

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LAPORTE COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD
SEPTEMBER 10, 2024
8:30 AM, LAPORTE COUNTY COMPLEX MEETING ROOM 3
LAPORTE, INDIANA**

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

STAFF PRESENT: John South, Brad Adamsky

MEMBERS/STAFF ABSENT: Connie Gramarossa

PUBLIC PRESENT: See sign-in sheet.

Jeff Mitzner called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Attendance was taken. Hugh Glasgow motioned to approve minutes from August meeting. Joe Cuson seconded. Motion passed.

VATER/SKORSKI OBSTRUCTION: Jeff Mitzner reported that he has talked to Dale Skorski about the situation with his drainage pipe. Mitzner requested Skorski respond by today, (10th), by text or the Drainage Board is going to remove the pipe at his cost. Mitzner read Skorski's text: "To Jeff Mitzner, La Porte County Drainage Board. The drainage pipe will be completely removed by October 15th, 2024 at 8048 N. 400 W., Michigan City." Mitzner responded: "If we happen to have a big rain and it starts flooding the neighbors before you can get this removed, we will remove it and it will be at your expense." Skorski responded: "Ok."

Brad Adamsky mentioned that the date proposed by Skorski will be after the October Board meeting on the 8th and suggested a hard date of October 7th to remove the pipe.

WHITE DITCH, SINGING SANDS TRAIL PROJECT, CROSSING APPLICATION: South reported that the Drainage Board received a crossing application for a trail project over White Ditch in Michigan City. The project would involve extending the current culvert to accommodate the new trail. South stated that he and Hendricks reviewed the plans and have no issue with the project. Hendricks stated that as long as they sign a Hold Harmless agreement he has no problem approving their project. Hugh Glasgow motioned to approve the project. Joe Cuson seconded. Motion passed.

TREE REMOVAL, RODMAN, BULL, & LITTLE KANKAKEE RIVER: The Board received one bid from Allsop Construction for the Little Kankakee River tree removal of \$2,000. Jeff Mitzner recommended putting these projects back out for rebid. Joe Cuson motioned to rebid projects. Hugh Glasgow seconded. Motion passed.

HUDSON LAKE: Georgette Joyce approached the Board to give a monthly report. She reported

that the lake is at 2.25". It has gone down 2" since the 5th of September. No incidents have been reported on the lake. They only had to treat one species and they are looking to possibly do a second treatment on the Stoney Starwort. The dredging is in great shape, the financing is all buttoned up as of yesterday. They are just waiting for a signature on the sediment removal site and then the permit will be issued. They will be ready to go once the corn comes out. They are looking at the end of October or early November to start and will take 6 weeks to complete. They are still working on the Drainage agreement with the DNR. Joyce discussed the Taylor Ditch and possibly having the DNR lend them a drone to get a good analysis of the Ditch to see what work would need to be done. She also mentioned a property owner on the west side of Hudson Lake stated that the Taylor Ditch on his property hasn't been cleaned in a long time and would like to see something done. Joyce mentioned possibly setting up a meeting with St. Joseph County, La Porte County, the DNR, and Hudson Lake to take a look at the Taylor Ditch. Hendricks stated we have had some correspondence with John Law at St Joseph County and we could set something up in the next month. Hendricks stated he will e-mail John Law and see where he is at. A brief discussion ensued after Joe Cuson inquired about spraying and the possible effect on the fish habitats.

BRAD ADAMSKY, ATTORNEY: He stated that the Michiana Shores, White Ditch agreement with the Drainage Board was for a 20-year period on the project that was completed in 2005 and the agreement was potentially signed as early as 2004, so we need to figure what the status is going forward with the White Ditch. Conveniently, he is Michiana Shores' attorney as well. There is a meeting tonight, so he will reach out to their Board as well as the Clerk and see if they have the agreement and get ahead of it.

Jeff Mitzner asked if Adamsky had worked any on the bank spraying, cleaning letter. Adamsky stated he has the information on the two property owners with the fences, the letter hasn't gone out, but is in the process of going out to inform them of the encroachment. Adamsky stated the agreement will need to a mutual agreement by both the property owners and the Board and the property owners that don't want their property sprayed will need to come before the Board and sign a written agreement that will attach to their property. Adamsky suspects it will discourage most people from going that route, because it could potentially put a cloud on title on their property where they are assuming any additional costs and expenses for stopping us from doing preventative maintenance.

TONY HENDRICKS, SURVEYOR REPORTS: Hendricks stated that the next Kankakee River Basin Committee (KRBC) meeting is on September 27th in Porter County at 10:00 AM. Hendricks also reported that John South checked to make sure the Bluestem solar project did not encroach onto or thru any of our ditches.

JOINT BOARDS: No reports

CLAIMS: No claims

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments

Jeff Mitzner adjourned the meeting at 8:52 AM. The next regular meeting is Tuesday, October 8, at the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Room 3 at 8:30 AM.

John South, Secretary

Dated: September 10, 2024