

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

MAY 11, 2021

8:30 AM, COUNTY COMPLEX MEETING ROOM #3, LAPORTE, INDIANA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Haefner; Hugh Glasgow; Tony Hendricks;
Steve Mrozinski

STAFF PRESENT: Christine Keil

MEMBERS/STAFF ABSENT: Joe Cuson; Rich Mrozinski; Brad Adamsky

PUBLIC PRESENT: see sign-in sheet

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

JERRY JACKSON, CITY OF LAPORTE: Jackson reported on current City projects such as the sewer separation at Monroe Manor, the Indiana Avenue storm sewer reconstruction from Lincolnway to Kingsbury Avenue, and the Boyd Blvd/Schurz Ditch projects. Glasgow asked if the City was going to take over the Schurz. Jackson stated he will research the path to ownership. The same volume with a lower flow rate and less going through the treatment plant is the plan for the projects.

HUDSON LAKE: Keil reported on the items from last month. The IDNR has stated that tampering with or raising the weir is not allowed. The County Highway Dept has brought out stone to Lakeshore Drive. The valve inspection will be performed by H&G after it is scheduled. Keil also advised that the portion of Canal Street where the pipe and weir is, is vacated and is private property. Keil has been inspecting the level weekly and keeping a new log. Hendricks stated the legal limit could be changed but it is a long process through circuit court to do so. The legal limit is 763.09 in NGVD29 datum. The current level is 7" above that. Keil stated that the County Highway has advised that 7" of water above the weir is optimal without undermining the road. Keil advised we will not flood the road on purpose unless a directive has been received ordering otherwise from the County Commissioners. The road is needed for access and is a public right-of-way.

SURVEYOR'S REPORTS: Hendricks reported that the KRBC tree project

has been on hold since April. Grass will be planted. There are ongoing projects on the Yellow River. New river gauges that send information are also being looked at.

GALENA MEADOWS: Keil reported that a request was received to maintain the drainage easements in Galena Meadows on 1000 North. Glasgow motioned to get bids. Haefner seconded. Motion carried.

TRAVIS DITCH: Glasgow asked about the Travis Ditch and where it turns west it is plugged. Hendricks stated this has come before the Board many times before. Keil reported that the Travis is regulated but not assessed from the treatment plant down to 1200 South then it turns west and becomes the Hildebrandt then goes south to the River. There have been hearings but the assessment was not passed. Most of the City is in the watershed. There is a sediment trap at the mouth of the Travis in the Kankakee River. Glasgow stated there are five dams in the Travis on the private section before the River. The questions for Adamsky were how to make the private sections regulated and make a fair assessment to the entire watershed for maintenance on the Travis.

CLAIMS:

M&K Excavating, Cook Ditch, removal of silt and beaver dam, \$1,750.00.

J&J Excavating, West Arm of Bull Ditch, removal of beaver dams on April 20 for \$1,000 and May 6 for \$1,000 to total \$2,000. Trapping was done by Dennis Mann.

Haefner motioned to approve three claims along with the invoice from Dennis Mann upon receipt. Glasgow seconded. Motion carried.

JOINT BOARD REPORTS: Keil reported that River work is on hold until October.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Roger Teska, Lakeshore Drive, Hudson Lake, commented on the pea gravel that the County Highway placed on Lakeshore Drive as he felt it will not pack down and is unsafe.

Georgette Joyce, Hudson Lake, distributed a picture of the lake and commented on the history of low lake levels. She stated she is 10" lower than last year and would like to see 9" to 12". She has been in contact with Dave Smith from the DNR, who will be visiting soon. The residents and the Hudson Lake Conservation Association

would like time to work on the many issues around the lake. It is minimally spring fed with water coming from Saugany Lake. Keil advised the drain is currently closed and the water is 7" above the weir. Keil stated if the County Commissioners want to make a ruling on the water level and don't mind if Lakeshore Drive is flooded, then that will be the directive. If the water goes to 9", we can look at the road again but we may not get any more rain to get to that. Hendricks stated there are live river gauges that could possibly be installed in a good place. We will forward that info. Hendricks stated the valve is closed and that the owners and residents can ask the Commissioners and the Co Hwy if 9" to 12" is permissible for Lakeshore Drive. Another resident asked about the Co Hwy and the tri-axle going down Lakeshore Drive to test the base. The Co Hwy placed gravel on the road.

Haefner motioned to adjourn the meeting.

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

Christine Keil, Secretary
Dated: May 13, 2021