

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

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

STAFF PRESENT: John South, Brad Adamsky

MEMBERS/STAFF ABSENT: Connie Gramarossa; Hugh Glasgow

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 minutes from September meeting. Pat Vance seconded. Motion passed.

VATER/SKORSKI OBSTRUCTION: Hendricks reported that the obstruction is out. Mr. Skorski did not put a pipe back in, he completely removed it and it looks like it is even lower than it was before. Hendricks said he called Mr. Mitzner, Mr. Kessler and called Mr. Skorski to thank him. Everyone is happy. Hendricks stated we will continue to monitor it to make sure nothing comes back.

TREE REMOVAL, RODMAN, BULL, & LITTLE KANKAKEE RIVER: The Drainage Board opened the bids, receiving two bids for Little Kankakee River and two bids for Bull Ditch.

Little Kankakee River:

Superior Grade Excavation LLC - \$2,200
Al Allsop Construction, Inc - \$2,000

Joe Cuson motioned to accept the Al Allsop Construction, Inc. bid of \$2,000, Pat Vance seconded. Motion passed.

Bull Ditch:

Superior Grade Excavation LLC - \$2,200
Al Allsop Construction, Inc. - \$4,000

After a brief discussion of the Bull Ditch bids, it was agreed to table the discussion until next month's meeting.

BEAVER DAM, COOK DITCH: South discussed a new beaver dam on the Cook Ditch north of 2400 S. South stated that he has contacted M & K Excavating to remove the Dam at a cost of

\$1,000. South also stated that he spoke with John Sawyer, who lives on the Porter County side of the Cook Ditch, who is interested in having Aquatic spraying done on the Cook Ditch because even without the beaver dam there the water does not flow very well. Jeff Mitzner asked for a motion to remove beaver dam after the beavers have been trapped. Joe Cuson motioned and Pat Vance seconded. Motion Passed.

HUDSON LAKE: Georgette Joyce approached the Board to give a monthly report. She reported that the lake is down to only about a 1" above the weir. She stated that people have had to pull their boats early, no one has screamed at her for having their boats stuck in the mud. They were going to try to do a 2nd treatment spraying for the invasive species stony starwort, but it is too late in the season, so they are going to have to wait until next year. They haven't started dredging, but everything is in place, they are just waiting for the retention pond to go in then the dredging can begin. The dredging will take 6-8 weeks to complete once started. This is the first time Hudson lake has been dredged in its history. They are hoping the drain agreement with the DNR will be finalized to go into effect by January 1st, 2025. They received permission to service the drain from the DNR, but due to construction at a home near drain, the servicing has not been done yet. They have received positive feedback from the DNR regarding the tour of the Taylor Ditch. Joyce said she will coordinate with Tony for a possible tour date in November. And lastly, the Hudson lake Conservation Society will be holding their annual public meeting on November 12th from 4:30-5:30 at the New Carlisle Public Library.

BRAD ADAMSKY, ATTORNEY: Adamsky provided a brief report on White Ditch/Michiana Shores. Last month they brought it to the attention of the Board that there was a 20-year memorandum of agreement between the Drainage Board and the Town of Michiana Shores, so the Town could obtain a Grant for maintenance on a section of the ditch that was turned over to the Town. We tracked down the agreement and it was executed on December 19, 2003, so we are certainly at the 20-year period on that. A second agreement was executed on a different part of the White ditch in 2020 so that one is still in effect. Daina Dumbrys is here today and the Town Council is going to meet tonight, and the Town is going to decide how they want to approach it and then come back to the Board. Adamsky will serve as mediator between the two Boards since he represents both and we will figure out the right course of action going forward.

TONY HENDRICKS, SURVEYOR REPORTS: Hendricks reported that there is money left over from FEMA from 6 -8 years ago, about \$7,700 that we are aware of now from the County Auditor. Dan Gumz would like to use that money to remove dead trees, fallen trees, and leaning trees to make sure they don't go into the river and cause another flood in the area. Hendricks asked the boards' permission to go out for bids on certain sections that the farmers have discussed with us and come back to the Board to see if we can use the FEMA money. Hendricks is asking the Boards permission to go out for bids for some sections of trees to do preventative maintenance for flooding on the Kankakee River with a partnership with the Kankakee River Basin Commission. Mitzner asked where this will take place. Hendricks stated there are more trees than we can pay for. Mitzner stated that if we are going to spend this money he would like to see it done in an area where we haven't done anything. Mitzner suggested Starke County Line to Hwy 421.

JOINT BOARDS: No reports

CLAIMS: No claims

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments

Jeff Mitzner adjourned the meeting at 8:53 AM. The next regular meeting is Tuesday, November 12, at the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Room 3 at 8:30 AM.

John South, Secretary

Dated: October 9, 2024