABLES TO LOOK AT, AND HE HOPES TO NARROW IT DOWN AND GET A BETTER HANDLE ON COST PER FOOT. CARY GRONINGER ASKED IF WE WOULD BE BETTER OFF DOING A COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCESS FOR SPRAYING. MOYER SAID THAT AT A COST OF \$25,000, HE IS REQUIRED TO GET AT LEAST THREE QUOTES AND AT \$150,000 THERE NEEDS TO BE A PUBLIC BIDDING PROCESS. IN THE PAST, ONLY DALTONS DID OUR DRAINS AND MOYER SAYS HE HAS ANOTHER COMPARABLE COMPANY INVOLVED. MOYER WILL ALSO FOCUS ON THE QUALITY OF THE WORK.

### HEARING SCHEDULE

JIM MOYER INTENDS TO HAVE PUBLIC HEARINGS EVERY MONTH THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR. THE AP JONES AND LEVI EATON ARE ALREADY ON THE SCHEDULE. HE PLANS TO HAVE MORE HEARINGS LIKE THE RUSSELL WARNER AND VANDERMARK. HE WILL KEEP THE BOARD UPDATED ON THE SCHEDULE.

### NEVIN MCCONNELL

DENNIS DARR ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS ON THE NEVIN MCCONNELL. JIM MOYER SAID HE IS WORKING ON ALL PERMITS THIS SUMMER. HE WILL APPLY FOR PERMITS ON THE LOWER END. THE BEAVER TRAPPER IS WORKING THE UPPER END. MOYER IS ALSO WORKING ON THE REMOVAL OF THE FOOT BRIDGE BY THE OLD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

### ADJOURN

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

### CLAIMS

4/8/25

ACHOR	GARY DANT	\$1,110.00	2700
CAUFFMAN	RANSBOTTOM EXC	\$570.00	1158
FAULKNER	BEECHY EXC	\$903.53	1158
GAY EASTERDAY ROBINSON	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,870.00	2700
HUFFER DAVID	KLINE TRUCKING	\$575.00	2700
HUFFER DAVID	WARSAW WHOLESALE	\$327.92	2700
KELLY HC	HUFFMAN LAND SURVEYING	\$400.00	2700
LECKRONE NELSON	KLINE TRUCKING	\$550.00	2700
MAISH	JJT HAULING & EXC	\$3,900.00	2700
MCCLEARY GOCHENOUR	STEVE BARTELS	\$375.00	2700
MCCONNELL NEVIN	STEVE BARTELS	\$390.00	2700
METZGER JOSEPH	KLINE TRUCKING & EXC	\$1,100.00	2700

METZGER JOSEPH	KLINE TRUCKING & EXC	\$660.00	2700
ROBINSON GA	GARY DANT	\$510.00	2700
ROSS ALFRED	TIMBER VALLEY	\$5,040.00	2700
ROSS ALFRED	WARSAW WHOLESale	\$3,240.00	2700
SHOEMAKER ISAAC	TIMBER VALLEY	\$780.00	1158
SOLOMON SECHRIST	BEECHY EXCAVATING	\$1,030.00	2700
STONEBURNER PUTNEY	TIMBER VALLEY	\$2,650.00	2700
STONEBURNER PUTNEY	WARSAW WHOLESale	\$1,080.00	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	KLINE TRUCKING & EXC	\$1,075.00	2700
TURKEY CREEK	M KOLESIAK CONST	\$15,200.00	2700
WALNUT CREEK	STEVE BARTELS	\$390.00	2700
WYLAND	RANSBOTTOM EXC	\$15,294.00	2700

**MAINTENANCE: \$ 56,766.92**

**GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 2,253.53**

**4/22/25**

ARTHUR	WERTENBERGER TILING	\$1,005.00	1158
BEYER BRADY	NATIVE ROOTS	\$357.34	2700
CAUFFMAN	M KOLESIAK CONST	\$16,050.00	1158
GAY EASTERDAY ROBINSON	TIMBER VALLEY	\$780.00	2700
GOSHERT JAMES	SHANKSTER BROS	\$2,126.31	1158
GOSHERT JAMES	WERTENBERGER TILING	\$800.00	1158
HUFFER DAVID	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,090.00	2700
HUFFER DAVID	TIMBER VALLEY	\$2,400.00	2700
HUFFER DAVID	WARSAW WHOLESale	115.20	2700
KEEFER EVANS	STEVE BARTELS	\$510.00	2700
KELLY HC	LI EXCAVATING	\$40,360.54	2700
KELLY HC	HUFFMAN LAND SURVEYING	\$100.00	2700
LEFFELL	HOHMAN EXCAVATING	\$1,783.34	2700
MCCLEARY GOCHENOUR	STEVE BARTELS	\$720.00	2700
MCCONNELL NEVIN	STEVE BARTELS	\$120.00	2700
POLE RUN	HOMEFLOW PLUMBING	\$4,022.68	1158
POLE RUN	KLINE TRUCKING & EXC	\$1,275.00	1158
POLE RUN	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$426.56	1158
SOLOMON SECHRIST	BEECH EXCAVATING	\$753.40	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	HUFFMAN LAND SURVEYING	\$200.00	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$2,976.27	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	HUFFMAN LAND SURVEYING	\$100.00	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	KLINE TRUCKING & EXC	\$1020.00	2700
TURKEY CREEK	M COLESIAK CONST	\$1,137.50	2700
WALKER HANNA	TIMBER VALLEY	\$780.00	1158
WALNUT CREEK	TIMBER VALLEY	\$780.00	2700
WALNUT CREEK	GOOD EXCAVATING	\$460.00	2700
WALNUT CREEK	STEVE BARTELS	\$150.00	2700
WHITE SEDALIA	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,040.00	1158
WILTROUT AJ	WARSAW WHOLESale	\$152.50	MAINT - NR
WILTROUT AJ	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,247.60	MAINT - NR

**MAINTENANCE: \$ \$55,913.69**

**GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 27,525.55**

**MAINTENANCE NON-REPAYABLE: \$1,500.00**



**APRIL TOTALS**


**MAINTENANCE: \$ 112,680.61**

**GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 29,779.08**

**MAINTENANCE NON-REPAYABLE: \$1,500.00**

**KOSCIUSKO COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD**

  
Cary Groninger – Chairman

  
Dennis Darr

  
Todd Smith

  
Jim Scott – Vice Chairman

  
Steve Metzger