

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY
DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 28, 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.

JULY MINUTES/CLAIMS

JIM SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CLAIMS AND MINUTES FROM JULY 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 THAT THE DALTONS BRUSH CONTROL INVOICES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. FIFTEEN DIFFERENT DRAINS WERE TREATED AT A COST OF APPROXIMATELY \$44,000. THREE DRONE SPRAYERS HAVE ALSO BEEN OUT. MOYER FEELS HE CAN DO MORE DRONE SPRAYING IN THE FUTURE.

OLD BUSINESS

BURKHOLDER UPDATE

JIM MOYER SAID THE NORTH END OF THE DRAIN WAS INSPECTED WITH A CAMERA. HE SHARED SOME IMAGES THAT SHOWED THERE WAS A LOT OF SEDIMENT. THERE WAS AN EXISTING SUCK HOLE IN THE TILE. THE CLAY TILE IS CRACKED AND DEGRADING AND THERE ARE LOTS OF ROOTS. IN A WOODED AREA, THE ROOTS WERE SO THICK YOU COULDN'T EVEN GET THE CAMERA THROUGH. IT IS OUT OF GRADE AND WATER IS NOT FLOWING WELL. IT IS IN NEED OF A COMPLETE REPLACEMENT. MOYER SPOKE TO SEVERAL PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE AREA, AND THEY CONFIRMED THEY HAVE DRAINAGE PROBLEMS. AT THE LOWEST END OF THE BURKHOLDER, BETWEEN 1350 N AND THE ARMEY DRAIN, THERE IS A FLOODED AREA THAT HAS BEEN A PROBLEM. MOYER SAID HE IS COLLECTING INFORMATION ON WHAT IT WOULD COST TO REPLACE THE TILE FROM 1350 TO THE OPEN ARMEY DITCH WITH A LARGER TILE. HE IS ALSO GATHERING INFORMATION ON REPLACING THE TILE FROM THE COUNTY LINE NORTH TO THE RAILROAD IN ELKHART COUNTY. ESTIMATES IN THE PAST HAVE BEEN ASTRONOMICAL AND BEYOND WHAT LANDOWNERS CAN AFFORD. MOYER WOULD LIKE TO DO THE WORK ON THIS DRAIN IN THREE PARTS. THE SOUTHERN AND NORTHERN PARTS WOULD BE ADDRESSED FIRST, AND THE MIDDLE COULD WAIT UNTIL LATER. ONCE HE GETS THE COST INFORMATION, HE WILL BRING IT TO A JOINT BOARD MEETING TO REVIEW THE NUMBERS AND COME UP WITH A PLAN OF ACTION. BOB BARNES ASKED WHAT THE CURRENT TILE SIZE IS. MOYER SAID IT IS 24 INCHES AND HE IS LOOKING TO GO TO 36 TO 42 INCH TILE. STEVE SCHWEISBERGER, OF THE ELKHART

COUNTY SURVEYOR'S OFFICE, SAID THAT BOTH COUNTIES NEED TO GET TOGETHER TO GO OVER OPTIONS. SCHWEISBERGER SAID OPENING THE TILE HAD BEEN DISCUSSED. MOYER SAID THAT AN OPEN DITCH PORTION IS AN OPTION. THERE ARE LATERAL TILES THAT WILL ADD TO THE COSTS AS THOSE WILL NEED TO BE CONNECTED. HE FEELS THE INVESTIGATIVE PHASE IS COMPLETE, AND NOW WE NEED TO LOOK AT CURRENT COSTS. CARY GRONINGER ASKED IF THE LANDOWNER RECEIVES ANY COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF FARM LAND WHEN YOU GO FROM A TILE DRAIN TO AN OPEN DRAIN. MOYER SAID COMPENSATION FOR LOST LAND MAY HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED. GRONINGER MENTIONED THAT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT NORTH OF THE RAILROAD HAS CREATED MORE OF A SURGE, AND THE DRAIN HAS BECOME MORE INDUSTRIAL THAN AGRICULTURAL. BOB BARNES ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO PUTTING IN STRUCTURES TO CHANNEL WATER. MOYER SAID HE HAS DISCUSSED THAT WITH ENGINEERS. GRONINGER MENTIONED FROM HIS EXPERIENCE, SUBSURFACE STORAGE CAN BE COSTLY. MOYER SAID THE FARMER IN THE FLOODED AREA IN THE SOUTH SECTION HAS MENTION BEING OPEN TO DISCUSSION OF CREATING A RETENTION AREA ON HIS PROPERTY. STEVE SCHWEISBERGER SAID THAT IN ELKHART COUNTY THEY HAVE PAID A ONE TIME LOSS OF USE FEE WHEN THEY HAVE SWITCHED FROM A TILE TO OPEN DRAIN. THIS MIGHT BE A BETTER COST ALTERNATIVE THAN LARGER TILE. DENNIS DARR ASKED IF WE COULD LOWER THE DRAIN AT THE JUNCTION WITH THE ARMEY. MOYER SAID WE ARE AS LOW AS WE CAN GET. LYNN LOUKS ASKED IF A SPILLWAY COULD BE USED DOWNSTREAM. MOYER SAID HE FELT LANDOWNERS IN THE AREA WOULD BE OPEN TO THAT DISCUSSION.

LEVI EATON UPDATE

JIM MOYER EXPLAINED THIS IS THE TILE GOING AROUND THE OLD KRALIS BROTHERS LAGOON. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT OPENING THAT UP, BUT A COMPLICATION HAS COME UP. THERE IS A PUMP HOUSE ON THE SOUTHERN END OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT. THERE IS AN IRRIGATION LINE AND POWER LINE THAT GOES OUT TO AN IRRIGATION RIG. HE NEEDS TO WAIT FOR CROPS TO COME OFF TO CONFIRM THAT LOCATION AND SEE HOW THAT WILL AFFECT PLANS.

G. POLK DRAIN REPAIR/ATTORNEY UPDATE

JIM MOYER EXPLAINED THAT THE CABLE COMPANY CUT THE TILE ON THE POLK DRAIN. THERE WERE SEVERAL NOTIFICATIONS TO THE COMPANY TO REPAIR THE TILE AND NOTHING WAS DONE. ACCORDING TO INDIANA DRAINAGE CODE, MOYER HAD THE DRAIN FIXED AND THE COUNTY WAS BILLED FOR THE WORK. HE HAS TURNED THE BILL OVER THE ATTORNEY TO COLLECT FROM THE CABLE COMPANY.

NEW BUSINESS

WALNUT CREEK/PARTIAL ABANDONMENT/HOOSIER LANDFILL

JIM MOYER EXPLAINED THAT HOOSIER LANDFILL WANTS TO EXPAND THEIR LANDFILL SITE, AND THE WALNUT CREEK TILE IS IN THE WAY. THEY WOULD LIKE TO ABANDON THE SECTION GOING THROUGH THEIR SITE. MOYER IS IN FAVOR OF ABANDONING THIS SECTION. THE TILE ONLY AFFECTS THEIR PROPERTY. THEY WILL HAVE TO ADDRESS ALL OF THEIR DRAINAGE NEEDS ACCORDING TO STATE AND FEDERAL LAW. THEY WILL STILL PAY THE DRAINAGE ASSESSMENT, BUT THE COUNTY WILL NOT BE MAINTAINING THIS PORTION OF THE TILE. THERE IS A SECOND TILE ABOUT FIFTY FEET AWAY THAT FLOWS INTO THE MARTIN PETERSON TILE. THE PETERSON PORTION OF THE TILE IS UP TO DATE AND IN LINE WITH CURRENT NEEDS, WHILE THE WALNUT CREEK TILE ISN'T. CARY GRONINGER WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME FURTHER CONVERSATIONS REGARDING THIS.

TODD SMITH MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THE DISCUSSION OF THIS ABANDONMENT. JIM SCOTT SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

CAUFFMAN/TOWN OF CLAYPOOL TILE REPLACEMENT

JIM MOYER SAID THE TOWN OF CLAYPOOL HAS HAD A LOT DIFFICULTIES IN COMBINED SEWERS. THE STATE HAS MANDATED THAT ALL CITIES/TOWNS SEPERATE THEIR STORM SEWER SYSTEM FROM THEIR SANITARY SYSTEM. AS FAR BACK AS 1983, THE DRAINAGE BOARD HAS DISCUSSED A PORTION OF THE CAUFFMAN TILE IN THE CITY OF CLAYPOOL. THE TOWN OF CLAYPOOL AND THEIR ENGINEER HAVE APPROCHED US ABOUT ASSISTING WITH THIS PROJECT. CHRIS HARRISON, OF COMMONWEALTH ENGINEERS, EXPLAINED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH CLAYPOOL THE LAST FOUR YEARS ON THEIR STORM AND WASTEWATER PROJECT. A MAJOR ISSUE THEY ARE DEALING WITH IS STORM WATER GETTING INTO THE SANITARY SYSTEM. THE SECTION MOYER DISCUSSED, HE REFERS TO THE HARRISON STREET ALLEY. HARRISON SHARED DOCUMENTS DETAILING THE CLAYPOOL PROJECT. THIS PART OF THE PP2 PROJECT, ALONG WITH THE COLLECTION SYSTEM AND THE WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS, HAVE RECEIVED FUNDING FROM THE STATE REVOLVING FUND AND OCRA. THE PROJECT HAS BEEN OUT FOR BID. THERE ARE FIRM BONDERS FOR THE STORMWATER PORTION OF THE PROJECT. THE STORMWATER PROJECT CAME IN AT \$1.26 MILLION AND THE PP2, OR CAUFFMAN DITCH PORTION CONSTRUCTION COSTS CAME IN AT \$158,000. THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE SOFT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROJECT. CARY GRONINGER SAID HIS COMPANY WAS AWARDED THIS PROJECT, SO HE WILL ABSTAIN FROM VOTING. HARRISON SHARED DOCUMENTS DETAILING PROJECT COSTS. THIS PORTION OF THE PROJECT IS ABOUT 15% OF THE TOTAL \$1.26 MILLION COSTS. CLAYPOOL HAS A MINIMAL CUSTOMER BASE AND IS LOOKING FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE COUNTY ON THE OVERALL COST OF THE PROJECT. HARRISON PRESENTED SUPPORT LETTERS FROM TWO LANDOWNERS IN FAVOR OF THE PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDED PHOTOS OF FLOODING THAT OCCURS. JIM MOYER SAID THAT THE DRAINAGE BOARD HAS WORKED IN THIS AREA THREE TIMES SINCE 1983 TO ADDRESS FLOODING. THIS HAS BEEN A PROBLEM AREA FOR SOME TIME. RECONSTRUCTION WAS DISCUSSED IN 1983. CARY GRONINGER ASKED IF THIS PORTION WAS RECONSTRUCTED, CAN THE OUTLET DOWNSTREAM HANDLE IT. MOYER SAID IT WON'T COMPLETELY SOLVE THE PROBLEM, BUT FOR NOW IT WILL HELP GET WATER OUT OF PEOPLE'S YARDS. MOYER FELT IT IS A WORTHWHILE EFFORT TO HELP THE TOWN WITH THIS PROJECT. THE CAUFFMAN CURRENTLY HAS A NEGATIVE BALANCE, BUT SHOULD BE BACK IN THE POSITIVE BY THE END OF THE YEAR. DUE TO A LIMITED CUSTOMER BASE, CLAYPOOL IS LOOKING FOR HELP WITH THE TOWN PORTION OF THE COST. CARY GRONINGER ASKED WHAT OTHER PROJECTS WE HAVE DONE IN CLAYPOOL OR OTHER COMMUNITIES IN THE PAST. MOYER WOULD LIKE TO GET MORE LEGAL CLARIFICATION FROM OUR ATTORNEY ON WHAT WE CAN DO AND HOW IT CAN BE DONE. JIM SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO HAVE MOYER INVESTIGATE WHAT CAN BE DONE FROM A LEGAL STANDPOINT. STEVE METZGER SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR. CARY GRONINGER ABSTAINED.

JOHN PYLE/CONVERSION OF PRIVATE DRAIN TO REGULATED

JIM MOYER SAID THERE HAS BEEN A PETITION FILED WITH THE SURVEYOR'S OFFICE. A MUTUAL DRAIN HAS BEEN UPDATED ON THE BOYER PROPERTY, WHICH AFFECTS OUSLEY ON THE NORTH SIDE OF 200 S. THEY HAVE INSTALLED A NEW 8 INCH TILE FROM THE OPEN JOHN PYLE DITCH TO THE ROAD. WERTENBERGER INSTALLED IT AND IT IS TO OUR STANDARDS. THE TWO PROPERTY OWNERS HAVE ASKED THAT THIS SECTION BE BROUGHT INTO THE COUNTY'S REGULATED SYSTEM AND MAINTAINED. MOYER SAID BECAUSE OF THE SIZE OF THE JOHN PYLE, THIS PORTION OF TILE WILL NOT ADD A SIGNIFICANT COST. THERE WILL NOT NEED TO BE AN ASSESSMENT CHANGE. JIM SCOTT

MADE A MOTION TO CONVERT THE ABOVE-MENTIONED SECTION OF TILE FROM A PRIVATE DRAIN TO A REGULATED DRAIN. DENNIS DARR SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

EICHER PROPERTY/ATWOOD

TAYLOR EICHER, A PROPERTY OWNER FROM ATWOOD ADDRESSED THE BOARD REGARDING A DRAINAGE PROBLEM ON THEIR PROPERTY THEY HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS. THEY WERE TOLD IN JULY BY THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT THAT IT IS DRAINAGE BOARD ISSUE. THEY LIVE ON OLD ROAD 30 IN DOWNTOWN ATWOOD. WATERSHED COMES OFF NEW AND OLD 30 AND FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS THEY HAVE SENT PHOTOS TO JIM MOYER REGARDING THIS. THEIR DAUGHTER CANNOT GET ON TO THE SCHOOL BUS. HER HUSBAND HAS TO PUT ON BOOTS AND CARRY HER TO THE BUS. THERE IS CONFUSION REGARDING WHETHER THE DRAINS IN THE BACK AND FRONT OF THEIR PROPERTY ARE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE, AND WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH IT. EICHER ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE, AS THEIR HOME IS TURNING INTO A MAJOR FLOODING ISSUE. JIM MOYER SAID THERE IS REGULATED TILE AT THE NORTH END OF THE EICHER PROPERTY. THE ELEVATION OF THE TILE IS HIGHER THAN THE STREET ON OLD 30 AND WATER CAN NOT BE DRAINED ACROSS TO IT. THERE IS NOT A REGULATED TILE ALONG OLD US 30. THERE IS A TILE THERE THAT DRAINS TO A CATCH BASIN THAT IS NOT COUNTY REGULATED. IT FLOWS FROM THE WEST TO THE EAST AND COMES DOWN THE ROAD UNTIL IT CONNECTS INTO THE POLE RUN TILE. THE FLOODING CONDITION ON THE ROADSIDE OF THE EICHER PROPERTY IS DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE CATCH BASIN. MOYER HAS TALKED TO THE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT. STEVE MORIARTY HAD AGREED TO REMOVE THE SOD FROM AROUND THAT CATCH BASIN TO TRY TO GET MORE WATER COMING DOWN THE STREET INTO IT. CORY GRONINGER FELT THAT HE AND STEVE MORIARTY AND JIM MOYER NEED TO MEET OUT THERE TO ADDRESS THE SITUATION.

NEVIN MCCONNELL STATUS

DENNIS DARR ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE NEVIN MCCONNELL. JIM MOYER SAID A PORTION OF THE UPPER END HAS BEEN SPRAYED AND WE CURRENTLY HAVE A BEAVER TRAPPER IN THE MIDDLE PORTION NEAR MUD LAKE. HE HAS TALKED TO THE STATE DNR ABOUT CLEANING IN TOWN AND WE ARE WORKING ON QUESTIONS AND PERMITTING FOR THAT. HE IS LOOKING TO CLEAN THE NEVIN MCCONNELL AND TURKEY CREEK AT THE PORTION AROUND THE OLD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

ADJOURN

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

CLAIMS

8/12/25

DEEDS CREEK	KLINE TRUCKING	\$8,507.50	2700
KEEFER EVANS	HUFFMAN LAND SURVEYING	\$100.00	2700
POLK GEORGE	TIMBER VALLEY	\$5,780.00	1158
POLK GEORGE	WARSAW WHOLESALE	\$1,981.20	1158
SCHUE ELIZABETH	BLUESKY APPLICATORS	\$945.00	2700
SHANTON	TIMBER VALLEY	\$800.00	2700
WALNUT CREEK	KLINE TRUCKING	\$4,157.50	2700

MAINTENANCE: \$ 14,520.00

GENERAL DRAIN: \$7,761.20

8/26/25

CAUFFMAN	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,100.00	1158
DEEDS CREEK	TIMBER VALLEY	\$960.00	2700
ELDER	RIGHT OF WAY MGMT	\$904.27	2700
GAY EASTERDAY ROBINSON	STEVE BARTELS	\$120.00	2700
KEEFER EVANS	TIMBER VALLEY	\$725.00	2700
OLDFATHER HENRY	HOHMAN EXCAVATING	\$2,994.09	2700
		\$1,648.87	1158
POLK GEORGE	TIMBER VALLEY	\$5,500.00	1158
SHANTON	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,270.00	2700
SLOAN ADAMS	HOHMAN EXCAVATING	\$5,243.46	2700
STONEBURNER PUTNEY	TIMBER VALLEY	\$480.00	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	HOHMAN EXCAVATING	\$3,206.98	2700
WALNUT CREEK	STEVE BARTELS	\$60.00	2700
WALNUT CREEK	STEVE BARTELS	\$240.00	2700

MAINTENANCE: \$ 16,203.80

GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 8,248.87

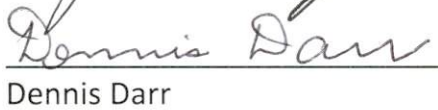
AUGUST TOTALS

MAINTENANCE: \$ 30,723.80

GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 16,010.07

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD


Cary Groninger – Chairman


Dennis Darr

Absent
Todd Smith


Jim Scott – Vice Chairman


Steve Metzger