

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY
DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 18, 2025

PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT

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

CARY GRONINGER – CHAIRMAN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER.

NOVEMBER MINUTES/CLAIMS

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

WORK ORDER LIST/CLAIMS

JIM MOYER PRESENTED THE OUTSTANDING WORK ORDER LIST. SEVERAL ARE DONE AND JUST AWAITING INVOICING. THERE HAVE BEEN OVER TWO HUNDRED JOBS THIS YEAR AND HE ANTICIPATES MOST OF THE OUTSTANDING ONES WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF THIS YEAR. WORK ORDER 81 FOR COPPESSE WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL SPRING.

OLD BUSINESS

DRAINAGE ANALYTICS PRESENTATION/AMY MOORE

AMY MOORE EXPLAINED THAT SHE AND JIM MOYER HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THIS PROJECT AS A WAY TO PRIORITIZE THE HEARINGS AND RECONSTRUCTIONS WE DO. WHEN DEVELOPING THIS, THEY LOOKED AT CREATING SOMETHING SIMILAR TO THE PASER RATING SYSTEM USED FOR THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT. THEY ALSO GOT SOME IDEAS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON STORMWATER CENTER, WHICH HAS A DITCH PRIORITIZATION MODEL. SHE AND JIM HAVE COME UP WITH A SPREADSHEET FOR ALL OF OUR DRAINS WITH A LOT OF DATA THAT IS INCORPORATED INTO A RATING SYSTEM TO DEVELOP A PRIORITY RANKING. THE SPREADSHEET LISTS ALL OF THE DRAINS ALPHABETICALLY ON THE LEFT SIDE AND THEN THERE ARE EIGHT CATEGORIES USED TO RANK THE DRAINS AND AN OVERALL RATING. THE LOWEST NUMBER FOR THE OVERALL RATING IS EIGHT AND THE HIGHEST IS FIFTY-FIVE. A RATING OF EIGHT IS THE BEST RATING FOR A DRAIN AND INDICATES IT PROBABLY NEEDS NO ATTENTION. A RATING OF FIFTY-FIVE IS THE WORST CASE SCENARIO, AND INDICATES THAT DRAIN PROBABLY NEEDS A LOT OF ATTENTION. IT MIGHT NEED A RECONSTRUCTION OR A HEARING TO RAISE THE MAINTENANCE. MOST OF THE CATEGORIES ARE RATED ONE TO FIVE, BUT ONE STARTS AT ZERO. THE CATEGORIES ARE SPLIT UP INTO PHYSICAL, FINANCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS.

THE FIRST TWO PHYSICAL FACTORS ARE THE TOTAL MILES OF DRAIN AND THE TOTAL ACREAGE OF THE WATERSHED. THE SIZE RATING IS THE AVERAGE OF THE MILES AND

ACREAGE RATING. THE OTHER PHYSICAL FACTOR IS THE CONDITION. THIS IS BASED ON JIM MOYER'S KNOWLEDGE AND OBSERVATION OF THE DRAIN. DRAIN FUNCTIONALITY AND THE NEED FOR DEBRUSHING, SPRAYING, MOWING AND DREDGING ARE SOME OF THE FACTORS CONSIDERED. THE NEED FOR TILE TO BE REPAIRED AND/OR REPLACED ARE ALSO CONSIDERED. UPON REVIEW OF THIS SYSTEM, THEY FELT THAT THE CONDITION OF THE DRAIN WAS A MORE IMPORTANT FACTOR. AS A RESULT, ANY DRAIN THAT WAS RATED A FIVE, WAS DOUBLED TO TEN IN ORDER TO WEIGHT THE CONDITION MORE HEAVILY.

FOR FINANCIAL FACTORS, THEY TOOK THE PERCENTAGE OF THE DRAIN'S ANNUAL COLLECTION SPENT IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR, THE BALANCE OF THE AMOUNT OF MONEY IN THE DRAIN'S ACCOUNT RELATIVE TO ITS ANNUAL COLLECTION AND THE NUMBER OF YEARS SINCE THE DRAIN'S LAST HEARING. THE BALANCE IS WEIGHTED. IF THE BALANCE RATING IS FIVE, IT IS DOUBLED TO TEN.

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS THEY LOOKED AT ZONING, SOILS, WETLANDS AND OUTLET. THE ZONING WAS TAKEN FROM OUR ZONING MAP, AND THE RATING WAS BASED ON HOW EASY IT IS TO WORK IN THAT TYPE OF AREA. FOR EXAMPLE, AGRICULTURAL ZONES ARE MUCH EASIER TO WORK IN THAN INDUSTRIAL. FOR THE SOIL RATING, THEY USED THE SOIL SURVEY FROM THE EIGHTIES AND LOOKED AT WATER MANAGEMENT FOR THAT SOIL TYPE. THE RATING WAS GIVEN BASED ON THE MAJORITY OF THE SOIL TYPE FOR THE DRAIN EASEMENT. THE WETLANDS RATING WAS BASED ON THE PERCENTAGE OF THE DRAINAGE EASEMENT CONSIDERED WETLAND. FIVE DIFFERENT TYPES OF OUTLETS FOR DRAINS WERE LOOKED AT. EACH OF THESE TYPES OF OUTLETS REQUIRE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF ATTENTION.

MOVING FORWARD WE CAN EVALUATE ITEMS WE MAY NEED TO ADD MORE WEIGHT TO. THE SYSTEM COMPILES A LOT OF INFORMATION AND WILL BE USED TO GUIDE DECISION MAKING AND NOT BE AN ULTIMATE DECISION MAKER. CURRENTLY, BASED ON THE DATA WE HAVE, POLE RUN HAS THE HIGHEST RATING FOLLOWED BY THE ISAIAH KUHN AND PLUNGE CREEK. THEY WILL CONTINUE TO WORK AND IMPROVE THIS SYSTEM OVER THE COMING YEAR. JIM MOYER SAID HE HAS NOT FOUND ANY OTHER PROGRAM LIKE THIS. HE HAS SPENT EXTENSIVE TIME STUDYING THE DRAINS AND IS TRYING TO PUT THAT KNOWLEDGE INTO A FORMAT THAT CAN BE USED BY OTHERS. CARY GRONINGER ASKED WHAT THE AVERAGE RATING WAS. MOYER SAID 109 DRAINS ARE ABOVE AVERAGE AND SIX ARE BELOW. GRONINGER ALSO QUESTIONED WHETHER HAVING AN UNEVEN NUMBER OF CATEGORIES IN EACH OF THE THREE FACTORS MIGHT SKEW THE DATA. HE ALSO FELT THAT IT WAS AN EXCELLENT TOOL TO CONTINUE TO DEVELOP AND USE TO GUIDE ACTIONS WITH DRAINS. MOORE SAID THE FINANCIAL DATA WILL BE UPDATED, AND WE WILL BE ABLE TO EVALUATE HOW THAT CHANGES THE RATINGS. WE WILL BE ABLE TO SEE TRENDS AND RESULTS FROM ACTIONS TAKEN.

CLAYPOOL REDEVELOPMENT/REPORT PRESENTATION

JIM MOYER REVIEWED THAT CLAYPOOL HAS A REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, AND THEY ARE TRYING TO GET SOME STORMWATER OUT OF THEIR SANITARY SYSTEM AND UPGRADE THEIR SANITARY TREATMENT PLANT. CLAYPOOL HAS RECEIVED NEWS THAT THEY RECEIVED THE MAJORITY OF THEIR GRANT, AND THEY ARE PROCEEDING WITH THEIR PROGRAMS. THEY ARE REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM US ON A PORTION OF THE BEIGH ARM OF THE CAUFFMAN, WHICH IS IN BAD SHAPE. MOYER HAD GOTTEN A ROUGH ESTIMATE ON GETTING THE WORK NEEDED, AND IT WAS AROUND \$80,000. SINCE CLAYPOOL HAS RECEIVED THEIR GRANT, THEY MAY ONLY NEED US TO PROVIDE THE MATERIALS, AND THEY WILL TAKE CARE OF THE LABOR. THAT WOULD

SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THE ESTIMATE MOYER HAS RECEIVED. CLAYPOOL WILL KEEP MOYER IN THE LOOP ON WHAT THEY NEED ASSISTANCE WITH, AND HE WILL UPDATE THE BOARD AS HE GETS INFORMATION.

LEVI EATON/PRESENTATION ESTIMATION OF REPAIR

JIM MOYER STATED THE LEVI EATON HAS BEEN DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF TIMES PREVIOUSLY. THIS DRAIN AFFECTS THE OLD KRALIS POULTRY PROCESSING PLANT. THE TILE WAS REROUTED AROUND LAGOONS AND HAS COLLAPSED IN SEVERAL PLACES AND IS NOT IN GOOD SHAPE. PORTIONS OF THE COLLAPSED TILE HAVE BEEN DUG OUT AND ARE NOW OPEN DITCH AND FLOW INTO A DRAINAGE TILE WHERE IT IS WORKING WELL. THE OWNERS UPSTREAM HAVE SUFFERED SOME SLOW DRAINAGE, WHICH KEEPS THEIR FIELDS WET. THE EATON ONLY COLLECTS \$650 A YEAR. MOYER GOT AN ESTIMATE TO IMPROVE THE OPEN DITCH AROUND THE LAGOON, WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE TILE TO FLOW FREELY. THE ESTIMATE WAS ABOUT \$9,000. IF WE DO A RECONSTRUCTION, 80% OF THE COST WILL FALL ON ONE FARMER. MOYER SUGGESTED THAT WE GO AHEAD WITH THE WORK AND CONTINUE TO COLLECT THE \$650 A YEAR TO PAY THE DEBT OFF. THERE IS NO MORE FORSEEN PROJECTS ON THIS DRAIN. CARY GRONINGER ASKED THE CURRENT RATE. MOYER SAID IT WAS \$2 PER ACRE WITH A \$25 MINIMUM. GRONINGER SUGGESTED WE CONSIDER TAKING ON THE DEBT, BUT LOOK AT RAISING THE RATE, WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE DEBT TO BE PAID OFF SOONER. GRONINGER THOUGHT THE LAGOON MIGHT BE REGULATED BY IDEM AND DIGGING AN OPEN DITCH MIGHT PRESENT PROBLEMS. MOYER IS GOING TO CHECK ON THAT, AND IF IT IS CONTROLLED BY IDEM, SEE IF THERE IS SOMETHING NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE DRAIN. MOYER WILL ALSO LOOK INTO RAISING THE MAINTENANCE FEE.

UPDATE FOR BOARD FROM SURVEYOR

ELIZA YEAGER/MAINTENANCE HEARING/JANUARY 22, 2026

JIM MOYER SAID NEXT MONTH WE WILL HAVE A HEARING ON THE ELIZA YEAGER. THE DRAIN HAS NOT BEEN COLLECTING ANY TIME IN THE PAST. WE HAVE BEEN SPENDING \$1,500 A YEAR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, AND MOYER FEELS IT IS TIME TO DISCUSS ESTABLISING A MAINTENANCE FUND. NOTICES WILL BE SENT OUT THIS FRIDAY, AND THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 22, 2026.

DNR PERMITS/STATUS UPDATE

JIM MOYER SAID HE MET WITH THE DNR ON SITE FOR THE THREE PENDING PERMITS AND GOT THEIR COMMENTS. WE ARE NOW IN A NOTIFICATION PHASE. THE PERMIT THAT AFFECTS US DIRECTLY IMPACTS SELLERS LAKE. THE WATER HAS BACKED UP OVER THE DAM. THE STATE AND EVERYONE AGREES WE NEED TO DREDGE THE DITCH TO KEEP IT FLOWING AND PREVENT FLOODING OF SELLERS LAKE. MOYER WOULD LIKE TO DO THE PROJECT THIS SUMMER. CARY GRONINGER ASKED IF THERE WAS A LEGAL LAKE ELEVATION ESTABLISHED FOR SELLERS LAKE. MOYER SAID THAT HAD BEEN DONE IN THE PAST. THE WATERSHED FOUNDATION HAS TWO OTHER PERMITS ON DEEDS CREEK THAT WE ARE WORKING ON WITH THEM. CARY GRONINGER ASKED WHERE THE DEEDS CREEK PROJECTS WERE LOCATED. MOYER SAID ONE IS BY THE COUNTY HIGHWAY GARAGE AND THE OTHER IS NEAR PIERCETON. GRONINGER ASKED WHAT MADE A DNR PERMIT NECESSARY. MOYER EXPLAINED THAT DEEDS CREEK IS MORE THAN TEN MILES LONG, IT FLOWS INTO PIKE LAKE AND IT INVOLVES WETLANDS. ALL THOSE FACTORS MAKE DNR PERMITTING NECESSARY. TODD SMITH ASKED ABOUT WORK ON THE GAY EASTERDAY THAT REQUIRED A DNR PERMIT. MOYER SAID THE PERMIT WAS ON THE WEST SIDE AND IN THE LAST FIFTY FEET OR SO THE DIRT GOT TOO SOFT. THE WORK IS IN A WETLAND, AND YOU CANNOT PILE THE DIRT IN A WETLAND. MOYER WAS ABLE TO

MOVE THE WORK TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DRAIN BECAUSE IT IS NOT A WETLAND. THE LAST FIFTY FEET WILL BE DONE FROM THE OPPOSITE SIDE.

DEEDS CREEK PROJECT/MEETING JANUARY 13, 2026/DRAINAGE BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM

JIM MOYER SAYS THIS PROJECT IS FOR DEEDS CREEK FROM US 30 TO HUSKY TRAIL ON THE NORTHEAST SIDE OF TOWN. IT AFFECTS PARKVIEW HOSPITAL AND A COUPLE OTHER GROUPS. THE PIKE LAKE ASSOCIATION PAID FOR A STUDY THAT IDENTIFIED THIS STRETCH IS IN NEED OF MAINTENANCE AND EROSION CONTROL. IT IS DEEP, SANDY, HAS LARGE TREES AND HAS NOT BEEN MANTAINED ON A REGULAR BASIS IN A LONG TIME. MOYER HAS CALLED A MEETING OF INVOLVED PARTIES TO DISCUSS THE FINDINGS OF THIS STUDY. MOYER WOULD LIKE TO PROCEED TO REMOVE AND DEBRUSH THE AREA, AND HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE WHAT THE PROPERTY OWNERS WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THAT AREA. HE WOULD LIKE TO GET PEOPLE ON BOARD TO SUPPORT THIS PROJECT. MOYER INVITED BOARD MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE MEETING. IT IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 13, 2026 AT 9 AM IN THE DRAINAGE BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM. CARY GRONINGER MENTIONED THERE IS DISCUSSION REGARDING FIXING THE INTERSECTION OF PARKER STREET. THIS COULD INVOLVE A NEW INTERCHANGE NORTH OF THE CHURCH AT SPRINGHILL, LINING UP WITH NORTHPOINTE DRIVE TO HUSKY TRAIL. GRONINGER SAID PARKVIEW IS CONTINUING TO AQUIRE PROPERTY IN THAT AREA, WHICH COULD BRING A FAIR AMOUNT OF DEVELOPMENT. THERE MIGHT ALSO BE A BIKE TRAIL PROPOSED ALONG DEEDS CREEK. MOYER FELT IT WOULD BE GOOD TO DO OUR WORK NOW BEFORE TOO MUCH MAJOR CONSTRUCTION OCCURS.

NEW BUSINESS

ELECTION OF OFFICERS/CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

DENNIS DARR MADE A MOTION TO LEAVE IT AS IS, WITH CARY GRONINGER AS CHAIRMAN AND JIM SCOTT AS VICE CHAIRMAN. STEVE METZGER SECONDED THE MOTION, AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

2026 MEETING DATES/DRAINS TO REVIEW

JIM MOYER INFORMED THE BOARD THAT THE 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE WAS IN THEIR BINDERS. HE SAID THERE ARE THREE DRAINS HE WOULD LIKE TO WORK ON NEXT YEAR. THESE ARE THE CAUFFMAN, PLUNGE CREEK AND FLEUGLE DRAINS. MOYER WILL ALSO ADD A DISCUSSION OF THE LEVI EATON TO THAT LIST.

ADJOURN

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

CLAIMS

12/2/25

LECKRONE NELSON	KLINE TRUCKING	\$1,657.60	2700
METZGER JOSEPH	KLINE TRUCKING	\$2,740.00	2700
NEFF OMAR JEFF	KLINE TRUCKING	\$859.20	2700
PETERSON MARTIN	M KOLESIAK CONST	\$13,725.00	1158
POLE RUN	R&R VISUAL	\$1,200.00	1158
ROBBINS MAGREE	TIMBER VALLEY	\$780.00	1158
STONEBURNER PUTNEY	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$319.77	2700
STONEBURNER PUTNEY	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,090.00	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,820.00	2700

WALNUT CREEK	SHANKSTER BROS	\$13,494.67	2700
		\$8,632.89	1158
WALNUT CREEK	WARSAW WHOLESALE	\$726.15	2700

MAINTENANCE: \$ 22,707.39
GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 24,337.89

12/12/25

BEYER BRADY	NBI FORAGE SOLUTIONS	\$175.00	2700
BIERCE	TIMBER VALLEY	\$320.00	1158
BIERCE	TIMBER VALLEY	\$320.00	1158
CHAPMAN	NBI FORAGE SOLUTIONS	\$290.00	2700
KELLY ZIMMER	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,050.00	2700
LONG CY	NBI FORAGE SOLUTIONS	\$310.00	2700
MAISH	NBI FORAGE SOLUTIONS	\$150.00	2700
MCCLEARY GOCHENOUR	TIMBER VALLEY	\$800.00	2700
POLE RUN	NBI FORAGE SOLUTIONS	\$37.50	2700
ROBBINS MAGEE	TIMBER VALLEY	\$740.00	1158
SHATTO CATELL	NBI FORAGE SOLUTIONS	\$50.00	1158
SWICK MEREDITH	SHANKSTER BROS	\$334.24	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	TIMBER VALLEY	\$480.00	2700
WILLIAMSON SARAH	TIMBER VALLEY	\$800.00	2700

MAINTENANCE: \$ 4,426.74
GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 1,467.50

12/16/25

DEEDS CREEK	STEVE BARTELS	\$300.00	2700
GAY EAST ROBINSON	STEVE BARTELS	\$270.00	2700
MCCLEARY GOCHENOUR	STEVE BARTELS	\$60.00	2700
MCCONNELL NEVIN	STEVE BARTELS	\$300.00	2700
WALNUT CREEK	STEVE BARTELS	\$60.00	2700

MAINTENANCE: \$ 990.00
GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 0

12/30/25

DEEDS CREEK	STEVE BARTELS	\$240.00	2700
ELDER	GARY DANT	\$480.00	2700
KELLY ZIMMER	TIMBER VALLEY	\$630.00	2700
KOONTZ MARY	WERTENBERGER TILING	\$3,065.00	2700
LECKRONE NELSON	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,040.00	2700
MCCLEARY GOCHENOUR	STEVE BARTELS	\$225.00	2700
MCCONNELL NEVIN	LI EXCAVATING	\$1,370.00	2700
MCCONNELL NEVIN	STEVE BARTELS	\$180.00	2700
SHANTON	GARY DANT	\$270.00	2700
TURKEY CREEK	LUMBERJACK JIM	\$7,850.00	2700
WALNUT CREEK	WERTENBERGER TILING	\$567.50	1158
WALNUT CREEK	SHANKSTER BROS	\$1,898.44	1158
WALNUT CREEK	TIMBER VALLEY	\$9,960.00	1158
WHITE SEDAILA	HOHMAN EXCAVATING	\$5,106.79	1158
WYLAND	DENNIS & SONS EXC	\$4,359.84	2700

MAINTENANCE: \$ 19,709.84
GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 17,532.73

DECEMBER TOTALS
MAINTENANCE: \$ 47,833.97
GENERAL DRAIN: **\$ 43,338.12**

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

Cary Groninger
Cary Groninger – Chairman

Dennis Darr
Dennis Darr

Todd Smith
Todd Smith

Jim Scott
Jim Scott – Vice Chairman

Steve Metzger
Steve Metzger