

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
LAPORTE COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD  
JUNE 10, 2025  
8:30 AM, LAPORTE COUNTY COMPLEX MEETING ROOM 3  
LAPORTE, INDIANA**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Mitzner; Pat Vance; Connie Gramarossa; John Matwyshyn

STAFF PRESENT: John South, Brad Adamsky

MEMBERS/STAFF ABSENT: Mark Scarborough; Chad Hertges

PUBLIC PRESENT: See sign-in sheet.

Jeff Mitzner called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Attendance was taken. Pat Vance motioned to approve minutes from last meeting. Connie Gramarossa seconded. Motion passed.

COUNTYWIDE STORMWATER ORDINANCE OR STATUS QUO: Brad

Adamsky stated "between John and I, just a real brief update. What we talked about last meeting was if it was going to go county-wide it would really need to come from the commissioners, so top down there. John was looking into the individual drains, the individual ditches. We talked about how you could increase assessments, maybe take it from that approach. I think that what he'll report is that what he is finding so far is not unexpected, most of them have already had that one free increase, where you don't have to have that formal, long public meetings, and if that's the case, we will need to identify which ones and probably consolidate efforts so you're not doing a bunch of public meetings throughout the rest of the year, maybe pick a time, if we're going to increase assessments, try to do them all at once". John South stated, "I'm still in the process of looking up which ones have had the increase, the first five a looked up have already had the increases, so I imagine it's probably going to be the same for the rest". Jeff Mitzner asks, "when you're going through those have all of those hit the caps?" South replied "no, most of them are not at the cap, because we are still taking assessments." Mitzner responds "well that's what I meant. I guess that's what we want to know too, while you're going through them, if their capped."

WHITE DITCH MAINTENANCE PROJECT: John South reported " I just wanted to update that I sent out 18 certified letters on Friday, to all of the homeowners on the working side of the ditch." Brad Adamsky asked " Have you been getting any feedback on the letters?" South replied, " not on these letters, I haven't, but I've gotten a handful of people from the previous letter, I've got in contact with."

DRAIN CROSSING APPLICATION, KABELIN DRAIN, NIPSCO: John South states "most of the work on this one is going to be outside of the 75' easement, but it does say on here that they are going to be replacing a lateral connecting to the Kabelin Drain and because of that I think we should have Tony take a look at it." Pat Vance motions for Tony to review the Drain Crossing Application. Connie Gramarossa seconded the motion. Motion passed.

BANK SPRAYING 2025: John South reported" the only thing I wanted to say about this is that it's going to be starting within the week. Heritage Drone service will be starting the spraying. The 15th is on a Sunday, so I'm guessing he'll start on the 16th." Jeff Mitzner stated" I have talked to Jake on this and he is not going to use Crossbow now, he has switched to Garlan, and that's a good thing for us. One thing we want to do from now on, I'll get with you, we want to make sure, when they bid it, they use a product that we want to use."

BEAVER DAM REMOVAL, WEST ARM BULL DITCH, SAM MARTIN: Sam Martin approached the Board and gave a detailed report of his project to remove beavers and a beaver dam from the West Arm of the Bull Ditch. (If you are interested in the full report, you can view it on Access LaPorte County, Drainage Board, June 10, 2025 meeting. Sam Martin's report begins at the 05:23 mark of the video. The report is approximately 3:20 in length.)

HUDSON LAKE: Georgette Joyce approached the board and reported" The lake is around 6". There's no incidents. We do need rain. The drain continues to be closed. Taylor ditch was serviced on May 19th. It was graded and cleaned. It was coordinated with John Law from St. Joe County. For the drain agreement, we have secured the mobile phones. I shared that with John to share it with the Board. It's been shared with the community and the DNR. So, anyone who has lake level incidents, should be calling 219-206-1259 or they could go issue a report on the Hudson Lake Conservation Association website, on the event status page. Both will be monitored and dealt with as soon as possible. For the LARE grants, the visual survey was done on June 3rd. We'll be treating the EWM this week on June 12th and then the Starry Stonewort wasn't active growth, so we'll have to wait until the end of the month for them to figure out what to treat and when to do that. It's probably over seven acres to treat in Little Hudson and that should be done at the end of June, early July. We want to shout out to Amazon who gave us a nice grant for helping with the lake with invasive species and dredging. The sediment removal will be started after the 4th of July and the ramp could be closed. they'll have the barrels up and they'll try to remove some so there'll be access from West Hudson to East Hudson." John South had a question " After you had contacted me and told me that St. Joe County had cleaned the ditch, I went up to look at the outlet and it didn't look like they had done any work in where the outlet is, fallen trees. Was that not part of the process?" Joyce responds," I didn't do any survey of that, so, would you reach out to John or should I reach out, do you want me to reach out to John?" South responds" that was part of it, right? They were going to remove all of those fallen trees?" Joyce replies" yeah, we definitely want them to do that before we have to do anything. you know we've been in a drought, so we haven't needed to open the drain, but we certainly don't

want that clogging anything." South responds, " there are a lot of downed trees in that outlet area."

BRAD ADAMSKY, ATTORNEY: No Report

JOHN MATWYSHYN, SURVEYOR: No Report

JOINT BOARDS: No Report

CLAIMS:

**WEST ARM BULL DITCH, BEAVER DAM REMOVAL, SAM MARTIN - \$3,425**

Connie Gramarossa motioned to pay the claim. Pat Vance seconded. Motion passed.

**WHITE DITCH EMERGENCT TREE REMOVAL, ALLSOP EXCAVATIONG - \$2,850**

Connie Gramarossa motioned to pay the claim. Pat Vance seconded. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ben Long from NIPSCO approached the Board. He asked about the timeline for sending the Application out for review. South responded that he would send it over to Tony today and that he is usually pretty quick about it. Long asked if it needed to come back to this Board for approval? Jeff Mitzner stated that once Tony approves it we can move forward. Long stated that they are looking at the end of July to get it started. South responded that we would definitely have it back to them by then.

Jeff Mitzner asked for a motion to adjourn. Pat Vance motioned to adjourn, Connie Gramarossa seconded. Motion passed. Jeff Mitzner adjourned the meeting at 8:46 AM. The July meeting is cancelled for Fair Week. The next regular meeting is Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Room #3 at 8:30 AM.

John South, Secretary  
Dated: June 10, 2025