

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
LAPORTE COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD  
MAY 14, 2024  
8:30 AM, LAPORTE COUNTY COMPLEX MEETING ROOM 3  
LAPORTE, INDIANA**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tony Hendricks; Jeff Mitzner; Pat Vance; Hugh Glasgow; Connie Gramarossa; Joe Cuson

STAFF PRESENT: Christine Keil; Brad Adamsky, John South

MEMBERS/STAFF ABSENT: none.

PUBLIC PRESENT: See sign-in sheet.

Jeff Mitzner called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Attendance was taken. Joe Cuson motioned to approve the last meeting minutes. Connie Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried. Connie Gramarossa motioned to add Glenn Abbott to the agenda. Hugh Glasgow seconded. Motion carried.

IC 36-9-27.4 REMOVAL OF OBSTRUCTION PETITION: This is a continuation from last month. Hendricks met with the County Highway and Dale Skorski to discuss removing the berm, which was later removed by Skorski. Tom Vater and Gary Kessler would like to place a drain tile from the field. Kessler approached the Board regarding the current situation. He presented an offer from Joe Zolvinski to perform excavation. He requested a motion from the Board to dig the ditch between the two fields because Kessler believes the ditch was filled in. Connie Gramarossa motioned to continue the petition to investigate the situation. Pat Vance seconded the motion. The motion carried with one nay from Glasgow. Another individual stated the ditch was filled in. Connie Gramarossa asked to rescind the motion to have the county highway perform digging. Adamsky stated Skorski should have the opportunity to respond first since he was not present. Hendricks stated that there is a ditch along the north side of the tree line that Skorski has dug. Connie Gramarossa motioned to have another special meeting with the owners present. Mitzner called for a special meeting on Thursday, May 16, at 3:00 PM. Adamsky stated that Skorski needs to be in notified of the meeting.

GREG WALTER, PITNER DITCH, POLE BARN: Greg and Wendy Walter approached the Board to request the placement of a pole barn within the 75' easement along the Pitner Ditch. He presented a drawing for the site at 14567 South, 450 West. They would like to construct 30 feet from the top of the bank with the building shifted. He also presented a completed waiver and indemnification agreement. Pat Vance motioned to approve the building with a 30 foot offset from the top of the bank as shown on the plans. Hugh Glasgow seconded the motion. The motion carried. Walter will record the document and submit it to the Board.

Jeff Mitzner introduced John South, who will replace Christine Keil, who will be retiring.

HANNA ARM OF THE TUESBURG: Hendricks reported that there is no additional data since the water has been too high. Keil has been searching through the minutes for any documentation of rock dam requests. Greg Werner approached the Board regarding the legality and purpose of the rock dams. Hendricks stated that the rock dams may have been placed to stabilize the banks and create velocity. Werner presented pictures of the rock dam from March and asked to have it taken out. Vance stated we should table this pending research. Mark Busse, 5303 W 1600 S, approached the Board to state the rock dam was there in the early 1990's when he purchased the land. Werner stated that Birky would also like the dam removed. Glasgow does not believe the dam should be removed because it is protecting the banks. Connie Gramarossa motioned to have Tony Hendricks perform additional analysis and that the meeting minutes be researched. Pat Vance seconded. Motion carried.

RODMAN DITCH, PARKER, BANK SPRAYING: Parker emailed that he will not be able to attend but is still submitting the request for discussion. The topic was tabled until next month.

GLENN ABBETT, COOK DITCH: Mitzner reported that Abbett was not present but submitted a request to place a culvert through the 75 foot easement to drain the field. Glasgow motioned to approve this, but the dirt needs to be compacted, a flap gate installed, the site reseeded, and a hold harmless signed. Pat Vance seconded the motion. The motion carried.

HUDSON LAKE: Georgette Joyce approached the Board to give a monthly report. The water was 18 inches above the weir, but there were issues, so the drain was opened. Joyce asked for the Taylor Ditch at County Line Road to be cleaned of obstructions. Hendricks stated that the DNR is making the call on where to put the level. He also gave a summary of the situation. The downstream farmer has already planted crops this year and is concerned if the ditch would be cleaned. Keil stated that yesterday the level was at 1.3 feet above the weir and Ryan at DNR advised to leave it open until it reaches 1.2 feet. Keil also spoke with John Law at St. Joe County and no obstructions have been observed at the outlet ditch. They do have money in the fund for a project, but the farmers have already planted adjacent to the ditch. LaPorte County sends the money to St. Joseph County. It is currently at 15 turns open and it will be left open until advised by DNR. Joe Cuson motioned to contact St. Joseph County regarding a project this winter. Glasgow seconded the motion. The motion carried.

BRAD ADAMSKY, ATTORNEY: No reports. Adamsky thanked Keil for the years of service.

TONY HENDRICKS, SURVEYOR REPORTS: No reports. Hendricks also thanked Keil and asked for a motion to honor over 33 years of service. Connie Gramarossa motioned. Joe Cuson seconded. The motion carried.

JOINT BOARDS: No reports.

CLAIMS: No claims.

TOBIN ARM OF THE RODMAN DITCH PROJECT: Keil received a request from Ken Freeland to clean this ditch located north of 300 South and along the west side of 300 East for 0.5 miles. One bid was received and opened, but Mitzner requested that an additional bid be received. Pat Vance motioned to table this until next month when another bid could be obtained. The motion was seconded and carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Daina Dumbrys, Michiana Shores, approached the Board to thank Christine Keil for the assistance over the years.

Bill Emerick, 2404 W 800 N, approached the Board regarding getting a ditch cleaned to the west of his property. Keil advised that this is private, and the owners could clean it themselves. Note: Beacon incorrectly shows this ditch to be regulated and called the Gropp, but this is not the correct location of the Gropp Ditch. The Gropp Ditch is in Section 22.

Chris Landers, 3984 W 700 N, approached the Board regarding a drainage issue with the ditch in front of his house. Since this is the ditch in the county road right-of-way, Keil advised Landers to speak with the county highway regarding maintenance.

Jeff Mitzner thanked Christine Keil for the years of service.

Jeff Mitzner adjourned the meeting. The next regular meeting is Tuesday, June 11, at the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Room 3 at 8:30 AM.

Christine Keil, Secretary  
Dated: May 14, 2024