

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
LAPORTE COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD  
AUGUST 12, 2025  
8:30 AM, LAPORTE COUNTY COMPLEX MEETING ROOM 3  
LAPORTE, INDIANA**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Mitzner; Pat Vance; Connie Gramarossa; Chad Hertges; Mark Scarborough; John Matwyshyn

STAFF PRESENT: John South, Brad Adamsky

MEMBERS/STAFF ABSENT: None

PUBLIC PRESENT: See sign-in sheet.

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

Jeff Mitzner added two items to the agenda:  
Scipio Sunrise Maintenance Project  
Eckert Ditch Structure

COUNTYWIDE STORMWATER ORDINANCE OR STATUS QUO: John South reported that he had gone through all of the ditches and found 5 that had not had the 25% increase allowed by the board without a public hearing. Those five were: McKellips, Moon, Rodman, Little Kankakee, and Berringer. South gave a brief update on the current and future status of the 5 ditches. Jeff Mitzner asked Brad Adamsky what the process would be if the board wanted to increase these 5 ditches? Brad Adamsky replied that it is just a motion and approval from the board. Mitzner asked if any of the ditches are at their ceiling? South responds that the Moon Ditch is over its 4-year ceiling. Connie Gramarossa asked how often do we do work on the Moon Ditch? A brief discussion on the value of increasing the assessment on a ditch, Moon, that is rarely worked on ensued, coupled with an agreement that increasing the assessment on ditches which we work on frequently makes sense. Jeff Mitzner asked for a motion to increase all 5 ditches by 25%. Pat Vance motioned to increase all five ditches, McKellips, Moon, Rodman, Little Kankakee, and Berringer by 25%. Mark Scarborough seconded. motion passed.

DAVEY ARM OF THE RODMAN DITCH, MAINTENANCE, VARRO SERVICES: John South reported that Elmer Varro did the project and thought he did a great job. South stated that he sent pictures to everyone on the Board. Elmer Varro approached the Board and gave a quick recap of the project. Jeff Mitzner asked that we make sure we get this ditch put down for spraying next year, if we have any left in that account.

DRAIN CROSSING APPLICATION, O'HARA-RICE DITCH, WABASH VALLEY POWER ASSOCIATION, INC.: John South described the application as a new power line being installed with one of the poles within the 75' easement but doesn't see any issues with it. Pat Vance motioned to pass the application. Mark Scarborough seconded. Motion passed.

DRAIN CROSSING APPLICATION, MACHLER DITCH, CHRIS FRANK: Chris Frank, 7808 W. State Rd 8, La Crosse, IN., approached the Board and requested a variance from the Board to install a pool on his property. Mark Scarborough motioned to accept the pool variance request. Chad Hertges seconded. Motion passed.

DRAIN CROSSING APPLICATION, SCHURZ DITCH, SURF INTERNET: John South described the project as a conduit that will be at least 48" below the ditch. Connie Gramarossa motioned to approve the application. Chad Hertges seconded. Motion passed

DRAIN CROSSING APPLICATION, NORRIS DITCH, RYAN MILLER: Tony Hendricks approached the Board representing Ryan Miller. Hendricks described the project, in detail, as Mr. Miller requesting permission from the Board to install a sewer line across Norris Ditch, plus submit a Hold Harmless Agreement. Chad Hertges motioned to accept. Pat Vance seconded. Motion passed.

BANK SPRAYING 2025: John South reported that Heritage Drone Service did the bank spraying project. South mentioned that they received a complaint from a landowner in regard to the O'Hara portion of the project. Jeff Mitzner and South went out to investigate the complaint. It appeared that the O'Hara was under sprayed. South stated he also looked at the Rodman & The Little Kankakee and they both also looked under sprayed. South stated that he was unhappy with 3 of the Ditches and that they needed to be resprayed, but the Bull Ditch looked good. South recommended paying the claim for the Bull Ditch only. Jeff Mitzner reported that also was not happy with the bank spraying on the O'Hara Ditch, it didn't look like it was done. South stated that he spoke to Jake Wetzel, who stated he would respray in the fall. Mitzner stated that he doesn't think the fall is the right time to do it, we need him to redo these ditches in the spring by June 15th. Mitzner thinks we need to relook at the contract to make sure these guys are using the same stuff. Mitzner thinks we need to use Garland or something like it and we need to put it in the specs that that is what we are using. They need to use so many gallons of water to the acre and they need to spray both sides of the ditch. Mark Scarborough motioned to respray the O'Hara Ditch, the Little Kankakee River, and the Rodman Ditch in the spring using Garland and we will work on the specs. Connie Gramarossa seconded. Motion passed

KANKAKEE RIVER USGS GAUGE, DAWN SCHMELTZ: Dawn Schmeltz, 6551 S. SR 104, approached the Board to request the County fund the installation of a USGS flood gauge on the Kankakee River upstream of the Davis gauge. Schmeltz presented her proposal for the gauge to the Board. She stated that either the confluence of the Kankakee River and the Little Kankakee River just north of 525 S or where Pine Creek enters the Kankakee River would be the two options for the gauge. Connie Gramarossa asked if this is something we can kick to the KRBC?

Jeff Mitzner asked Tony Hendricks to approach the Board because he was involved the last time a request for a gauge was brought before the Board, back in 2013. Hendricks explained that the gauges are great, but they are expensive. Hendricks recommended motioning to send this to the KRBC because this is in their jurisdiction and these gauges do require an upfront cost and an ongoing cost, plus he believes there is a USGS cost sharing as well. Connie Gramarossa motions to have the Drainage Board approve it and to ask the KRBC to look at this and decide what they would want to do with it. Pat Vance seconded. Motion passed.

Jeff Mitzner mentioned that the KRBC is meeting on August 21st at 12:30 in Plymouth and told Dawn Schmeltz he can get her on the agenda if she wants to be on the agenda. Schmeltz asked if this is something she needs to propose to them also? Brad Adamsky responded that, yes, they'd be the ones paying for it.

BEAVER DAM, HEDRICK DRAIN: John South gave a brief background update on this issue and then turned it over to Tony Hendricks to complete the background update of the area. Hendricks then stated that the area is impounded by two beaver dams, one in Indiana and one in Michigan. South proposed either paying for the Indiana beaver dam out of the GDIF or contacting the land owners in Michigan and Indiana to see if they can take care of the Beaver dams. Hendricks stated to give the name of the guy who traps beavers to Harry Skoczek to see if he'll pay for it. and he knows the neighbor to the north, so they could personally take care of that. Jeff Mitzner states that we need to get a hold of Michigan, because there is nothing we can do until the dam in Michigan is taken care of, so John Matwyshyn, you need to get a hold of Michigan to see where this is at and get back to us next meeting with some contacts there and see what we can do about the beaver dam. Matwyshyn states that Greg Coulter of Michigan City Council has already got a group together for this whole area to work together, so I can get in touch with him. We have an organized effort to make sure the drains are working properly. Mitzner asked to get a hold of Sam Martin to get bids on removal of the beaver dams.

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT, COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Brad Adamsky reported that this was an older case that we sent out a hold harmless. The county has signed the hold harmless. It's whether these are needed or not. It's something to take a closer look at. Who are we actually holding harmless? Jeff Mitzner asked do we really need them to sign it? Adamsky responds that you're dealing with different departments. It makes it clear if there is an issue who is going to address it and it keeps the surveyor's or this board out of it, so there is some utility to it, but, again, it's county on county, so it's probably irrelevant. Connie Gramarossa adds, so, we probably don't need them. Adamsky adds going forward a case by case basis determining whether that is needed. I wouldn't make a flat rule because then you end up covering things you don't intend to.

O'HARA-RICE DITCH, DUMPING VIOLATION, 4942 W 1000 S: John South reported that this violation was discovered when Jeff Mitzner and John South responded to a bank spraying complaint on the O'Hara ditch. The violation was for dumping of sod clumps into the O'Hara Ditch at 4942 W. 1000 S. South reported that he sent a violation letter to the homeowners giving them 10 days to remove the sod clumps. South stated that he had not heard back from them as of yet.

**HUDSON ARM OF THE TAYLOR DITCH, TREES DOWN IN OUTLET BASIN:** John South gave a brief update on the history of the work performed by St Joseph County and the need for the outlet basin to be cleaned. South stated that John Law of St. Joseph County requested that John South take the lead on this project. There are a lot of downed trees in the basin. Georgette Joyce approached the Board and stated that she read it as South sends out the bids for the project and St. Joe County will pay the contractor. Joyce explained the need for cleaning of this area. Jeff Mitzner asked, how far is it? South responded a few hundred feet. A brief discussion of the bid process was discussed. Mark Scarborough motioned for this to be sent out for bids. Connie Gramarossa seconded. Motion passed.

**SCIPIO SUNRISE MAINTENANCE PROJECT:** John South stated that he went out to the site yesterday to check the work done by Alan Allsop. South stated that Allsop had done a great job. He was working on four basins and three of them look great. Allsop was unable to complete his work on the remaining basin, because a homeowner had turned on the well, filling up the basin. it was anticipated that the basin would be dry, so Al has been unable to complete his work. The basin still has a large amount of water. South doesn't think there is any more water coming into it. Alan Allsop approached the Board and stated his frustration with the pond being filled with water and the well being turned on by a homeowner. Allsop stated he could have done the job for \$10,000-\$15,000, but because of the state of the basin, he is already at \$26,000 on a job that wasn't to exceed \$20,000, with work still left to do. Allsop suggested that the well be capped. Allsop asked for guidance on how the Board would like to proceed with this project. Jeff Mitzner states that we have several things going on here. One, we have someone pumping water from a well into a detention pond. It is not a retention pond, but it's a detention pond, so we need to address that first. Mitzner asks for a motion to send the homeowner who is pumping water into the detention pond, be sent a certified letter from our attorney, stating that he will no longer be pumping water into the basin. Connie Gramarossa asks if we have it recorded as a detention pond. South responded that he has the plans here, and that it is listed as a detention pond on the plans. Mitzner explains that a detention pond holds water long enough for the storm to happen and then flows through. A retention pond retains water. Connie Gramarossa motions to have our attorney, Brad Adamsky send a letter to shut the well off. Mitzner asks that Gramarossa add to her motion that the well needs to be capped. Gramarossa asks Adamsky if we can take legal action to cap the well. Brad Adamsky states that we can send the cease and desist letter and we can put a certain time frame on it, but we want to give them a chance to take care of it before we initiate legal action. Gramarossa motions to add a two-week period to have the homeowner come into compliance. Pat Vance seconded. Motion passed. Two, Mitzner states, we need, in order for Allsop to do a good enough job, we just need him to quit what he's doing, clean up what he has there now. Alan Allsop reiterates that he is already over budget on this project. Mitzner replies that he started the job on Monday, Allsop called Mitzner on Monday to report that the well was on. Allsop proceeded to shut off the breakers so the water can't pump anymore. Mitzner states that we need to have Scipio Sunrise come back to us and come back to a meeting. Mark Scarborough asked Allsop how much of the project is left to do? Allsop responded that 3 of the basins are done and that they are probably 3/4 of the way done with the final basin. Brad Adamsky adds it doesn't make any sense to have Allsop continue until the first issue is resolved.

Connie Gramarossa motions to have him stop the job and notify the HOA why we stopped and add them to the agenda for the next meeting. Pat Vance seconded. Motion passed. Mitzner asked Allsop if he took care of the tile that was plugged? Allsop explained that the overflow pipe was clear, but they couldn't find the other pipe. Gramarossa questioned don't we have the site plans? South responded yes, we could find the other pipe with the plans.

**ECKERT DITCH STRUCTURE:** Mark Scarborough recused himself due to his involvement with this issue. Greg Werner, 6548 W 1450 S, Wanatah, approached the Board. Werner stated that he is there representing Otto Werner, his father, Diana Werner, and Cheryl Vansleet on a property located at 1700 S and 850 W. The property is 20 acres that they own and farm. The Eckert Ditch runs through the property. Rick Hutton owns the property where a water control structure is located, that was placed in the ditch approximately 10-15 years ago. He believes the structure was approved by the Drainage Board in place at the time. Werner states that none of the adjacent landowners were notified of such hearing to voice an opinion on that at the time. Werner explains that on Thursday evening, they noticed, an excavator and a tractor backhoe parked at the water structure. They investigated and found that the structure had washed out again, he stated that the structure has washed out in the past 2 or 3 other times. Werner contacted Jeff Mitzner that evening to state that Rick Hutton's structure had washed out again. Werner stated that himself and his son went out the next morning to the structure and noticed that Rick Hutton had been putting dirt in the ditch trying to stop the washout. Friday morning Werner contacted Mitzner to inform him that they needed to talk about it. Werner stated that he didn't hear back from Mitzner at the time, so he contacted Hugh Glasgow, assuming he was still on the Drainage Board, to talk with him. Glasgow told Werner that he was no longer on the Board and that Mark Scarborough was one of the people that replaced him. Werner then contacted Scarborough because his objective was that they didn't want to see more dirt dumped in the ditch to plug this dam up, because the dirt was washing down the ditch. It was not plugging the hole. Werner explained to Scarborough his concerns about the dirt being dumped in the ditch. Werner said the statement from Scarborough was that Rick is doing what Rick's got to do so he can irrigate. Werner mentioned his concern about all the silt and dirt being washed down the ditch. Werner said Scarborough told him he should have no concern about it because the silt was already washed down the Eckert ditch to the Machler Ditch on the Schafer farm. Werner thought that was an inappropriate remark for someone on the Drainage Board. Werner stated at that point there was no sense in talking to Scarborough any further on the issue. Werner then contacted Mitzner at 10:30 and found that he was already at the structure with John South. Mitzner informed Werner that he can't do anything himself, but there is a Drainage Board on Tuesday. Come to the Drainage Board. Werner stated that over the course of the weekend more dirt was dumped in the ditch to try to get the thing to seal up. The whole weekend he was irrigating out the ditch without it being dammed up. Werner's hope was that someone from the Drainage Board would have stopped the dumping of dirt in the ditch to seal it up, because that is not what needs to be done to fix this situation. Werner believes the structure needs to be re-engineered or re-installed properly, because history has proved that is not adequate to do what it is doing. Connie Gramarossa asked if the owner of the property, where the structure is located, is at the meeting? Rick Hutton is at the meeting. Gramarossa asked can we have him come up and

speak? Werner asked if he could finish first? Werner continued by stating that since no one would or could stop him from dumping dirt into the ditch, he contacted the DNR on Monday morning at 7:00 am to ask them what could be done about this issue. Werner stated the DNR was going to send out an investigator, either yesterday or today, to take a look at the situation. Werner then called Jeff Mitzner at 8:00 to see if there was something they could solve. Mitzner told Werner to come to the meeting, discuss it. We'll have to vote on it. Werner states his biggest issue is that the ditches in La Porte County are for drainage. they're not irrigation canals. He stated he doesn't have an issue with someone wanting to irrigate out of a ditch, as long as he's not causing harm to another farmer or the ditches. When he dams the ditches, he shuts the water completely off, so no water goes over the dam. The only water that goes down the ditch is the water that seeps through the boards. We do everything we can, as farmers, to prevent silt getting into the ditches. We are 100% no-till, we're 100% cover crops, and we have filter strips on nearly every one of our ditches. We understand the importance of drainage in La Porte County and to have someone continually dumping dirt in this ditch to back it up just, so you can irrigate and to let all that silt go down the ditch, that is my issue.

Rick Hutton, 9166 W 1600 S, Wanatah, approached the Board. Hutton states, why did it fail? It was holding water for approximately three weeks. We bring the level up to a certain level, June, July, and August. We are pumping out of the ditch, that is why we keep it at that level. It was fine for three weeks and water was going over the top. Also, Mr. Werner and Mr. Mitzner requested when I put this structure in that I put tile on my side with two control valves on their side, so they can get water in their ditches and which they have a little structure in. Hutton said he was agreeable to that as long as he has water and it is going over the dam. When Mark pumped, and Johnny pumped, and I pumped out of there, the level would go down. As long as we got water, we'll give it to you. They were getting water when the dam let go. Why did it let go? I see muskrats down there running around. I think a muskrat got on the discharge side and poked a hole underneath the pan. It didn't seep, it blew out. Within 3 hours that water was gone. Hutton talked to Matt Welsh, he designed the structure, he talked to him yesterday, asked what do we do. Hutton said he put a load of clay in there, started packing it down, took all the boards out, and tried to keep it from going under the pan. They did that for about a day and it sealed it. Hutton dropped two boards the other day and he could see it beginning to bubble, so it didn't want to seal properly. That's when he called Matt Welsh, because he needed another opinion. Hutton asked about putting pilings in front of the structure, below ground. Hutton said people are talking about dumping concrete in there, but he doesn't want to do that, he wants to fix it right. He's trying to get other opinions on how to seal this up. Hutton states that Werner wants that ditch cleaned. Jeff Mitzner states you probably need to go down to butch's bridge. We need to go down to Malecki's. In order to satisfy everybody, we can re-look at it after we get it dug to the T bridge, but we might have to go further on, in my opinion. Hutton adds the problem with the Eckert is that there is 9.5' of fall in less than a mile, so it moves a lot of water and a lot of sand, fast. Connie Gramarossa stated she just asked the attorney, so this was built back in 2010. It has existed for 16 years. Chad Hertges asked when the water backs up, everyone downstream will benefit. Hutton stated that when he backed up the water he went back 1600 to measure how much the level had risen and it was a foot and a half. Gramarossa adds that the idea of you putting dirt and clay in the ditch wasn't malicious, you needed to do something to seal it up, so,

basically this is like a piece of farm equipment, you are just trying to hurry up and get this fixed. Hutton responded that he wants to fix it right. Gramarossa states you did what you had to do to fix it temporarily. Gramarossa questioned why this is back in front of the board when we gave them permission to put this in back in 2010? Brad Adamsky responds that he thinks the concern is how it's going to be fixed, If I'm hearing both property owners correctly and that's why it's an emergency situation. There're actions being taken and your efforts to at least bandage or temporarily fix, that's concerning the other property owners. Hutton states that he is having a terrible time trying to irrigate without that structure. His river screen will only run 4 or 5 hours, maybe. Adamsky adds this structure is only in use June, July, and August, so you only have a few more weeks.

Mark Scarborough approached the Board and stated that he wanted to go back to the comments made by Greg Werner and what he said to him. I did not tell him that he needs to do everything he can do to irrigate. The first thing I told him was that he needed to place the clay. I told Mr. Werner that he needed to do everything he could do to seal the dam up so that it wouldn't wash the dam out. Further down in our conversations, we talked about irrigating. He understands, as a farmer, our soils are sandy. Anything we can do to irrigate in our County, you try to do it. He told me that he just wanted to pull the dam. He went on to say that it's illegal to have that dam in there. Then I said if we pull that dam, we have to pull all the dams in the County. If that's what we want to do, then that's the road we have to go down, but I don't think we want to do that, because these dams are helping more than hurting. Scarborough told Werner that the sediment that comes out of there, he will clean it out, he will clean it out for free. Scarborough doesn't think the dam needs to be removed, it's his understanding from talking to other farmers in the area that have dams, that their dams have blown out a couple of times this year and they just go in and fix it. They do what they got to do to fix it and they move on. Jeff Mitzner read a letter he got from a nearby farmer which stated: "Dear La Porte County Drainage Board, I'm writing to you in regard to the structure being discussed today. It was installed by Rick Hutton just north of 1700 S and just east of 900 W. My wife and I own the property just to the south of Mr. Hutton's farm. Our farm is irrigated with two 8 in. electric submersible water wells. Since the installation of the structure in the above stated ditch, we have felt that the performance of our water wells has increased, so therefore, we support the structure. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. James Rice". Chad Hertges had a question: If those guys felt they made this in error and were willing to clean it up. Mark Scarborough is willing to clean it up for free, would that help this situation? Does everybody feel, when the structure is working, that everybody benefits?

Greg Werner approached the board and answered the question posed by Chad Hertges. He explained that the people downstream will be adversely affected when the dam is working. He also discussed the tiles being plugged, not allowing water to flow through the tiles. Werner also mentioned dealing with the consequences of the ditch cleaning. He also mentioned guidelines if the dam is left in place. Chad Hertges states that it sounds like the best solution would be for everyone involved to work together since this ditch is not assessed. Werner states that you can pump out of a ditch as little as 6" deep.

Mark Scarborough approached the Board and explained the reasoning behind putting in a well instead of using the river screen. Scarborough explained that Mr. Hutton needs to put in four boards in order for Mr. Werner and Mr. Mitzner to receive water through the tiles. Jeff Mitzner asked Brad Adamsky if we can technically tell him how much water he can hold back? Adamsky responds that the structure has been around for 15 years and no one has challenged the dam before this current damage. If you want to get a petition before because the property owners feel it's damaging their property, where was that petition in the last fifteen years? This is an emergency situation that needs to be fixed now. Any long-term issues will need to be properly added to the agenda, so other property owners and other records can be brought in.

Otto Werner approached the board and stated that they were never notified about this being put in. He also doesn't know of any other neighbors' that were notified. It was put in without us knowing. Adamsky mentioned that we are just going by the meetings from May of 2010 which stated there was a public hearing at the time. A brief discussion took place referencing notification of homeowners in May of 2010.

Jeff Mitzner states that we need to decide on how we're going to handle this.

Chad Hertges asks can we open the buckets up so everyone gets water.

Rick Hutton approached the board and stated the structure is not being used right now while it's being repaired. It's not holding back any water. Mitzner asked Hutton if he is going to put any boards back this year? Hutton answered no. Hutton stated he is not going to be messing with until it can be repaired. Gramarossa asked Adamsky what the board's role would be in overseeing this repair project? Adamsky replied it depended on what the project is, if it's replacing or repairing what is already in place then that wouldn't necessarily be before the board, because the board has already approved that. If it's something new or more aggressive, the board would want to verify that and probably have to approve it.

Tony Hendricks approached the Board and stated for the record it's not a dam, it's a control structure. A dam is a permissible structure in the State of Indiana. So, we look at how they impact upstream, does it start flooding somebody, it has a lot of fall in it and I think everyone is right about the foot and a half impact upstream into the next County road and then you look at the impact downstream. You're looking at a ditch or river that is flowing constantly. Now you said there is some percolation in the soil and there could be because it's nice sandy soil down there. The ditch or river runs constantly, so you are holding back a certain amount of water at a level, then the ditch keeps flowing. You still get water, and it might not be very much, especially in summer, it might be very little, but it's still flowing. Once you hold back X amount of water, X amount of water still flows down the ditch and then it impacts the field tiles and everything. So, yes Matt Welsh put it in, he does a lot of water control structures in La Porte County in the state of Indiana and if it blew out underneath because of an animal or something blew out underneath it, he's going to have to find a way to stabilize that structure and make sure it doesn't blow out around the edges of the ditches. So, in my opinion, the Drainage Board's jurisdiction here is to make sure that yes, the silt that's in there needs to be cleaned out. The structure underneath it needs to be stabilized. Probably the structures on the sides of the bank need to be stabilized because you don't want your ditch sloughed off and running downstream and I believe that's up to the owner and I believe John South or a drainage board person as long as there's not more than three there, could go out and look at it and decide, yes, this is something you work



with. As far as fill in the State of Indiana or anywhere in the United States, if you're above the ordinary high-water mark, it's just up to your jurisdiction because you're not filling in a stream, a lake, a river, or a wetland. So, that's what happened back in the day, we looked at it, it flowed over, they were discussing the number of boards in it, when they're going to put them in there, who's going to back up water and who's going to get less water downstream, but again, a ditch or a river flows constantly. You will back a certain amount and then it will flow over and keep flowing that amount. You're just holding water temporarily at a level to irrigate out of. Chad Hertges motioned to get the water control structure fixed and to end out the season with it and give them opportunities to get with Matt to get something on the books for the future. Jeff Mitzner asks if he can help change the motion a little bit. Let's make the motion that he can keep the dam in there, getting it fixed correctly and don't use the dam any more this year. Let's just let it sit. Crop's are just about done. Let's let it sit. Try to get it fixed as quick as we can. Get with John and myself when you get ready to do it and if we don't like what you're going to do, we'll bring it back in front of the Board. Pat Vance seconded. Motion passed.

Jeff Mitzner posed the next question: if this dam blows out again, he's going to need to come back to us. I want that in a motion that if, after we repair this this time, if it comes out again, he needs to come before the Drainage Board before he does anything. Pat Vance makes the motion. Chad Hertges seconded. Motion passed. Mitzner states that he has no problem with Mark cleaning it. It's on our 75' easement. Mitzner asks Rick, what do you want to do? Keep everybody happy. Get an independent contractor. What do you want to do to clean the ditch? We have to clean the ditch and I want it done ASAP. So, right now, we are going to clean from the structure to the T-bridge and we're going to see what that looks like and I think we're going to have to go a little bit further. Malecki has seed corn there. We can go past their bean border and we could clean that ditch further down to Butch's, so we get that straightened out and maybe some of that water would wash that sand down there, so we get this all taken care of at once. We know that ditch is going to flow fast enough. So, if we go from the bean border, we clean that first, dig to Butch's first, get that cleaned first. Maybe that'll wash enough water down to get that sand out of that little spot and we might have to come fix it around spring or after the crop is harvested. I think we need to get as much ditch cleaned right now as soon as possible. If we're going to clean the ditch on Werners, that sand has to be hauled out of there and the filter strip has to be fixed on your dime. We'll talk to Malecki to see if they want the sand or if we're going to have to haul that out too. We're going to be within our 75' easement. Do you want to hire an independent contractor? What do you want to do? He wants an independent contractor. So, to make everybody happy. Unintelligible conversation from the audience. Speaker was not at the podium. Connie Gramarossa asks John South, you go out afterwards and inspect, correct? So, no matter who does it, whether it was someone independent or one of the property owners that does it, you go out and inspect it. South responded yes, I do. Gramarossa adds we're going to make sure the work is being properly done regardless of who does it, because we have John South that goes out and inspects it. Mitzner asks are you ok with that Greg? If Mark does it and we come out and inspect it and if we don't like it, he has to redo it? Connie Gramarossa motions that whoever is going to do it, make sure that it is inspected afterward by our drainage Board person, which is John South. Once it's done let John South know. He'll come out and he'll inspect it. Then he'll report to the Board at the following meeting. Rick Hutton approached the Board and asked about the spoils. Jeff Mitzner adds that he wants to add this to Connie Gramarossa's

motion because we need to discuss this. Hutton asked why can't the spoils just be leveled off? It's CRP ground, I think or something. It's not farmable ground. Why do we have to remove all that sand? All of that sand is not on my dime. Mitzner suggests that from the dam to the T-bridge we haul that sand off. I'm trying to keep everybody happy here. He wants it hauled off. I got your dam to stay. He wants the dirt hauled off, we're going to haul off the dirt. Gramarossa continues her motion to have him repair it, whatever needs to be hauled off, it'll be hauled off and if it requires reseeding, then reseeding will happen, and then after everything is done, John South will go out and inspect it and then report back to the Board to make sure that everything was done correctly. Chad Hertges seconded. Motion passed.

HUDSON LAKE: Georgette Joyce approached the board and reported that the lake is severely low, it's 3" below the weir. People have had to take out their boats. The sad part is a lot of the lake bed is starting to be exposed and now we have more possibility for invasive species, because seed and everything is getting to it. We have a new board member, Austin Kosinski, and he is going to be managing Facebook and Instagram. The second treatment for Starry Stonewort will happen shortly. The sediment removal for site one has been completed. Now they are moving equipment, so we can do site four and that is the southern channel. Amazon Web Services has donated \$20,000 that helps towards the invasive species treatment, it's grants as well as future dredging and other projects. We also partner with Hudson Township. Amazon has also given another 10 grand to bring electricity to our parks. Going back to the lake level, we are looking at the USGS device that was talked about earlier, as well. We have done similar research and we're hoping we can get grants from these businesses that are so generously helping our community, because when we are thinking about the lake level and we need legal information and data, if we have to raise the legal level of the lake, so we're looking at that.

BRAD ADAMSKY, ATTORNEY: No Report

JOHN MATWYSHYN, SURVEYOR: Yes, I've had a request from John South to clarify a comment I made during the budget meetings. The council was asking me about some of the communications and with regard to the back of the drain crossing application, their communications mentioned that should be done before work starts and after work is done. I had mentioned that I had seen no communications and I did not, because the council had a copy of the form in front of them. They knew I was talking about the drain crossings, but people watching the video would not have that indication. So, I'd like to apologize for the ambiguity that caused some discomfort on the part of John, leaving the impression that there's no communications.

JOINT BOARDS: Jeff Mitzner reported there is a Four-County Drainage Board meeting on Thursday and that he has been selected by Scott Pelath to be on the KRBC Technical Advisory Committee and we have a meeting there on the 21<sup>st</sup> of this month

CLAIMS:

**DRAIN CROSSING APPLICATION REVIEW, KABELIN DRAIN, NIPSCO, TONY HENDRICKS - \$75**

Pat Vance motioned to pay the claim. Mark Scarborough seconded. Motion passed.

**DRAINAGE STUDY, TONY HENDRICKS, SRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP - \$785**

Mark Scarborough motioned to pay the claim. Pat Vance seconded. Motion passed.

**BANK SPRAYING 2025, BULL DITCH - \$3,750**

Chad Hertges motioned to pay the claim. Mark Scarborough seconded. Motion passed.

**DAVEY ARM OF THE RODMAN DITCH, DITCH MAINTENANCE, VARRO SERVICES - \$38,750 + \$6,060 = \$44,810**

Mark Scarborough motioned to pay the claim. Chad Hertges seconded. Motion passed.

**SCIPIO SUNRISE URBAN DRAIN, DRAIN MAINTENANCE, AL ALLSOP CONSTRUCTION - \$20,000**

Pat Vance motioned to pay the claim. Mark Scarborough seconded. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Jeff Mitzner asked for a motion to adjourn. Pat Vance motioned to adjourn, Chad Hertges seconded. Motion passed. Jeff Mitzner adjourned the meeting. The next regular meeting is Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Room #3 at 8:30 AM.

John South, Secretary  
Dated: August 12, 2025

Video replay of this meeting can be found at this location:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7J4qVe5vnvk&list=PL8L8Y5g9S6bq8rUrYSH2oxusFpU9I1\\_Z&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7J4qVe5vnvk&list=PL8L8Y5g9S6bq8rUrYSH2oxusFpU9I1_Z&index=2)