

**KOSCIUSKO COUNTY
DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2024**

PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT

MIKE KISSINGER – SURVEYOR
SANDY ANGEL – DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY
MARK MONTEL – DRAINAGE SUPERVISOR
JIM MOYER – ASSISTANT SURVEYOR

CARY GRONINGER – CHAIRMAN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER.

OCTOBER CLAIMS AND MINUTES

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

SYRACUSE PUBLIC LIBRARY VARIANCE REQUEST/TURKEY CREEK

AT THE OCTOBER MEETING THE BOARD ASKED MIKE KISSINGER TO FLAG A 50' RIGHT OF WAY, WHICH HE DID. CHRIS EVERHEART, OF ARCOS DESIGN, PRESENTED UPDATED PLANS FOR THE LIBRARY. THEY ARE REQUESTING A 35' SET BACK. THIS ALLOWS THE LIBRARY MORE OUTDOOR SPACE. THEY HAVE PLANS TO POUR A CONCRETE PATIO AND BUILD SOME RAISED AREAS AND ARE AWARE THE CONCRETE AND RAISED AREAS WOULD BE AT RISK. THE BUILDING PLANS ARE SHOWN RIGHT AT THE 50' LINE. THE LIBRARY IS ALSO REQUESTING SET BACK REDUCTIONS FROM THE BZA AT A MEETING THIS EVENING. MIKE KISSINGER CLARIFIED THAT IF THERE IS DRAIN WORK THAT RESULTS IN SPOIL, IT MAY BE SPREAD OVER THE FLOODWAY AREA. IT IS GENERALLY NOT SPREAD ABOVE A FOOT IN HEIGHT. THE SPOIL MIGHT NEED TO BE HAULED AWAY AND THAT WOULD BE AT THE PROPERTY OWNER EXPENSE. DENNIS DARR ASKED WHY A NEW LIBRARY WAS NEEDED. KIM BLAHA, THE SYRACUSE LIBRARY DIRECTOR, SAID THE CURRENT BUILDING IS OVER 100 YEARS OLD AND IS NOT BIG ENOUGH FOR WHAT THEY NEED. IT IS NOT ADA ACCESSIBLE. THE FACT THAT IT IS TWO STORIES ALSO CREATES STAFFING ISSUES AND SAFETY/SECURITY AREAS IN OVERSEEING CHILDREN. A ONE-STORY FACILITY WILL MAKE IT MUCH MORE ACCESSIBLE TO HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS. DARR ASKED IF THEY COULD BUILD ON THE PROPERTY THE LIBRARY OWNS BEHIND THE CURRENT FACILITY. BLAHA SAID THAT THERE IS AN ALLEY THERE THAT THE TOWN DOES NOT WANT TO VACATE THAT LIMITS WHAT THEY CAN DO IN THE AREA. MIKE KISSINGER ASKED JIM MOYER, THE SURVEYOR ELECT, HIS FEELINGS ON THE PROJECT. MOYER FELT THAT WE COULD DO WORK THAT WOULD BE NEEDED WITH THE 35' SET BACK. AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION, JIM SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO GRANT THE 35' VARIANCE ON THE FOOT PRINT OF THE BUILDING (INCLUDING ATTACHED DECKS) ON THE PROVIDED PLAN WITH THE REMAINDER OF THE PROPERTY BEING A 50' VARIANCE. ANY EXISTING TREES IN THE RIGHT OF WAY WILL NEED TO BE REMOVED. DENNIS DARR SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

POLE RUN HEARING

JOE IRWIN IS A PROPERTY OWNER IN THIS WATERSHED AND HE EXCUSED HIMSELF FROM THE BOARD FOR THIS DISCUSSION. MIKE KISSINGER REPORTED THAT THE POLE RUN HAS NOT HAD A HEARING SINCE 1984. THE RATE WAS RAISED 25% IN 1997. A LOT OF THE COST ON THIS DRAIN IS FOR TILE REPAIR OR BEAVER CONTROL. WE JUST COMPLETED A TILE PROJECT IN ATWOOD. KISSINGER ANTICIPATES AN ANNUAL MAINTENANCE COST OF \$18,000. THE BOARD ADVERTISED PROPOSED RATES OF \$4 PER ACRE WITH A \$40 MINIMUM ASSESSMENT. COLLECTION WOULD STOP WHEN THE BALANCE REACHED A 4 YEAR BALANCE. WE RECEIVED FOUR REMONSTRANCE LETTERS AND THE DRAINAGE BOARD RECEIVED COPIES OF THESE. WE ALSO RECEIVED A CALL FROM NINA HURT WHO OWNS 421 E HIGH STREET, WARSAW. SHE WANTED TO VOICE HER SUPPORT FOR APPROVING THE MAINTENANCE AS ADVERTISED. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME SMALL CHANGES TO THE WATERSHED MAP. CARY GRONINGER THEN OPENED THE UP FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

REX KOWALCZYK, WHO OWNS 323 S BRADFORD ST, ATWOOD, FELT THE DRAIN DOES NOT BENEFIT HIM AT ALL AND THE \$40 RATE IS TOO HIGH. HE HAS HAD FLOODING IN HIS YARD AND INTO HIS HOUSE. KISSINGER SAID THAT THE CULVERT THAT GOES UNDER THE ROAD AT HIS PROPERTY IS A COUNTY HIGHWAY CULVERT. IT IS NOT A COUNTY REGULATED DRAIN. HIS PROPERTY IS WITHIN THE WATERSHED AND THAT IS WHY HE IS BEING ASSESSED.

KARLTON GOON, WHO OWNS 4496 N 600 W, WARSAW, STATED ABOUT 25% OF THIS WATERSHED IS PART OF A WETLANDS THAT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO DO ANY MAINTENCE ON. HE QUESTIONED WHY THERE HAD NOT BEEN A HEARING FOR FORTY YEARS TO ADDRESS THE COSTS OF MAINTENANCE. THE COST PER ACRE IS GOING TO GO UP ABOUT 300% AND THE MINIMUM IS GOING UP ABOUT 600%. HE UNDERSTANDS BEAVER CONTROL IS A PROBLEM AND HE HAS TAKEN IT UPON HIMSELF TO TAKE CARE OF IT ON HIS PROPERTY. HE FEELS THAT HE WILL NOT GET ANY NOTABLE BENEFIT OF THE ASSESSMENT DUE TO THE WETLANDS, OTHER THAN BEAVER CONTROL. HE IS AGAINST THE INCREASE IN ASSESSMENTS. KISSINGER ASKED IF HE ENROLLED PART OF HIS PROPERTY IN THE WETLAND PROGRAM. GOON SAID HE DID BECAUSE PROPERTIES AROUND HIM WERE, SO HE DID TO AVOID HIS PROPERTY GETTING FLOODED. KISSINGER CLARIFIED THAT GOON'S PROPERTY DOES CONTRIBUTE TO THE WATERSHED AND THAT IS WHY HE IS ASSESSED. HE ALSO SHARED THAT THE CURRENT TRAPPER COULD RETIRE SOON AND HE HAS INVESTIGATED THE COSTS TO REPLACE HIS SERVICES AND IT LOOKS LIKE THEY MAY QUADRUPLE. THAT INCREASE IN COST WAS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN PROPOSING THE NEW RATES.

KRISTIAN EICHER, WHO OWNS 221 E MAIN ST, WARSAW, VOICED HIS SUPPORT OF THE RATE INCREASE. HE WILL DIRECTLY BENEFIT FROM THE WORK TO THE DRAIN AS IT RUNS ALONG THE BACK OF HIS PROPERTY. IT WILL BENEFIT THE TOWN OF ATWOOD. KISSINGER CLARIFIED THAT ALL ASSESSMENT MONEY COLLECTED IN THE POLE RUN WATERSHED HAS TO BEEN SPENT IN THAT WATERSHED. IF THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH A DRAIN THAT REQUIRES A CHANGE IN TILE SIZE OR GRADE, THAT WOULD RESULT IN A RECONSTRUCTION. MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT MONEY CANNOT BE USED FOR RECONSTRUCTIONS. JUST THE PROPERTIES BENEFITING FROM THAT TILE DRAIN WILL PAY FOR THAT. IT WAS ALSO CLARIFIED THAT ONCE A DRAIN REACHED IT'S FOUR YEAR MAXIMUM, IT STOPS COLLECTING UNTIL IT DROPS BELOW THAT THRESHOLD.

JOHN POWELL, WHO OWNS PROPERTY BETWEEN WALLACE ROAD AND 400N, HAD SEVERAL QUESTIONS. HE ASKED WHAT WAS NECESSARY TO DO BEAVER CONTROL. KISSINGER SAID THAT YOU NEED TO HAVE A LICENSE THROUGH THE DNR TO TRAP OUTSIDE OF THE SEASON, HAVE LIABILITY INSURANCE, AND WORKMANS

COMPENSATION INSURANCE OR A WAIVER FROM THE STATE IF THEY ARE SELF-EMPLOYED. HE ASKED IF THERE WERE LONG TERM PLANS FOR THE POLE RUN DRAIN. KISSINGER SAID WE HAVEN'T HAD THE MONEY TO DO MUCH MORE THAN CONTROL THE BEAVER AND SOME TILE REPAIR. POWELL ASKED IF THE ATWOOD PROBLEM WAS FIXABLE. JIM MOYER SAID THAT IT WAS. POWELL ASKED IF THE COUNTY REGULATED DRAIN MAINTENANCE EASEMENTS IN THE WETLANDS SUPERSEDE OTHERS. KISSINGER SAID THAT WAS CORRECT. POWELL ASKED IF THE SECTION OF THE DRAIN IN WETLAND ON HIS PROPERTY COULD BE ABANDONED, SINCE IT WASN'T REALLY POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN IT. KISSINGER SAID IT WOULD BE TOUGH TO DO SINCE IS WAS LOCATED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DRAIN ROUTE. POWELL ASKED WHERE THE MAIN BEAVER PROBLEMS WERE ON THE DRAIN. KISSINGER SAID THERE WERE ISSUES NORTH OF OLD 30 AND THERE ARE TWO MORE DOWNSTREAM. WE HAVE WORKED DOWNSTREAM OF OLD 30 IN THE RECENT PAST.

MIKE SWANSON, WHO HAS PROPERTY NORTH AND SOUTH OF OLD 30, FEELS THE ASSESSMENT INCREASE IS VERY HIGH. HE ASKED IF THE BOARD HAD CONSIDERED SPREADING IT OUT OVER A FEW YEARS. KISSINGER EXPLAINED THE ASSESSMENT CAN BE INCREASED ONCE UP TO 25% AND ANY THING OTHER THAN THAT WOULD REQUIRE A HEARING. HE FEELS THE BEAVERS SOUTH OF OLD 30 ARE THE BIGGEST PROBLEM. SWANSON ASKED IF THE WATER LEVEL IN THE POLE RUN AFFECTS THE ABILITY TO DRAIN FROM ATWOOD. KISSINGER SAID IT COULD DEPENDING ON THE OUTLET ELEVATION OF THE TILE. SWANSON WANTED TO KNOW THE SIZE OF THE TILE COMING FROM NORTHEAST CORNER OF ATWOOD TO POLE RUN. JIM MOYER SAID IT WAS 15 INCHES. SWANSON QUESTIONED IF THAT WAS ADEQUATE. KISSINGER RESPONDED THAT IF IT WASN'T YOU WOULD BE LOOKING AT A RECONSTRUCTION AND THE COST OF THAT WOULD FALL ON THE PROPERTY OWNERS DRAINING INTO THAT TILE. A HEARING WOULD HAVE TO BE HELD PRIOR TO THE RECONSTRUCTION WHERE COSTS AND BENEFITS WOULD BE REVIEWED. THERE HAS BEEN NO PROPOSAL FOR A RECONSTRUCTION AT THIS POINT. MARK MONTEL STATED HE FELT THE PROBLEMS WERE DUE MORE TO POOR CONDITION OF THE TILE, RATHER THAN THE SIZE OF THE TILE.

CRAIG BARNES, WHO OWNS 6178 W HOFFER RD, WARSAW, WAS ONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO SENT A REMONSTRANCE LETTER. HE ASKED ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF TIME IT WOULD TAKE TO GET TO A FOUR-YEAR MAXIMUM COLLECTION. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD TAKE ABOUT ELEVEN YEARS. KISSINGER SAID THAT WAS PROBABLY ABOUT RIGHT, BUT THERE ARE MANY UNKNOWN FACTORS THAT COULD IMPACT THAT. COSTS ARE ESTIMATED AND YOU CAN'T BE SURE WHAT THEY WILL ACTUALLY BE. BARNES QUESTIONED WHY WE NEED TO HAVE \$111,000 BEFORE COLLECTION IS STOPPED. KISSINGER SAID IT WILL PROBABLY SOME TIME BEFORE WE REACH THAT FIGURE. THIS IS AN OLDER DRAIN SYSTEM AND IT IS GOING TO TAKE SOME WORK. BARNES ALSO MENTIONED HE SPOKE TO THE CURRENT BEAVER TRAPPER AND HE THOUGHT HE MENTIONED THERE WERE A COUPLE MORE BEAVERS UP NORTH. KISSINGER SAID THE TRAPPER WAS PROBABLY WAITING UNTIL HUNTING SEASON WAS OVER TO WORK THAT AREA. BARNES ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY WAY TO BE MORE PROACTIVE IN DEALING WITH THE BEAVERS, SUCH AS SURVEYING THE AREA WITH A DRONE. MARK MONTEL SAID THE AMOUNT OF DRAINS THE COUNTY TAKES CARE OF MAKES MONITORING THEM FOR BEAVER DAM ACTIVITY DIFFICULT.

JOE IRWIN, WHO HAS VARIOUS PROPERTIES ON THE POLE RUN, STATED HE THAT THE \$40 MINIMUM WAS OKAY, BUT HE FELT THE \$4 PER ACRE WAS TOO HIGH. HE FELT A RATE OF \$2.50 WOULD TAKE CARE OF THE BEAVER CONTROL. IRWIN ALSO ASKED TO HEAR JIM MOYER'S THOUGHTS ON THE RATES SINCE HE WILL BE THE FUTURE SURVEYOR AND HAS KNOWLEDGE OF THIS AREA. JIM MOYER STATED THAT HE WAS

VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE POLE RUN DRAIN. HE DOES NOT SUPPORT THE \$4/\$40 RATE. HE WOULD LIKE THE BOARD IN THE FUTURE TO ALLOW HIM TO WORK WITH A SMALLER AMOUNT AND WHEN BIGGER PROJECTS COME ALONG, DO A RECONSTRUCTION, WHICH HE FEELS IS FAIRER TO THE MAJORITY OF THE WATERSHED. HE HAD DONE SOME RESEARCH AND THERE IS A PORTION OF ATWOOD IN A TIF DISTRICT, AND HE FEELS WE CAN ADDRESS SOME OF THE PROBLEMS IN THAT AREA USING TIF FINANCING. HE RECOMMENDS DOUBLING THE CURRENT COLLECTION TO \$2 PER ACRE WITH A \$20 MINIMUM IN ORDER TO TAKE CARE OF BRUSH AND ANIMAL CONTROL. JIM SCOTT ASKED IF MOYER AGREED WITH THE \$18,000 ANNUAL MAINTENANCE ESTIMATE. MOYER FELT HE COULD DO IT FOR \$12,000 TO \$13,000 USING THE RECONSTRUCTION TOOL AND TIF FINANCING. CARY GRONINGER CLOSED THE MEETING TO PUBLIC DISCUSSION.

JIM SCOTT ASKED KISSINGER FOR CLARIFICATION ON THE \$18,000 ANNUAL MAINTENANCE. KISSINGER SAID HE WAS CONSIDERING THE INCREASE IN BEAVER CONTROL COSTS AND SOME INCREASE IN ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING COSTS. HE WAS NOT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ANY TIF MONEY. CARY GRONINGER STATED THAT HE KNOWS THERE ARE MULTIPLE PROJECTS BEING LOOKED AT FOR TIF IN THE ATWOOD AREA. AS A COMMISSIONER HE WOULD HAVE TO SEE A PROPOSAL, BUT HE COULDN'T REALLY COMMENT ON IF IT WOULD BE SOMETHING TIF FUNDS COULD BE USED FOR. STEVE METZGER DIDN'T KNOW IF \$2 PER ACRE AND A \$20 MINIMUM WOULD COVER EVERYTHING. JIM SCOTT MOTIONED WE DO \$3 PER ACRE WITH A \$40 MINIMUM AND A FOUR YEAR MAXIMUM. DENNIS DARR SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

UPCOMING LIVE STREAM MEETINGS

JOE IRWIN REJOINED THE MEETING. MIKE KISSINGER EXPLAINED THERE WAS NEW LEGISLATION REQUIRING ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS BE LIVE STREAMED STARTING JULY 1, 2025. DRAINAGE BOARD MEMBERS REQUESTED THE COST OF A STYLIST BE RESEARCHED TO DO THEIR HAIR AND MAKEUP PRIOR TO MEETINGS. KISSINGER SUGGESTED THE BOARD START DOING THIS SOON TO GET ACCUSTOMED TO IT.

STEVE METZGER – REAPPOINTMENT CONFIRMATION

MIKE KISSINGER SAID STEVE METZGER IS UP FOR REAPPOINTMENT AND ASKED IF HE WAS WILLING TO CONTINUE SERVING ON THE BOARD. METZGER AGREED TO STAY ON THE BOARD.

ADJOURN

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

CLAIMS

11/4/24

CAUFFMAN	KLINE TRUCKING	\$435.00	2700
DEEDS CREEK	SUPERIOR EXCAVATING	\$900.00	2700
GILLIAM FRED	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,971.91	2700
		\$3,228.09	1158
GILLIAM FRED	WARSAW WHOLESALE	\$1,314.30	1158
PLUNGE CREEK	TIMBER VALLEY	\$2,970.00	1158
PLUNGE CREEK	SHANKSTER BROS	\$100.70	2700
		\$96.16	1158
PLUNGE CREEK	TIMBER VALLEY	\$3,695.00	1158
POLE RUN	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$161.94	2700
POLE RUN	L.I. EXCAVATING	\$15,463.16	2700
		\$3,733.06	1158

POLE RUN	SHANKSTER BROS	\$5,706.05	1158
SHATTO CATTELL	WARSAW WHOLESAL	\$216.00	1158
SOLOMAN SECHRIST	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$314.67	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	KLINE TRUCKING	\$600.00	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,050.00	2700
TURKEY CREEK	L.I. EXCAVATING	\$1,890.00	2700
WALNUT CREEK	SHANKSTER BROTHERS	\$55,130.32	2700

MAINTENANCE: \$ 78,017.70
GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 20,958.66

11/19/24


CAUFFMAN	KLINE TRUCKING	\$1,064.43	2700
		\$2,615.57	1158
CAUFFMAN	TIMBER VALLEY	\$385.00	1158
DANNER	GARY DANT	\$420.00	2700
ELDER	GARY DANT	\$300.00	2700
FLEUGLE	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$25.77	2700
		\$4,118.74	1158
FLEUGLE	JJT HAULING	\$3,496.37	1158
NEVIN MCCONNELL	GARY DANT	\$420.00	2700
PETERSON MARTIN	KLINE TRUCKING	\$525.00	2700
PETERSON MARTIN	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,155.00	2700
PETERSON MARTIN	TIMBER VALLEY	\$770.00	2700
PETERSON MARTIN	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,155.00	2700
PLUNGE CREEK	WARSAW WHOLESAL	\$379.20	1158
PLUNGE CREEK	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,540.00	1158
PLUNGE CREEK	WARSAW WHOLESAL	\$230.40	1158
POLE RUN	GARY DANT	\$510.00	1158
ROBINSON GA	GARY DANT	\$510.00	2700
ROBINSON GA	L.I. EXCAVATING	\$1,270.00	2700
SHANTON	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,100.00	2700
SHATTO CATTELL	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,520.00	1158
SHOEMAKER ISSAAC	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,520.00	1158
SILVEUS	TIMBER VALLEY	\$2,760.00	1158
SOLOMON SECHRIST	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$19.58	2700
SOLOMON SECHRIST	BEECHY EXCAVATING	\$920.00	2700
SOLOMON SECHRIST	BEECHY EXCAVATING	\$2,211.52	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	GARY DANT	\$480.00	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	HOMEFLOW PLUMGING	\$1,250.00	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	KLINE TRUCKING	\$572.17	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	TIMBER VALLEY	\$820.00	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$482.40	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	TIMBER VALLEY	\$3,325.00	2700
VANCUREN	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,100.00	2700
WALNUT CREEK	TIMBER VALLEY	\$820.00	2700
WILLIAMSON SARAH	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,925.00	2700
WILLIAMSON SARAH	TIMBER VALLEY	\$2,310.00	2700
WYLAND	TIMBER VALLEY	\$160.00	2700
WYLAND	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,155.00	2700
WYLAND	TIMBER VALLEY	\$160.00	2700

MAINTENANCE: \$ 26,425.87
GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 19,075.28

NOVEMBER TOTALS
MAINTENANCE: \$ 104,443.57
GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 40,033.94

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD


Cary Groninger – Chairman


Dennis Darr


Joe Irwin


Jim Scott – Vice Chairman


Steve Metzger