

REGULAR DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING:

February 18, 2025

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

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Whitehead entertained a motion for the approval of the January 21, 2025 Drainage Board Minutes.

Mr. Hamilton moved for approval. Motion seconded by Mr. Bothel. Ms. Riggin abstained. **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 Mathew Chapman, bought Green Fork Tire and Alignment off of McGalliard and State Rd 67, which is now Muncie Farm and Fleet. This isn't our problem this is just information for you guys. This is not a regulated drain, it will fall under Indiana Code, Mutual Drains. He has a problem with the parking lot flooding you can kind of see it on the map I gave you, there is a private tile that runs out of the parking lot into the pond. He and the farmer that owns that part are having a disagreement and he wants to know if there is anything the drainage board can do. Indiana Code, Mutual Drains states if he petitions to have the obstruction removed there is a whole process, we would have a meeting and you guys would determine if the obstruction

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exists, which it does there are some trees growing on top of the whole tile, then you set a hearing to decide if anyone is actually at fault and then decide if you're going to give authorization to the Landowner/ Petitioner or I to fix it. The Petitioner/ Landowner would have to pay for it. This really doesn't have anything to do with us until they petition the board. They are still trying to work it out between the two of them. Just something I wanted to put on your radar. **Mr. Hamilton** asked if I understand correctly would it be up to the drainage board to determine who pays for that? **Mr. Borchers** "partially, yes". Mr. Chapman said he will pay for it. The famer is just wanting to do extra. They are still trying to work it out, this is just his last resort. **Ms. Rigg** asked is this something you would get two or three estimates on what this might cost? **Mr. Borchers** stated right now I don't have any access to it, it is not a regulated drain. Until they petition us as a board, I don't have a legal standing to do anything. **Mr. Christy** asked for somebody who really knew what they were doing how long would it take to the job? **Mr. Borchers** "a couple days". **Mr. Whitehead** stated I appreciate you keeping us informed and up to date.

Mr. Borchers stated for the guys that are new to the board in your folders there is a direct deposit, W2, and personal information form that need to be filled out and returned to Mrs. Licht or HR within the next couple of weeks. Also, at the last meeting Mr. Hamilton requested a list of contractors. These are the ones we have used in the past couple years sometimes for just one specific job or more. He also requested a list of ditches. **Mr. Hamilton** stated Tom before you go on, how current is this list of contractors? I see Wiley and Sons on here I believe they sold out. **Mr. Borchers** we just printed off what we used in the past two years. I haven't removed them from our system yet, they just went out a couple months ago and I didn't know if his son was going to do anything with it. If they don't have updated insurance, we strike them from the list to begin with. When I printed this off, they all had insurance. **Mr. Hamilton** asked do you have certain contractors you use for a certain kind of work? For instance, if you were interested in bidding on a brush clearing job would you give it to anybody on the list? **Mr. Borchers** stated if it's a job under a certain amount of money I would split between the three I've worked with in the past. If it is over \$10,000.00, I advertise and send out a bid packet. **Mr. Hamilton** stated what are those thresholds? **Mr. Borchers** stated \$25,000.00 and \$75,000.00. I think it's up to \$150,000 on the larger ones. **Ms. Rigg** stated I'm thinking we could set a rate we would like for him to go by. **Mr. Hamilton** stated would the board be willing to discuss reducing to \$4,000.00, to take bids for jobs anything over \$4,000.00 **Ms. Rigg** stated that seems a little low. **Mr. Borchers** stated I try and stay out of the farmers way and get everything done in a timely manner. It will push us back probably two months by the time we wait on a meeting. I just feel \$4,000.00 is awfully low to hold up a sinkhole. **Mr. Hamilton** stated I understand subsurface jobs would be hard to bid. **Mr. Borchers** stated a lot of times we don't know what we are getting into until we dig them up. **Mr. Hamilton** stated clearing brush, dipping open ditches, spraying, mowing, is there a reason they couldn't be offered at a reduced threshold? **Mr. Borchers** stated it's up to you guys. I just feel like \$4,000.00 is a pretty small amount. I don't know if you could even get anybody to unload their excavator for that price. **Mr. Christy** asked how did you arrive at the \$4,000 number? **Mr. Hamilton** stated it was arbitrary. Tom how would you bid subservice repairs? **Mr. Borchers** stated let's say we have a sinkhole and I send a contractor out he digs and its blown right there that's fine easy fix but, if we get there and it's not working here and then do another dig 100 yards up and its bad not flowing, I can pull them off and bid it, but they already have their equipment out there.

Also, if I'm doing a job, I know is going to be a lot more I will order the tile by the truck load. Something like that we could bid but when we are already in the field digging it's difficult to set a price limit when they are already there. **Mr. Hamilton** asked do you pay an hourly rate for any work other than subservice repairs? **Mr. Borchers** stated no, I do have a company that will do some easy hand tree trimming work at an hourly rate. The mowing and spraying are done per foot. There's not a whole lot of companies around that spray. I like to use local in case there is a problem they will come and respray free of charge and I don't have to wait for somebody else to come back in town. I like to keep my contractors in the County. **Mr. Hamilton** asked would you be opposed to setting the threshold for receiving competitive bids for non-hourly work to \$5,000.00 and anything expected to be hourly work at \$10,000.00? **Mr. Borchers**, are we talking bids or quotes? **Mr. Hamilton**, bids not advertised but bids as you do now for jobs less than \$25,000.00. **Mr. Murphy** stated bids you advertise; quotes are not advertised. **Mr. Hamilton** excuse me, quotes. Three quotes for non-hourly jobs that are above \$5,000.00. **Mr. Borchers** what time frame do you have in mind? **Mr. Hamilton**, I think 2 weeks is sufficient then wait until the next drainage board meeting to read the quotes. **Mr. Christy** asked Tom, is that too low? **Mr. Borchers** stated it's just going to push everything back. Every time I've done a quote or a bid, I can pretty much tell you who is going to be the lowest bidder and that's pretty much why I pick them to do the work for the price and quality. I can do whatever you want \$5,000.00 just seems low. **Mr. Bothel** stated I think I'd rather see that 5 at 10. **Mr. Hamilton** You want to take quotes for any job over 10,000.00? **Mr. Bothel** asked what is it now? **Mr. Borchers** \$25,000.00. **Mr. Bothel** asked any job at less than \$25,000.00 is at your discretion? **Mr. Borchers** stated right, if it's something more than \$10,000.00 I typically take quotes. **Mr. Hamilton** stated I'm okay having a higher threshold for subservice repairs like sinkholes where you have an urgent issue to move on that repair more quickly. I think brush clearing, spraying, mowing and any job priced at per lineal foot unless there is a strong reason to expect urgency and waiting on a board meeting would cause a problem. I propose a lower threshold. **Mr. Bothel** stated I can see the \$10,000.00 on the lineal foot stuff. I think we need to give him a little bit of leeway on the blow hole repairs. **Mr. Hamilton** entertained a motion to require quotes for any work that is expected to be over \$10,000.00 and review sealed quotes at the next drainage board meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Christy. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Borchers stated Mr. Hamilton wanted a list of the ditches the first page is a list of the watersheds. All of the ditches are broken down by watershed. Mr. Hamilton had a concern the drainage assessments are being collected in parts of the county and being used in other parts. I didn't really know how to go about this so I went back about two years and broke down per township. On this chart the blue is the percentage drainage in the county broke down by each township and the red is the percentage of work orders. The majority of the work coming in is on complaints, I go out and look at it, if it's a problem on a regulated drain we hand out a work order to a contractor and get it done. So, when I put those in it came out pretty close. Center has about five percent more. It's also the most populated township so you get a lot more complaints. It's like Muncie Creek every time a shopping cart falls in, we have to get it out, then two months later they are calling again. Union is pretty far off, but the two biggest watersheds in Union are unassessed. Perry has some unassessed watersheds so that will bring it down. The majority of the drainage in Union is the Studebaker open ditch and it's in pretty good shape. This is just for your information. Since the meeting Mr. Johnson has helped me put together some tools to make it easier for you

guys to check up and see where we are working and what is going on. There is a link you can actually go onto the website. I printed this sheet off so you can see where all the work was being done in the county. In this picture, the ones in the red were the ones we did last month. The ones highlighted in gray are the ones we did the month before. So next month the red ones will be gray and the red will be from the current month. Its available online and if you click on one of the marks it will show what ditch it is, the problem and I will upload pictures while they are doing it or after words. I can snap a photo of when they've dug down into a tile and record what size the tile is and it will geo tag my phone. At least we will have some sort of data base getting built instead of looking at 80-year-old maps and trying to figure out what is going on. It's going to take some time but we will get a lot of information built up on underground tiles. That also helps me to find the actual underground drain and map those easier. That's all I have; I will let Mr. Johnson explain further.

Kyle Johnson, Chief Information Officer for Delaware County GIS, I maintain all the GIS applications and data for the County. Take a read through this sheet when you have time if you have any questions by all means give me a call, I will be happy to walk you through it. We can update this; this is not set in stone I will work with Tom and whoever else if you want to add stuff to it, we will. **Mr. Christy** asked do you have email? **Mr. Johnson**, I do, its kjohnson@ all the other stuff. I will stick around after the meeting if you would like me to demonstrate and put it on the screen and if you have any questions.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Mr. Borchers stated, no sir.

Mr. Whitehead stated you have on here under tabled business meetings as far as time frame. They've already been approved is my understanding if there is a discussion on this what would we have to do Mr. Murphy? **Mr. Murphy** stated we just need to readvertise our new meeting time if we so chose to change it. **Mr. Bothel** asked is there any way we could go to morning meetings even if we had to move the day? **Mr. Whitehead** stated I think if anything is available, we just need to discuss it, it's something that has been done before. **Mr. Borchers** stated Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. are the commissioners' meetings we won't be able to do the 3rd Monday morning. I have a conflict once a quarter I have a storm water meeting at 10:30. I think Monday mornings are taken up. **Mr. Whitehead** stated do we have to do Monday? **Mr. Hamilton** asked what about Wednesday morning what time would work for you Mr. Bothel? **Mr. Bothel** stated 8:00 or 8:30. **Mr. Borchers** stated we don't open to 8:30 which is fine. Jennifer has to get up here and get the

computer started. 9:00 a.m. would be better. **Ms. Riggin** stated yeah, I think 9:00 would be better. **Mr. Bothel** stated that's fine. **Mr. Murphy** stated make sure if we make a change make it subject to the room availability. **Ms. Riggin** stated you want to keep it the third Wednesday? **Mr. Borchers** stated another issue is they are waiting on us to get done with are meeting here to pay the claims. We are the last ones to get them in, so if we move to Wednesday I don't if we can get the claims paid. **Ms. Riggin** stated we could move it to the second Wednesday. **Mr. Borchers** stated that's fine. **Mr. Hamilton** stated I purpose the second Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. and you confirm the availability. **Mr. Murphy** stated my suggestion would be if you want to make the change, make it subject to the room availability, and if it turns out there is some other meeting, we will have to meet at our regular scheduled meeting time next month and clear that up. If not, it will be changed affective next month. **Mr. Hamilton** stated I will make a motion to move the drainage board meeting to the second Wednesday of the Month at 9:00 a.m. subject to room availability. Motion seconded by Mr. Bothel. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Hamilton asked would it be possible to scan work orders and email accompanying documents to us the Friday before the meeting? **Mr. Borchers** stated I don't see why not. That's a Jennifer question. **Mr. Hamilton** stated Jennifer gave us the thumbs up.

MAINTENANCE CLAIMS:

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

Mr. Hamilton moved to approve the claims as submitted. Mr. Riggin seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Christy stated I just need to understand why we have a \$928,000 cash balance. Why is that number so big? **Mr. Borchers** stated we get about \$580,000 a year. That will go down we won't get any more money until July. We get about 40 to 60% of our yearly money then it will bring us back up. I try to keep it about 5 to \$600,000 stipends in there in case something big comes up that we need to fix because it's not like I can raise more money. In July and at the beginning of the year it will be as big as it gets. But as we get busier, we are going to see 2-3 times as many work orders. So that money is going to shrink. That is where it was when I got in and I just try to keep that balance close to there in case we do have a bigger project to do. **Mr. Bothel** asked how much is the tax draw twice a year? **Mr. Borchers** stated the majority comes in the spring a lot of people pay \$10.00 for ditch maintenance then \$1.00 per acre. The majority of the people pay \$10.00 in the spring. I would say we get about \$400,000-\$500,000 in July and another \$100,000.00 to \$120,000.00 in the fall. **Mr. Christy** stated another thing I just wanted to mention, the commissioners are working on a new solar ordinance. The folks at Royerton have put together information to give to the commissioners in what they would like to see in the new ordinance. There is quite a bit of verbiage in there about the drainage. **Mr. Borchers** stated I read through the ordinance when they first made it, it's been revised a few times and I guess my point was that it doesn't matter to me if you are for it or against it. I just want to make sure the County drains. I'm

not going to reduce the right of way on the ditches or tiles to help the solar company put in more panels. I want to keep that the same to give us the opportunity to get in and fix it. **Mr. Christy** stated you don't think that if they get to a finished product, and there is verbiage related to the drainage board would that come down our desk? **Mr. Borchers** stated I thought it was over. **Ms. Riggin** stated we are going to tweak it; it's going to be heard April 3rd Planning Commission at 3100 S Tillotson at 6:00. It's been my worry about the drainage all along. I just can't imagine putting all that solar out and having something go wrong underneath it. How are you going to fix it? **Mr. Borchers** stated the main ditches have been recorded. When they get a surveyor, they are going to say there is a right of way here or a regulated drain so you can't build within 25-foot top of bank or 75 feet from the middle of tile going out each way. It's a 150-foot sloth through there and if they shifted a little over the years, they're still going to be within that 150 foot of right of way. **Mr. Christy** asked could it be possible if one of these solar company's start the application process with the planning commission to get their permit and there's verbiage in the ordinance about the drainage board does the whole thing kind of get dumped on us at some point? **Mr. Murphy** stated I'm also the planning commission attorney, the ordinance is going to be between the commissioners and the planning commission they are going to determine the ordinance in its entirety so we are not going to get a say on the ordinance in this board. The ordinance as it is and likely how it will be, is it is going to require every solar developer to submit an application and go through the permit process which does include reviews of drainage through that process if that makes since. So really it is going to be handled through the planning commission office as opposed to through this board if that answers your question. **Mr. Borchers** serves as an advisory member of the planning commission as well. **Mr. Borchers** stated right. Our office will have to sign off on a lot of that new construction.

Mr. Whitehead asked is there any other comments or questions?

Mr. Hamilton stated I have a couple questions. Would purchasing bulk quantities of commonly used repair supplies reduce expenses for the drainage board and if so, is a storage facility available to store bulk purchases of material? Specifically, what I'm asking is are we going to Dague Supply and buying one stick of tile when we could buy truck loads. **Mr. Borchers** stated I don't have anywhere to store it. Depends on the size of the pipe or whatever I drop ship to the location. I've been using Knapp Supply, its cheaper through them in bulk. If it's a large amount I have them order a truck load, if it's a stick or two I have them go to Dague. It would be nice if I could store it and secure it. We have an office downstairs and a truck and that's all we got. If there is left over pieces, they keep them and use when they can. It's not usually that much. They order exactly what they need. That would be an idea but I don't know the process to secure a place to have it and secure the tile within it. **Mr. Hamilton** asked are variations in repair methods resulting in increased costs or pore workmanship for return repairs. Specifically, I heard complaints of variation in how contractors repair sinkholes and farmers will go out and have another sinkhole come up at the place or near the first sinkhole and they find pore repairs. What I'm asking is should we establish repair standards or specifications to ensure consistent repairs. **Mr. Borchers** stated Yes, I can write them down if that's what you want me to do. Most of the contractors we use know about them. When you have a blow hole and you fix one section the pressure goes onto the next section. Sometimes that will happen and it's not a part of poor work it's a part of the overall structure just being so old

and dilapidated. I'm trying to save money so sometimes it's easier to fix it and move on and if something else happens we go back versus putting 1,000 ft of not necessary pipe which obviously we can't afford to do all the time. **Mr. Hamilton** also I asked about county emails for the drainage board. **Mr. Borchers** stated I tossed that down to IT and IT said they found out that is probably going to be an issue for every board. I didn't realize they have to have a certificate of something and its going to cost \$100.00 per person. They took it to the Commissioners and that's where it's at right now. If you guys really want a county email, I'll have to work with the commissioners on that, or if you just want to have a separate email, I suggest going off a free Gmail, or Yahoo whatever you want and use separate just for the drainage board. That is easier because as of right now I haven't heard anything back and I took it to them right after our last meeting. Mr. Flook said he took it to the commissioners and I haven't heard anything from that. **Mr. Hamilton** stated the reason I brought this up is if there is a freedom of information request, they can access our personal email if we use that for official business. I think that solution in the intermediate is to create a separate email address if you have any concerns about releasing all of your personal emails. That's all I have. **Mr. Whitehead** asked any other comments? Welcome Mr. Bothel. Glad to see your better from last month.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Jennifer Licht, Recording Secretary

William Whitehead, President

Joseph Hamilton, Vice President

Sherry Riggin, Member

John Christy, Member

Wayne Bothel, Member

