

**KOSCIUSKO/ELKHART COUNTY
JOINT DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING
AP JONES HEARING
AUGUST 28, 2025
9:00 A.M.**

PRESENT

CARY GRONINGER – CHAIRMAN – KOSCIUSKO COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEMBER
BOB BARNES – VICE CHAIRMAN - ELKHART COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEMBER
LYNN LOUCKS – ELKHART COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEMBER
DENNIS DARR – KOSCIUSKO COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEMBER
MIKE HUFFMAN – WHITLEY COUNTY RESIDENT

ALSO PRESENT

JIM MOYER – KOSCIUSKO COUNTY SURVEYOR
SANDY ANGEL – DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY
AMY HURD – GIS TECHNICIAN
STEVE SCHWEISBERGER – ELKHART COUNTY SURVEYOR’S OFFICE

LANDOWNERS PRESENT

LLOYD TURNER
GREG DRAKE
DAVID STAYTON

CARY GRONINGER – CHAIRMAN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER.

HISTORY AND DRAIN STATUS

JIM MOYER EXPLAINED THAT THIS IS A CONTINUATION OF A MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT HEARING STARTED IN THE SPRING. NOTICES WERE SENT OUT TO LANDOWNERS WITH A PROPOSED RATE CHANGE FROM \$1.25 PER ACRE WITH A \$5.00 MINIMUM TO \$6.00 PER ACRE WITH A \$40.00 MINIMUM. THE RATE INCREASE WAS ALSO ADVERTISED. THERE WAS ONE REMONSTRANCE AGAINST THE INCREASE. WE HAVE BEEN COLLECTING ABOUT \$850 PER YEAR. MOYER SAID THAT ABOUT \$7,800 PER YEAR IS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN THIS DRAIN.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CARY GRONINGER OPENED THE MEETING UP TO THE PUBLIC. PROPERTY OWNER, LLOYD TURNER, SAID HE IS LOCATED ABOUT A MILE FROM THE END OF THE DRAIN. HE HAS NEVER HAD A WATER PROBLEM AND WATER DRAINS QUICKLY AFTER RAINS. HE DOESN’T FEEL THE DRAIN IS DOING HIM ANY GOOD. TURNER QUESTIONED WHY IT SAID HE HAD ZERO BENEFITTED ACRES IN THE NOTICE HE RECEIVED. JIM MOYER EXPLAINED THAT WE OPERATE ON A WATERSHED ELEVATION BASED ASSESSMENT, AND THE SURFACE WATER IN HIS AREA DRAINS TO THE AP JONES DRAIN. AMY HURD EXPLAINED THAT HIS PROPERTY IS A LOT LOCATED IN A SUBDIVISION, AND ACRES BENEFITTED AREN’T LISTED ON THOSE. THE LOTS ARE LESS THAN AN ACRE, SO THEY ARE ASSESSED THE \$40.00 MINIMUM. TURNER ALSO SAID HE HAD TWO LETTERS LISTING THE ASSESSMENT AS \$40.00 AND ONE AT \$25.00. MOYER EXPLAINED THAT THE \$25.00 FEE WAS FROM A PREVIOUS MAILING. THE WATERSHED WAS CHANGED AND A NEW MAILING WAS SENT WITH THE \$40.00 MINIMUM. TURNER EXPRESSED THAT HE IS NOT HAPPY WITH THE ASSESSMENT. PROPERTY OWNER, DAVID STAYTON, SAID HE OWNS LAND IN THE WATERSHED LOCATED AT 750E AND 1400N. IT IS WOODED AND THEY DO NOT INTEND TO DEVELOP IT, AND IF ANY OF IT CAN BE USED AS A RETENTION TO AID

THE DRAINAGE, HE WOULD BE INTERESTED. STAYTON ALSO NOTED THERE IS A LOT OF BRUSH GROWN UP IN THAT AREA.

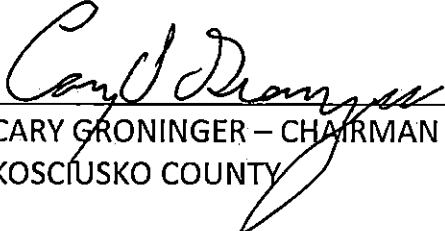
BOARD DISCUSSION

BOB BARNES ASKED WHY THE RATE INCREASE WAS SO LARGE GOING FROM \$1.25 TO \$6.00. HE ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY WAY THAT COULD BE PHASED IN. JIM MOYER EXPLAINED THAT THE \$1.25 RATE WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1968. IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO PHASE IN THE RATE, BUT IT WOULD REQUIRE MULTIPLE JOINT BOARD MEETINGS TO RAISE THE RATE AS NEEDED. MOYER ALSO REMINDED THE BOARD THAT THERE IS A FOUR-YEAR BALANCE MAXIMUM THAT CAN BE COLLECTED. CARY GRONINGER ALSO MENTIONED THERE WERE SOME IMMEDIATE NEEDS THAT NEED TO BE TAKEN CARE OF ON THE DITCH. BARNES WANTED TO CONFIRM THAT FUTURE NEEDS HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN ESTABLISHING THESE RATES. MOYER SAID HE HAD LOOKED TO THE FUTURE AND EXPLAINED THAT HE PLANS TO DO THE WORK NEEDED OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS. LYNN LOUCKS ASKED IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY RECENT WORK DONE ON THE DRAIN. MOYER SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN SPRAYED FOR BRUSH IN 2021 AND THAT HAD BEEN DONE FIVE TIMES GOING BACK TO 2000. HE SAID THAT IS HASN'T BEEN CLEANED FOR TEN YEARS, OTHER THAN A FEW SPOTS, AND IT NEEDS TO BE DIPPED. THE DRAIN IS CURRENTLY \$3,700 IN DEBT. THE \$6.00 PER ACRE RATE WITH A \$40.00 MINIMUM BRINGS THIS DRAIN UP TO CURRENT RATES WE ARE CHARGING FOR OTHER DRAINS. THE WATERSHED FOR THE DRAIN WAS ALSO UPDATED.

MOTION

DENNIS DARR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE \$6.00 AN ACRE RATE WITH A \$40.00 MINIMUM AND A 4 YEAR COLLECTION BALANCE. MIKE HUFFMAN SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

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