

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LAPORTE COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD**

APRIL 13, 2021

8:30 AM, COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS SMALL PROJECTS BLDG, LAPORTE, INDIANA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe Cuson; Hugh Glasgow; Tony Hendricks; Steve Mrozinski

STAFF PRESENT: Brad Adamsky; Christine Keil

MEMBERS/STAFF ABSENT: Sarah Haefner; Rich Mrozinski

PUBLIC PRESENT: see sign-in sheet

Steve Mrozinski called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Attendance was taken. Cuson motioned to approve the last meeting minutes. Glasgow seconded. Motion carried.

HUDSON LAKE: Georgette Joyce approached the Board as a representative of the Conservation Association. They would like the level to stay at 9" to 12" above the weir and to partner with other entities to come up with a plan going into Fall. Brad Adamsky reviewed recent events. Steve Mrozinski stated we will monitor the level and keep the road open. Keil stated the current level is 7.5" above the weir. Joyce expressed concerns with the wetlands. Keil will meet with the County Highway regarding an optimal level. Keil will keep a weekly log of levels and is in communication with owners and the DNR. Hudson Lake will be on the agenda for monthly reports. Hendricks stated that in the 1930s before the weir was installed, it was much lower, as shown on historical aerials. There was a road that is now covered with water. There are houses and septic that are impacted. We have been taking data over the years. Hendricks thinks 7.5" to 8" is the level it probably should be. At 9" some homes have water in the basement. When the level is over 9" the pipe has to be opened. The downstream is then impacted so the outlet can't be open full bore. The pipe is 24" in diameter. Saugany Lake drains into Hudson Lake. The road has to be kept open for emergency vehicles and 8" is probably too high for the road. The base could become saturated. The valve is old and it takes a while to get the water back down if needed. 6" Plastic timbers could be placed on top to keep the level up. In 2009, there was discussion with the DNR regarding the boat docks on Lakeshore Drive that don't have permits. We can't impact basements or the road and let it get so high that we can't

lower it quickly during heavy rains. Hendricks thinks 6" above the weir is optimal. Joyce expressed concern and would like the status quo but will continue working with entities to keep residents informed. Hendricks recommendation is to have Keil meet with the County Highway to check the road with a tri-axle. We will also discuss with the DNR on raising the weir artificially 6". A caller (Zach) on Zoom stated that dredging is a two-year process with the DNR and is not a permanent solution and suggested revising the legal limit. Joyce would like to take 6 months to devise a plan. Hendricks stated that most of the level is controlled by Mother Nature. We need to look at roads, septic, and homes. Keil stated she can schedule an inspection of the valve. Joyce also questioned the actual height of the weir. Glasgow asked if the Hudson Lake Association is a legal entity. Adamsky stated right now it falls on this Board to control the valve. There are liability issues with who controls the valve. Mrozinski stated we will have the County Highway take a look at the road, we will talk with the DNR, and have the valve inspected. Jim Parlin stated he has lived on the lake for 60 years and 8" to 9" is optimal. Roger Teska spoke and also likes 9". Mrozinski stated we appreciate everyone's input and we will do the best we can. Glasgow motioned to have Keil and Hendricks work with the County Highway and the DNR to come up with a recommendation, and to have the valve inspected. Cuson seconded. Motion carried.

BRAD ADAMSKY, ATTORNEY REPORTS: Adamsky reported he is still working with the property owners on Clear Lake. It will be a Porter County solution. Some owners on the LaPorte side are looking at a private solution.

OLD BUSINESS: Keil reported on a large beaver dam on the West Arm of Bull Ditch. A contractor, Zolvinski, was nearby and removed it. The beavers began to rebuild, so Keil contacted the trapper, Dennis Mann. Cuson motioned to pay Zolvinski upon receipt of invoice. Glasgow seconded. Motion carried.

CLAIMS:

Right of Way Management for dormant bank spraying on:
Berringer Ditch \$3,149.64
O'Hara-Rice Ditch \$10,572.38
Warwick Ditch \$1,534.91

B&D Farm Excavating, Schurz Ditch, \$5,900.00

Cuson motioned to approve claims. Glasgow seconded. Motion carried.

WHITE DITCH, MICHIANA SHORES: Keil reported on revised plans received from Zeimys regarding a pool construction project within the 75' easement that was previously approved. The pool will still be the same proximity from the ditch at 50'.

JOINT BOARD REPORTS: Glasgow reported that he is on the Starke County Board. They are very busy. Keil reported that tree clearing on the River will resume in October.

MS4 REPORTS, RICK BROWN: Brown gave a summary of field reports and information on public outreach videos made and published on YouTube. He also discussed the wetland bill.

PUBLIC COMMENT: A property owner in New Durham Twp., Mike DeGarmo, 11881 West 300 South, Westville, approached the Board regarding a drainage problem caused by his neighbor changing the drainage pattern by putting a pond in and elevating his property. The Board advised it is not under Drainage Board jurisdiction and that it falls under the common enemy rule. He was advised to seek legal advice from an attorney and to check if permits were given. Rick Brown also advised.

Glasgow motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The next meeting is May 11 at 8:30 AM in the County Complex Meeting Room #3.

Christine Keil, Secretary
Dated: April 28, 2021