

**KOSCIUSKO COUNTY  
DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING  
JULY 25, 2024**

**PRESENT**

CARY GRONINGER - CHAIRMAN  
JIM SCOTT  
DENNIS DARR  
JOE IRWIN  
STEVE METZGER

**ALSO PRESENT**

MIKE KISSINGER – SURVEYOR  
SANDY ANGEL – DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY

CARY GRONINGER – CHAIRMAN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER.

**JUNE CLAIMS AND MINUTES**

DENNIS DARR MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CLAIMS AND MINUTES FROM JUNE AS PRESENTED SUBJECT TO ANY AND ALL AUDITS. JOE IRWIN SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

**ATWOOD FLOODING ISSUES – JANICE SLOAN**

JANICE SLOAN, WHO HAS PROPERTY AT 310 S WRAY STREET IN ATWOOD, ADDRESSED THE BOARD REGARDING FLOODING ISSUES ON HER PROPERTY. WHEN THERE WAS HEAVY RAINFALL ON JULY 10, 2024, PLUS MORE RAIN ON JULY 14, THEIR PROPERTY WAS FLOODED ALONG WITH AN ADJOINING PROPERTY. BY JULY 19, WATER ON SURROUNDING ATWOOD PROPERTIES WAS GOING DOWN, BUT THEIR WATER INCREASED. SHE BELIEVES THE ISSUE IS DUE TO AN ELEVATION PROBLEM WITH A DITCH THAT GOES UNDER 700 W. MIKE KISSINGER SAID THAT THE COUNTY HIGHWAY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS DRAIN WITHIN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND IS AWARE OF THE PROBLEM. HE SAID WE HAVE DONE ELEVATIONS FOR THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT. CARY GRONINGER THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE SOME ADDITIONAL ISSUES DOWNSTREAM. JIM MOYER HAS BEEN WORKING ON THIS PROJECT AND WAS UNAVAILABLE FOR COMMENT. MIKE IS TO CONTACT THE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT FOR A STATUS UPDATE AND REPORT HIS FINDINGS TO JANICE.

**DRAINAGE BOARD ATTORNEY**

MIKE KISSINGER STATED THAT WE DO NOT HAVE A DRAINAGE BOARD ATTORNEY SINCE RICK HELM RETIRED. HE ASKED THE BOARD FOR ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE POSITION. CARY GRONINGER FELT ED ORMSBY HAS GIVEN GOOD COUNSEL FOR THE COUNTY BUT HAS A LOT ON HIS PLATE. HE ALSO MENTIONED ADAM TURNER, WHO IS THE ATTORNEY FOR WINONA LAKE, AND AUSTIN ROVENSTINE.

**CLAYPOOL/BEIGH ARM OF THE CAUFFMAN**

MIKE KISSINGER SAID HE WAS AWARE OF AN IDEM PROBLEM THE CITY OF CLAYPOOL HAS WITH THEIR SANITARY SEWER AND INFILTRATION OF STORM SEWER INTO THE SYSTEM. ONE OF CLAYPOOL'S ENGINEERS CONTACTED HIM AND SHARED SOME PLANS THAT WOULD INVOLVE STORM WATER ENTERING INTO THE BEIGH ARM OF THE CAUFFMAN DRAIN ON THE SOUTH EAST SIDE OF THE TOWN. THIS DRAIN HAS BEEN ON THE LIST FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND IT MAY NEED TO BE PUSHED UP BECAUSE OF THE LEGAL ISSUES CLAYPOOL IS HAVING WITH IDEM. JONI TRUEX HAS CONTACTED MIKE REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF USING TIF MONEY FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION. SHE WANTED SOME DETAILS TO TAKE TO THE REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. IT WOULD

INVOLVE ABOUT 3000 FEET OF 18" PIPE IN TOWN AND THROUGH AGRICULTURAL GROUND. MIKE ESTIMATES IT TO BE ABOUT A \$300,000 PROJECT. WE WOULD NOT WANT OUR LANDOWNERS TO PAY FOR ALL OF THIS. CONTRIBUTION FROM THE TOWN OR TIF FUNDS WOULD BE NEEDED. THE COUNCIL APPROPRIATED \$250,000 FOR OUR BUDGET, BUT IT IS CURRENTLY IN THE COMMISSIONER'S BUDGET TO ADD TO THE GENERAL DRAIN FUND. MIKE JUST NEEDS TO REQUEST THESE FUNDS BE TRANSFERRED TO THE GENERAL DRAIN FUND.

**DANNER RECONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

MIKE KISSINGER REPORTED THAT L.I. EXCAVATING COMPLETED THE PROJECT QUICKLY. MIKE'S ESTIMATE WAS \$104,840 AND L.I.'S BID WAS \$63,875 BUT DID NOT INCLUDE TILE HOOK UPS. THEIR ACTUAL BILLING FOR THE BID PORTION WAS A \$63,359 BECAUSE A LITTLE LESS TILE WAS USED THAN THE SURVEYOR'S ESTIMATE. THERE WERE 28 LATERAL HOOK UPS AND THOSE WERE NOT PART OF THE BID. THEY WERE PAID \$175 PER HOOK UP AND \$9/FOOT FOR DISTANCE TO HOOK UP. \$7,400 WAS THE BILL FOR THE HOOKUPS. WE RAN INTO SOME BAD SOIL BELOW THE EXISTING TILE AND WE HAD TO SOCK ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE TILE. THIS RESULTED IN A CHANGE ORDER COST OF \$2234. WE CURRENTLY HAVE A TOTAL COST ON THE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT OF \$73,628. MIKE ESTIMATES POSSIBLE CROP REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS FROM TWO PROPERTY OWNERS, BUT THEY MAY DECIDE NOT TO SUBMIT THESE. THE BOARD MEMBERS ESTMATED \$800 PER ACRE AS A REIMBURSEMENT AMOUNT. THE COUNTY HIGHWAY REPLACED THE INLET ON THE WEST SIDE OF CR 1050 AND A RISER ON THE EAST SIDE. RANDY KLOTZ OWNS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD AND HE WANTED TO PUT HIS OWN BEE HIVE ON IT AND SAID HE WOULD CUT IT OFF TOO. MIKE AGREED TO LET HIM DO THIS. WE THEN GOT HEAVY RAIN AND RANDY HAD NOT CUT AND CAPPED THE PIPE, THE ROAD WAS WASHED OUT. L.I. EXCAVATING TOOK CARE OF THE REPAIRS. THE COUNTY HIGHWAY FEELS THEY SHOULD NOT PAY FOR IT. MIKE FEELS SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT AND WE MAY PAY \$1,500 TO \$2,000 OF THE COST. ORIGINALLY, WE WERE AT ABOUT \$333 PER ACRE, BUT WE SHOULD BE ABOUT \$100/ACRE LESS THAN THAT.

**2025 BUDGETS**

MIKE KISSINGER WILL BE PRESENTING THE BUDGET FOR 2025. A DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE HAS NOT FILED FOR THE SURVEYOR POSITION, SO IT APPEARS THAT JIM MOYER WILL BE THE NEXT SURVEYOR. JIM DID NOT WANT TO TAKE THE BUDGET BEFORE THE COUNCIL, SO MIKE WILL DO THAT. THERE WILL BE SOME CHANGES IF THERE IS NOT A LICENSED SURVEYOR IN THE OFFICE. JIM HAS NOT MADE IT CLEAR IF THERE WILL BE SOMEONE WITH A LICENSE IN THE OFFICE. COSTS PER YEAR COULD INCREASE FOR DITCH MAINTENANCE IF SURVEYING NEEDS TO BE OUTSOURCED. JIM PLANS TO ELIMINATE THE DRAINAGE SUPERVISOR POSITION AND THAT HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE BUDGET AT HIS REQUEST. THE ASSISTANT SURVEYORS POSITION MAY HAVE A NEW TITLE. THIS SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND WHEN REVIEWING THE BALANCE SHEET AND POSSIBLE MAINTENANCE HEARINGS. INDIANA CODE 25-21.5-1-7(b)(11) STATES: "ALL WORK INCIDENTAL TO CLEANOUT, RECONSTRUCTING, OR MAINTAINING EXISTING OPEN AND TILE DRAINS" IS CONSIDERED THE PRACTICE OF SURVEYING AND A LICENSE IS REQUIRED.

**BURKHOLDER RECONSTRUCTION**

THE BURKHOLDER RECONSTRUCTION IS ANOTHER LARGE PROJECT IN THE WORKS. MIKE KISSINGER DOES NOT WANT TO GO FORWARD WITH DESIGN ON THIS IF ANOTHER ENGINEERING COMPANY IS GOING TO BE SUPERVISING. JOE ERWIN QUESTIONED IF WE HAD USED AN OUTSIDE ENGINEERING COMPANY IN THE PAST. MIKE SAID THAT HAD ONLY BEEN DONE ON ONE TIF PROJECT. IN THE PAST 64 YEARS THERE HAD BEEN NO

OUTSOURCING OF THE SURVEYING OF COUNTY DITCHES FOR MAINTENANCE NOR RECONSTRUCTION.

**LAMB PROPERTY/WATERWAY**

DENNIS DARR ASKED IF ANYTHING HAD BEEN DONE REGARDING ADDING THIS AS A COUNTY REGULATED DRAIN. MIKE KISSINGER SAID THEY GAVE THE LANDOWNERS THE NUMBERS TO DO THIS, AND THEY HAD NO APPETITE FOR THAT. IT WAS SUGGESTED GOING ACROSS AND TAKING IT INTO THE SOUTH SIDE OF WAUBEE LAKE, BUT MIKE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE DNR WOULD NOT BE RECEPTIVE OF BRINGING WATER FROM ANOTHER WATERSHED AND DISCHARGING IT INTO THE LAKE. KIP TOM WAS GOING TO SEE IF HE COULD FIND SOME FINANCING TO GO NORTHWEST WITH THE DRAIN.

**SEDALIA WHITE/HEIGHWAY WORK ORDER**

JOE IRWIN ASKED FOR A STATUS UPDATE ON THE HEIGHWAY PROPERTY. MIKE KISSINGER SAID L.I. EXCAVATING IS DOING THE PROJECT AND THE TILE IS ORDERED. MIKE TALKED TO THE HEIGHWAY'S SON-IN-LAW AND ASKED IF THEY WANTED TO GET ANY TREES HARVESTED BEFORE THE WORK WAS DONE. THEY SAID "NO" AND ARE GOOD FOR US TO GO AHEAD WITH THE WORK.

**ADJOURN**

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

**CLAIMS**

**7/2/24**

DANNER RECONSTRUCTION	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$185.04	2600
DANNER RECONSTRUCTION	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$412.29	2600
GAY EASTERDAY	SPRINGFIELD PLASTICS	\$16,890.20	2700
GAY EASTERDAY	FARMER'S DRAINAGE	\$861.73	2700
HALL ISAAC	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$958.19	1158
HAMMOND STUTZMAN	BEECHY EXCAVATING	\$858.98	2700
NEFF OMAR PLAIN	WAUGH FARM DRAINAGE	\$7,326.30	1158
		\$7,237.70	2700
ROBBINS MAGEE	HOHMAN EXCAVATING	\$23,329.22	1158
ROBBINS MAGEE	HOHMAN EXCAVATING	\$510.00	1158
WELCH JAMES	L.I. EXCAVATING	\$961.25	1158

**DANNER RECONSTRUCTION \$ 597.33**

**MAINTENANCE: \$ 25,848.61**

**GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 33,084.96**

**7/16/24**

ALEXANDER	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$224.19	1158
ALEXANDER	KLINE TRUCKING & EXC	\$893.40	1158
DANNER RECONSTRUCTION	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$84.63	2600
DANNER RECONSTRUCTION	L.I. EXCAVATING	\$9,671.52	2600
DANNER RECONSTRUCTION	L.I. EXCAVADING	\$63,359.20	2600
HALL ISAAC	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,870.00	1158
STONEBURNER	KLINE TRUCKING & EXC	\$778.00	2700
WESTLAKE FETTERS	TIMBER VALLEY	\$2,494.10	2700

**DANNER RECONSTRUCTION \$73,125.35**

**MAINTENANCE: \$ 3,272.20**

**GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 2,987.59**

**7/30/24**

ARTHUR	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$1,038.39	2700
		<b>\$1,972.70</b>	<b>1158</b>
ARTHUR	KLINE TRUCKING	<b>\$4,375.74</b>	<b>1158</b>
CONRAD WILLIAM	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,870.00	2700
CONRAD WILLIAM	WARSAW WHOLESALE	\$175.20	2700
DEEDS CREEK	KLINE TRUCKING	\$350.00	2700
MCLEARY GOCHENOUR	KLINE TRUCKING	\$415.00	2700
MCCONNELL NEVIN	DON'S EXCAVATING	\$12,922.50	2700
METZGER JOSEPH	KLINE TRUCKING	\$715.00	2700
STONEBURNER	KLINE TRUCKING	\$2,065.00	2700
WALNUT CREEK	TIMBER VALLEY	\$2,650.00	2700
WILLIAMSON SARAH	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$1,069.56	2700
WILLIAMSON SARAH	TIMBER VALLEY	\$780.00	2700
WILLIAMSON SARAH	KLINE TRUCKING	\$2,365.00	2700

**DANNER RECONSTRUCTION \$ 0**

**MAINTENANCE: \$ 26,415.65**

**GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 6,348.44**

**JULY TOTALS**

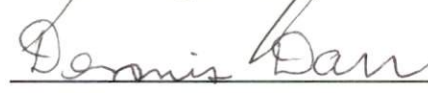
**DANNER RECONSTRUCTION \$ 73,722.80**

**MAINTENANCE: \$ 55,536.36**

**GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 42,420.99**


**KOSCIUSKO COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD**

  
Cary Groninger – Chairman

  
Dennis Darr

  
Joe Irwin

  
Jim Scott – Vice Chairman

  
Steve Metzger