

**KOSCIUSKO COUNTY
DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING
MAY 22, 2025**

PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT

JIM MOYER – SURVEYOR
SANDY ANGEL – DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY
ANDY HELTZEL – AREA PLANNING

CARY GRONINGER – CHAIRMAN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER.

APRIL MINUTES/CLAIMS

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

WORK ORDER LIST/CLAIMS

JIM MOYER SHARED THAT NOW THAT PLANTING IS DOWN MOST OF THE PHONE CALLS HAVE DROPPED OFF. WE ARE UP TO ABOUT 145 WORK ORDERS AND MOST OF THOSE ARE SPRAYING, WHICH WILL START IN JUNE. HE IS BEGINNING TO WORK ON THE FALL MAINTENANCE PROGRAM. CARY GRONINGER ASKED IF EVERYTHING WAS DONE ON THE HC KELLY. MOYER SAID IT WAS.

OLD BUSINESS

BURKHOLDER RECONSTRUCTION UPDATE

JIM MOYER POINTED OUT AN AREA ON THE MAP OF THE BURKHOLDER WHERE IT FLOODS CONTINUOUSLY. IT GETS FIVE TO SEVEN ACRES OF WATER THAT STANDS FOUR TO FIVE FEET DEEP IN SPOTS. THIS HAS BEEN AN ONGOING ISSUE FOR MANY YEARS. THE PROPERTY OWNERS HAVE REQUESTED SOMETHING BE DONE TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM. THE INITIAL THOUGHT BY THE SURVEYOR IN THE PAST WAS TO RECONSTRUCT THE ENTIRE TILE LINE. MOYER DOES NOT THINK THAT IS NECESSARY. OUR MAINTENANCE COSTS IN THIS ENTIRE AREA HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY LOW. THE TOWN OF NAPPANEE AND STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT HAVE CREATED A DETENTION AREA. THIS HELPS THE CITY OF NAPPANEE AND HAS BEEN REDONE IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. MOYER FEELS WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THERE IS AN OUTLET FOR THIS DETENTION AREA AND MAKE SURE IT IS WORKING PROPERLY. HE THINKS WE SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON GETTING THIS STANDING WATER AWAY AND CONNECTING THIS DETENTION AREA INTO THE REGULATED DRAIN. STEVE SCHWEISBERGER OF THE ELKHART COUNTY SURVEYOR'S OFFICE, WAS ASKED HOW BIG THE TILE WAS IN ELKHART. SCHWEISBERGER SAID IT IS VERY SHALLOW AND GOES THROUGH SOME WOODED AREAS. IT IS AN OLD CLAY TILE THAT HAS SOME STRUCTURAL ISSUES. IT HASN'T BEEN REPLACED FOR A LONG TIME. PART OF THE TILE WAS ABANDONED WHEN THE DETENTION POND WAS DEVELOPED. THE SOLE PURPOSE OF THE DETENTION POND WAS TO COLLECT ALL THE ADDITIONAL WATERSHED OFF THE US 6 IMPROVEMENT

PROJECT. A POOR STRUCTURE UNDER THE RAILROAD TRACTS HAS BEEN REPLACED WITH A NEW ONE. THERE IS AN OUTFLOW STRUCTURE THAT GOES INTO AND EIGHT INCH TILE WHICH DISCHARGES INTO THE EXISTING CLAY TILE. SWHWEISBERGER FELT CAMERING THE SYSTEM WAS A GOOD OPTION FOR INVESTIGATING THE TILE AND IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA DO THIS WITH TILE IN ELKHART AND KOSCIUSKO COUNTY TO CHECK THE SYSTEM INTEGRITY. JIM MOYER STATED THE PAPERWORK TRAIL ON THIS DRAIN IS WEAK. HE WOULD LIKE TO START ANEW TO EVALUATE THIS PROJECT. HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TALK TO GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS ABOUT FUNDING. MOYER SAID WE HAVE \$2,500 IN THE BURKHOLDER FUND. ACCORDING TO DRAINAGE LAWS, BECAUSE THE BURKHOLDER FLOWS INTO THE ARMEY DITCH, THE \$70,000 IN THAT FUND COULD BE UTILIZED TOWARD INVESTIGATION. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION, JIM SCOTT MADE A MOTION FOR MOYER TO REINVESTIGATE THE LOWER STRETCH, ESPECIALLY THE WETLAND PROBLEM AND TO REASSESS THE UPPER REACHES UTILIZING A CAMERA. HE WILL THEN BRING THAT REPORT AND PLAN WITH COSTS BACK TO THE DRAINAGE BOARD FOR DISCUSSION.

CHINWORTH VACATION DISCUSSION

JIM MOYER IS ASKING THAT THE CHINWORTH DRAIN BE VACATED. THERE IS NOT MAINTENANCE COLLECTED ON IT, SO THERE IS NO MONEY TO WORK ON IT. HE IS NOT EVEN SURE THE MAPPED LOCATION IS ACCURATE OR WHAT THE CONDITION IS. MOST OF THE TILLABLE ACREAGE IS ON CREIGHTON BROTHERS PROPERTY. IF THERE IS A DRAINAGE PROBLEM IN THE AREA, THE LANDOWNERS COULD PETITION THE DRAINAGE BOARD TO COME UP WITH A DRAINAGE PLAN. JIM SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO PROCEED WITH NOTIFICATIONS TO LANDOWNERS TO VACATE THE DRAIN. TODD SMITH SECONDED THE MOTION, AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

PHEISTER VACATION DISCUSSION

JIM MOYER ASKED THAT THE PHEISTER DRAIN BE VACATED. THE EXACT LOCATION OF THIS OLD CLAY TILE IS QUESTIONABLE. IT ONLY AFFECTS CREIGHTON BROTHERS PROPERTY. WE DO NOT COLLECT ANY MAINTENANCE ON THIS DRAIN. TODD SMITH MADE A MOTION TO PROCEED WITH NOTIFICATIONS TO LANDOWNERS TO VACATE THE DRAIN. DENNIS DARR SECONDED THE MOTION, AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

LEVI EATON RECONSTRUCTION DISCUSSION

JIM MOYER SAID THE MAINTENANCE FUND FOR THE LEVI EATON WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1978. IN 1991, THE LAGOONS WERE EXPANDED BY KRALIS BROTHERS POULTRY. THE TILE WAS REPLACED AND REROUTED AROUND THE LAGOON. IT WAS CONSTRUCTED WITH A SINGLE WALL TILE AND BECAUSE OF THE DEPTH AND SOIL CONDITIONS, IT COLLAPSED. IN SEPTEMBER OF 2007, THE DRAINAGE BOARD WAS MADE AWARE THE TILE AROUND THE LAGOON WAS NOT WORKING DUE TO COLLAPSE. RECONSTRUCTION WAS DISCUSSED, BUT NOTHING HAPPENED. IN SEPTEMBER OF 2016, THE MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT WAS RAISED TO \$650 PER YEAR FOR THE ENTIRE SYSTEM. RECONSTRUCTION WAS DISCUSSED AGAIN IN APRIL OF 2023, AT A COST OF \$45,000. MOYER SAID CURRENT COSTS FOR RECONSTRUCTION WOULD BE ABOUT \$53,000. OVER 1,600 FEET OF TILE NEEDS TO BE REPLACED AT A COST OF ABOUT \$19,000. A NEW CONCRETE MANHOLE, STONE TO BED THE TILE AND LABOR TO INSTALL AND REGRADE THE SITE WOULD BE ABOUT \$34,000. THOSE COSTS BREAK DOWN TO ABOUT \$290 PER ACRE. THE SEVERNS FAMILY IS THE LARGEST LAND OWNER IN THE WATERSHED RECONSTRUCTION AREA AND THEIR COST WOULD BE ABOUT 80% OF THE TOTAL OR \$42,140. THE LEVI EATON CURRENTLY COLLECTS \$640.78 PER YEAR AND IS IN DEBT \$1,203.94. THIS DRAIN HASN'T WORKED PROPERLY FOR A LONG TIME. MOYER WOULD LIKE TO BRING RON AND BRIAN SERVERNS IN AND DISCUSS THE COST AND COME UP

WITH A PLAN TO FIX IT. THE SPONSELLER FAMILY WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BEAR SOME COST. TODD SMITH MADE A MOTION TO BRING IN THE PROPERTY OWNERS TO DISCUSSION THE PROBLEM. STEVE METZGER SECONDED THE MOTION, AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

ADJOURN

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

CLAIMS

5/6/25

ACHOR	GARY DANT	\$480.00	2700
ARTHUR	SHANKSTER BROS	\$245.53	1158
BEYER BRADY	NATIVE ROOTS	\$525.00	2700
ELDER	GARY DANT	\$420.00	2700
ELDER	TIM MILLER	\$918.75	2700
ROBINSON GA	GARY DANT	\$480.00	2700
KEEFER EVANS	STEVE BARTELS	\$120.00	2700
KELLY HC	LI EXCAVATING	\$11,737.73	2700
KUHN ISIAH	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,820.00	1158
MCCLEARY GOCHENOUR	STEVE BARTELS	\$60.00	2700
MCCONNELL NEVIN	STEVE BARTELS	\$270.00	2700
MCCONNEL NEVIN	TIMBER VALLEY	\$5,925.00	2700
POLE RUN	KLINE TRUCKING	\$440.00	1158
POLE RUN	WEED INC	\$1,630.00	1158
STONEBURNER PUTNEY	TIMBER VALLEY	\$2,620.00	2700
STONEBURNER PUTNEY	WARSAW WHOLESHALE	\$390.40	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	KLINE TRUCKING	\$623.00	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	TIMBER VALLEY	\$2,080.00	2700
WALNUT CREEK	STEVE BARTELS	\$60.00	2700
WALNUT CREEK	STEVE BARTELS	\$390.00	2700
WELCH JAMES	WARSAW WHOLESALE	\$220.80	1158
WELCH JAMES	TIMBER VALLEY	\$830.00	1158
WYLAND	SHANKSTER BROS	\$245.53	2700

MAINTENANCE: \$ 27,345.41

GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 5,186.33

5/20/25

ARMEY	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,040.00	2700
DEEDS CREEK	WATERSHED FOUNDATION	\$11,583.00	2700
EATON LEVI	HUFFMAN LAND SURVEYING	\$100.00	1158
GAY EASTERDAY ROB	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,040.00	2700
KEEFER EVANS	STEVE BARTELS	\$180.00	2700
KELLY HC	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,550.00	2700
KOONTZ MARY	TIMBER VALLEY	\$780.00	2700
KOONTZ MARY	WARSAW WHOLESALE	\$108.00	2700
MCCONNELL NEVIN	STEVE BARTELS	\$375.00	2700
PETERSON MARTIN	TIMBER VALEY	\$780.00	1158
PLUNGE CREEK	TIMBER VALLEY	\$780.00	1158

PLUNGE CREEK	WARSAW WHOLESale	\$68.40	1158
POLE RUN	LI EXCAVATING	\$1,053.00	1158
PYLE JOHN	KLINE TRUCKING	\$440.00	2700
PYLE JOHN	KLINE TRUCKING	\$875.00	2700
ROBBINS MAGEE	TIMBER VALLEY	\$570.00	1158
ROBBINS MAGEE	WARSAW WHOLESale	\$115.20	1158
SILVEUS	TIMBER VALLEY	\$830.00	2700
STONEBURNER PUTNEY	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$35.98	1158
		\$76.52	2700
STONEBURNER PUTNEY	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,870.00	2700
WALNUT CREEK	STEVE BARTELS	\$315.00	2700
WALNUT CREEK	STEVE BARTELS	\$405.00	2700

MAINTENANCE: \$ 21,467.52

GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 3,502.58


MAY TOTALS

MAINTENANCE: \$ 48,812.93

GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 8,688.91

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD


Cary Groninger – Chairman


Dennis Darr


Todd Smith


Jim Scott – Vice Chairman


Steve Metzger