

REGULAR DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING:

January 21,2025

President, William Whitehead, called the meeting to order. Members present at the meeting were the following:

William Whitehead, President
Joe Hamilton, Vice President
Sherry Riggin, Member
John Christy, Member
Tom Borchers, Surveyor
Brandon Murphy, Attorney
Jennifer Licht, Recording Secretary

President, William Whitehead, opened the meeting by welcoming the audience and inviting them to participate in the pledge of allegiance.

NOMINATION AND SELECTION OF DRIANAGE BOARD PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. Whitehead entertained a motion to nominate a President of the Board.

Ms. Riggin nominated Mr. Whitehead for President. Motion seconded by Mr. Hamilton. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Mr. Whitehead entertained a motion to nominate a Vice President of the Board.

Mr. Christy nominated Joe Hamilton for Vice President. Motion seconded by Ms. Riggin. **Motion passed 4-0.**

SELECTION OF DELAWARE/ BLACKFORD COUNTY JOINT BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Borchers stated, we need to appoint two members for the Delaware and Blackford County joint board.

Mr. Whitehead stated to my understanding we have two volunteers, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Christy. Do we need a motion or just acknowledgement they have accepted that responsibility?

Mr. Murphy stated it's the chair that appoints this board so I think if you accept those

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appointments that is all we need to do.

CONFIRMATION OF ATTORNEY

Mr. Whitehead entertains a motion to nominate Drainage Board Attorney.

Mr. Hamilton nominated Mr. Murphy. Motion seconded by Ms. Rigglin. **Motion passed 4-0.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Whitehead asks how we need to handle the approval of the December 16, 2024 Drainage Board Minutes?

Mr. Murphy stated given there is only 1 member of the board present today, I recommend we publish and not approve. We can do a voice vote.

Mr. Hamilton moved for approval. Motion seconded by Ms. Rigglin. **Motion passed 4-0.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Whitehead addressed Mr. Borchers and asked if he had any new business to present to the Board today.

Mr. Borchers stated we also have to appoint the drainage board secretary. I suggest Mrs. Licht since she's been doing it and she is in my office. Mrs. Rigglin moves to approve. Motion seconded by Mr. Hamilton. **Motion passed 4-0.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Whitehead addressed Mr. Borchers and asked if he had any old business to present to the Board today.

Mr. Borchers stated not at this time.

MAINTENANCE CLAIMS:

Mr. Whitehead entertained a motion for the approval of the maintenance claims as presented.

Ms. Rigglin stated when I first started as commissioner, I used to see them on the Thursday or

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Friday before meeting and I haven't seen them so I'm going to abstain today. I would like to start seeing them again prior to meeting.

Mr. Borchers stated we will bring them to your office on the Friday before the scheduled board meeting.

Mr. Hamilton moved to approve the claims as submitted. Mr. Christy seconded. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Mr. Whitehead asked if there were any more questions.

Mr. Hamilton stated I have some question for the surveyor, you can either answer now or at the February meeting.

1. You have a new drainage board in position, how can the drainage board better support the surveyor's office?
2. What tools, resources, and funding deficiencies are preventing the surveyor's office from better serving the landowners in Delaware County?
3. Would the surveyor please explain the accounting system currently used to track drainage assessments in Delaware County?

A. Are the all the drainage assessments pooled into one account and spent throughout the watersheds of Delaware County? **Mr. Borchers** stated Delaware county has a minimum of \$10.00 plus \$1.00 for every acre over ten, the monies are put into the 2700 drainage maintenance account twice a year at spring and fall.

4. At the February drainage board meeting, would the surveyor provide the drainage board a written report listing regulated drains, anticipated maintenance and reconstruction costs, and priority of action? **Mr. Borchers** stated I don't know if I can have that by February but I will try. Most of the time we work off of complaints. I do have a list of regulated drains and a maintenance book of all the drains we maintain up to date. As far as reconstruction costs that's going to be tough to do. Reconstructions aren't something that happens a lot. It normally gets voted down. I was told to work without reconstructions because you're looking at a \$50,000 engineer before you even get started. Money wise, sometimes it's easier to spread it out over three to four years if it's not an emergency. I like to work on putting 600 foot of tile this year and try and do that 3 to 4 years in row, so you're not violating Indiana Code by putting too much money in a reconstruction, but it's still getting the problem solved. **Mr. Hamilton**, I understand in the past you have had a funding deficiency but I also realize as a citizen of Delaware County many of the drains are in poor condition and I would like to know what the priority of action is and the cost to fix them. If it is beyond our budget and scope, we can decide that but I think we should at least know what we are being faced with. **Mr. Borchers**, okay.
5. Would the surveyor prepare a recommended plan to catalog and map regulated drains in Delaware County?
 - A. What GIS resources are needed to effectively track regulated drains
 - B. How can a watershed-level accounting system be implemented to track drainage assessment collection and distribution? I realize in the past it is all put

in one account county wide and what I'm asking is what would it take to implement a watershed accounting system. **Mr. Borchers** a lot of counties are going to a mega watershed that would be easy to do but they ran into trouble with that last time. I wasn't here then. If that's something you want to work towards that's fine. **Mr. Hamilton** the concern is that assessments are being collected in one area and spent in another area. **Ms. Riggin** I'd like to interject here about mapping which I think would help resolve this. When I became a county commissioner in 2013 it seemed like director Marta Moody came up with the idea of getting our county drains in GIS map of our actual county. She looked into hiring Schneider to locate all the ditches. The company said now that we don't have fence rows anymore it was becoming difficult. I don't know what happened, that the project stopped. I asked Kylene if she could ask some of the older staff. That would be beneficial. I can see what Mr. Hamilton is going after. If this side is not being treated as this side it's not fair. However, I do know that some part of the county is worse than others.

6. Would the surveyor provide a list of contractors and vendors currently used for drainage work? **Mr. Borchers** Yes.
7. What is the process to be added to the list of approved contractors and vendors? **Mr. Borchers** stated we have a W9 to fill out, we have a handful that we use that do a good job and don't over charge. I don't mind trying new contractors, the problem is when you bring in new contractors, they don't want to do 1,000 jobs. Then our work orders start stacking up and we end up giving them to the people we would have given them too anyways.
8. Is the surveyor or anyone in the surveyor's office a Registered Surveyor or Professional Engineer as recognized by the State of Indiana? **Mr. Borchers** No, I have checked into it and it would be two more years of college on top of what I already have. The Indiana code says there is a pay increase from the county, don't think that will happen. There is not a lot of colleges that offer classes. The majority of the classes I would have to go to Cincinnati.
9. What is the spending limit for the surveyor without drainage board approval? **Mr. Borchers** \$25,000.00. **Mr. Hamilton** stated those are all the question I have. Thank you for taking the time to answer.

Ms. Riggin asked has the drainage board always been the 3rd Monday at 2:30 **Mr. Whitehead** stated what I remember is we changed it from 1:30 for Mr. Henry. **Ms. Riggin** stated I would prefer 1:00 or 1:30. **Mr. Murphy** stated that is a board of action, you can change it if everyone is in agreement. I believe we have published already but we can republish if you decide to change the time. Mr. Bothel is not here. Do you want to table until next month? **Ms. Riggin** that's fair do we need a motion. **Mr. Murphy** No.

Mr. Whitehead stated I want to welcome the new board members and I am looking forward to working with you and hope for greater things.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

William Whitehead, President

Joe Hamilton, Vice President

Sherry Riggin, Member

John Christy, Member

Jennifer Licht, Recording Secretary

