

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY
DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING
JUNE 26, 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.

MAY MINUTES/CLAIMS

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

WORK ORDER LIST/CLAIMS

JIM MOYER STATED WE ARE WORKING ON BRUSH CONTROL NOW. THE DRONE SPRAYERS HAVE BEEN OUT AND THEY ARE WORKING WELL. THE WHEELED TRACTOR SPRAYERS HAVE NOT BEEN OUT. IN GENERAL, OUR WORK ORDERS ARE DOWN. NEXT MONTH WE ARE GOING TO BE WORKING ON STATE PERMITS FOR DRAINAGE PROJECTS AROUND THE LAKES.

OLD BUSINESS

WALNUT CREEK/ZDENEK VARIANCE

CATHERINE ZDENEK, A PROPERTY OWNER IN SOUTHWOOD ADDITION IN WALNUT CREEK, EXPLAINED THAT THEY HAD A 8'X10' SHED THAT WAS BUILT ON DIRT THAT ROTTED, AND THEY TORE IT DOWN. THEY WOULD LIKE TO POUR SOME CONCRETE AND PUT IN A NEW SHED THAT WILL BE 8'X12'. IT WOULD BE PLACED TWO FEET FORWARD FROM THE CREEK THAN THE PREVIOUS SHED. JIM MOYER STATED THAT ALL OF OUR WORK HAS BEEN FROM THE OPPOSITE BANK. HE DID NOT SEE A PROBLEM WITH THE SHED BEING PLACED IN THE SAME LOCATION AS THE PREVIOUS SHED. JIM SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE VARIANCE TO PLACE THE NEW SHED IN THE SAME LOCATION AS THE PREVIOUS SHED. TODD SMITH SECONDED THE MOTION, AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

CHINWORTH VACATION HEARING

JIM MOYER STATED THE CHINWORTH AUGUSTUS DRAIN WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1908. THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF DISCREPENCY ON WHERE IT IS AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO PINPOINT THE LOCATION. THERE IS NO RECORD OF ANY WORK BEING DONE ON IT. MOYER WOULD LIKE TO VACATE THIS DRAIN. IF THERE IS A TILE IN THAT AREA, IT WOULD BECOME THE PROPERTY OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY. CODY LONG WAS PRESENT REPRESENTING CREIGHTON BROTHERS, AND HE STATED THAT THEY HAD NO PROBLEM VACATING THE TILE. AFTER FUTHER DISCUSSION, TODD SMITH MADE A MOTION TO

VACATE THE CHINWORTH DRAIN. DENNIS DARR SECONDED THE MOTION, AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR. CARY GRONINGER ABSTAINED.

PHEISTER VACATION HEARING

JIM MOYER EXPLAINED THAT CREIGHTON BROTHERS OWNS ALL THE LAND ON THIS DRAIN. THERE IS CURRENTLY A COMPANY LAYING FIBER CABLE DOWN THE SOUTH SIDE OF CRYSTAL FARM ROAD. THEY HAVE HIT MANY TILES AND ARE IN THE PROGRESS OF REPAIRING SOME OF THEM. MOYER SAID AFTER SPEAKING WITH STEVE MILLER OF CREIGHTON BROTHERS, HE FEELS WE SHOULD TABLE THE DISCUSSION ON THIS DRAIN UNTIL THE CABLE COMPANY COMPLETES THE WORK IN THIS AREA, AND WE ARE SURE THEY HAVE NOT DAMAGED THE DRAIN. IF THE CABLE COMPANY HAS DAMAGED THE DRAIN, CREIGHTON BROTHERS WOULD LIKE THE COUNTY TO BE RESPONSIBLE TO SEE THAT IT IS REPAIRED. STEVE METZGER MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THE DISCUSSION ON THE PHEISTER UNTIL THE CABLE COMPANY HAS COMPLETED WORK IN THE AREA. DENNIS DARR SECONDED THE MOTION, AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

LEVI EATON RECONSTRUCTION DISCUSSION

JIM MOYER EXPLAINED THIS DRAIN HAS BEEN AN ONGOING PROBLEM FOR SOME TIME. IN 1991, KRALIS BROTHERS EXPANDED THE LAGOONS FOR THEIR PROCESSING PLANT. THE TILE WAS REROUTED AROUND THE LAGOONS. SOME TIME AFTER THAT THE TILE COLLAPSED. IN 2007, THE BOARD WAS MADE AWARE OF THE PROBLEM, AND DECIDED IT SHOULD BE RECONSTRUCTED. IN 2023, THE BOARD WAS ASKED IF THEY STILL WANTED TO PROCEED WITH THE RECONSTRUCTION, AND IT WAS MOVED AND APPROVED TO PROCEED. THE ESTIMATE FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION AT THAT TIME WAS \$45,000. MOYER HAS DONE A NEW ESTIMATE FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND IT WILL COST APPROXIMATELY \$53,000. THE LARGEST LAND OWNER IN THIS WATERSHED IS THE SEVERNS FAMILY, AND THEY WOULD BEAR EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE COST. LETTERS WERE SENT OUT TO ALL LANDOWNERS ASKING THEM TO ATTEND THIS MEETING. BRIAN ROMINE FARMS LAND FOR DORA HAMLIN AND SPOKE ON HER BEHALF. THE HAMLINS ASKED HIM TO ATTEND THE MEETING AND GATHER INFORMATION FOR THEM. MOYER SAID THE PERCENTAGE OF THE RECONSTRUCTION FOR HAMLIN FARM WOULD BE VERY SMALL. AARON SPONSELLER SPOKE ON BEHALF OF SPONSELLER FARMS. HE SAID THERE WERE SOME ISSUES AND IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE THE REPAIRS DONE, BUT THEY WOULD NOT BE PAYING THE LIONS SHARE OF THE COST. HE ASKED WHAT THEIR SHARE OF THE COST WOULD BE. MOYER SAID IT WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN PERCENT OF THE TOTAL. MOYER SAID THE SEVERNS HAVE A LOT OF WATER PROBLEMS IN THEIR FIELDS. NO ONE REPRESENTING THE SEVERNS FAMILY WAS PRESENT. MOYER SAID HE COULD REACH OUT AND SET UP A MEETING WITH THE SEVERNS TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES WITH THEM DIRECTLY. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION, JIM SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THE DISCUSSION UNTIL JIM MOYER CAN TALK TO THE SEVERNS FAMILY DIRECTLY. DENNIS DARR SECONDED THE MOTION, AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

LOGAN KIMES/PROPOSED ASSESSMENT HEARING

JIM MOYER WOULD LIKE TO RAISE THE MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT ON THIS DRAIN. THE DRAIN WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1957 AND AN ASSESSMENT BEGAN IN 1967. THE RATE WAS RAISED IN 1980. THIS IS THE ONLY PERCENTAGE RATE DRAIN LEFT IN OUR SYSTEM, AND IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH. HE WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE THIS TO A SET RATE LIKE THE REST OF OUR DRAINS. WE HAVE SPENT OVER \$11,000 SINCE 2000, AND WE CLEANED THE OPEN DITCH PORTION IN 1990. THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST TO MAINTAIN THIS DRAIN IS \$2,000. MOYER PRESENTED VARIOUS RATE AND MINIMUM OPTIONS TO THE BOARD. CARY GRONINGER FELT THAT THERE MIGHT NEED TO BE

ADDITIONAL PROPERTY ADDED TO THE WATERSHED AT THE NORTH END. THERE IS AN OUTLET FROM A WETLAND AREA THAT KEEPS IT FROM GETTING STANDING WATER. MOYER WILL INVESTIGATE THAT AREA PRIOR TO CREATING THE NEW WATERSHED. AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION, JIM SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO ADVERTISE AT \$5 PER ACRE WITH A \$50 MINIMUM AND FOUR-YEAR MAXIMUM COLLECTION. DENNIS DARR SECONDED THE MOTION, AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

BURKHOLDER RECONSTRUCTION UPDATE

JIM MOYER SAID HE HAS CAMERA WORK SCHEDULED ON THE UPPER END FOR JULY 2, 2025. THIS WILL ALLOW HIM TO SEE THE CONDITION AND WHERE THE EXACT TILE LOCATION IS. ON THE LOWER END, HE IS WORKING WITH AN ENGINEER. LEROY KUHNS, A PROPERTY OWNER IN THE AREA SUGGESTED MAKING A LARGER RETENTION AREA ON HIS FARM THAT WOULD POSSIBLY HELP REDUCE THE FLOW AND SIZE OF TILE NEEDED. THE MIDDLE PART OF THE DRAIN APPEARS TO BE OKAY. ONCE MOYER HAS THE INFORMATION NEEDED, WE CAN HAVE A JOINT BOARD MEETING.

NEW BUSINESS

BEYER BRADY

JIM MOYER EXPLAINED THE BEYER BRADY FLOWS THROUGH WARSAW. AT THE MARKETPLACE, THERE IS A BIG DIP IN THE PARKING LOT AREA. OUR DRAINAGE TILE IS NORTHEAST OF THAT LARGE DEPRESSION. THIS TILE IS NOT IN GOOD SHAPE AND IS NOT WORKING PROPERLY. HE AND THE CITY ENGINEER ARE BOTH CONCERNED ABOUT POTENTIAL PROBLEMS DEVELOPING. MOYER IS WORKING WITH THE CITY ENGINEER TO DESIGN A PLAN TO REPLACE THIS TILE AND REDIRECT IT AWAY FROM THE CONGESTED BUILDING AREA. THEY ARE CONSIDERING EXTENDING THE TILE STRAIGHT NORTH AND ACROSS THE ROAD INTO THE STATE RIGHT-AWAY. MOYER SAYS HE IS LEANING ON THE CITY HEAVILY TO HELP RECITIFY THE PROBLEM.

OFFICE REMODELING

JIM MOYER INFORMED THE BOARD THAT THE SURVEYOR’S OFFICES ARE BEING REMODELED IN THE MIDDLE OF JULY. STAFF WILL BE RELOCATED TO THE END OF THE HALLWAY WHILE THIS IS BEING DONE.

ADJOURN

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

CLAIMS

6/3/25

GAY EASTERDAY ROBINSON	KLINE TRUCKING	\$485.00	2700
GAY EASTERDAY ROBINSON	TIMBER VALLEY	\$9,755.00	2700
GOSHERT JAMES	WARSAW WHOLESALE	\$167.60	1158
KELLY HC	TIMBER VALLEY	\$500.00	2700
KELLY HC	WARSAW WHOLESALE	\$318.00	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,610.00	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	WARSAW WHOLESALE	\$194.55	2700

MAINTENANCE: \$ 12,862.55
GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 167.60

6/17/25

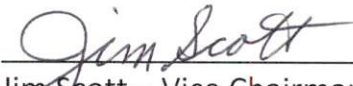
ACHOR	GARY DANT	\$510.00	2700
CAUFFMAN	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,040.00	1158
ELDER	GARY DANT	600.00	2700
FLEUGLE	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,350.00	1158
GAY EASTERDAY ROBINSON	STEVE BARTELS	\$375.00	2700
HALL ISSAC	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,350.00	1158
MCCLEARY GOCHENOUR	STEVE BARTELS	\$60.00	2700
MCCONNELL NEVIN	STEVE BARTELS	\$270.00	2700
MCCONNELL NEVIN	TIMBER VALLEY	\$800.00	2700
ROBINSON GA	GARY DANT	\$690.00	2700
SLOAN ADAMS	HUFFMAN LAND SURVEYING	\$100.00	2700
SOLOMON SECHREST	TIMBER VALLEY	\$2,260.00	2700
STONEBURNERY PUTNEY	TIMBER VALLEY	\$600.00	1158
WALNUT CREEK	STEVE BARTELS	\$120.00	2700
WALNUT CREEK	STEVE BARTELS	\$570.00	2700
WALNUT CREEK	TIMBER VALLEY	\$3,320.00	2700
WYLAND	TIMBER VALLEY	\$8,775.00	2700
WYLAND	TIMBER VALLEY	\$5,030.00	2700

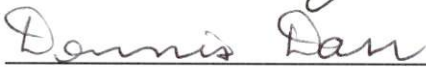
MAINTENANCE: \$ 23,480.00
GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 4,340.00

JUNE TOTALS
MAINTENANCE: \$ 36,342.55
GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 4,507.60

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD


Cary Groninger – Chairman


Jim Scott – Vice Chairman


Dennis Darr


Steve Metzger


Todd Smith