MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LAPORTE COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD
FEBRUARY 10, 2026
LAPORTE COUNTY COMPLEX MEETING ROOM 3
LAPORTE, INDIANA
8:30 AM

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

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. Pat Vance motioned to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Mark Scarborough seconded. Motion passed.

WHITE DITCH PROJECT, FRANK ZOLTAN COMPLAINT: John South reported that he received a certified letter on the 5th. He added that it is the same one that was in the email he sent to the Board. This was the last correspondence he's had with them.
Jeff Mitzner states that this guy is telling us that we need to pay him $834 for some work that was completed on the White Ditch project that he says we did not seed the bank back and a few other things. I want to lay this to rest, so I'm going to ask for a motion to not pay this and to take this off our agenda. Pat Vance states So Moved. Mark Scarborough seconded. Motion passed.

SINKHOLE, RIDGE RUN, EMERGENCY PROJECT, TARNOW PROPERTY: Elmer Varro approached the Board and gave an update on the tile repair project. Varro reported that the materials are out on the job. Yesterday they went out and plugged off the waterline. They are getting ready to proceed on digging that up. It's down about 12' in that spot. They are hoping the manhole is ok, but they won't know until they are there, because the sinkhole is only 4' or 5' from the edge of the manhole. From going down the manhole he didn't see any damage, so he thinks the manhole is alright.

SCHURZ DITCH, LOUIS SPEAR, COMPLAINT: The Schurz Ditch presentation by Louis Spear was tabled until later in the meeting, because Louis was not yet present at the meeting.

GALENA MEADOWS BIDS: The Board opened 3 bids for the Galena Meadows Mowing Project:

Allsop Construction - $7,500

Precision Land - $2,650

Davey Resource Group - $1,500

Pat Vance motions to accept the bid for $1,500 from Davey Resource Group. Mark Scarborough seconded. Motion passed.

BANK SPRAYING 2026 BIDS: The Board opened one bid for the O'Hara-Rice Ditch Bank Spraying # 1:

Davey Resource Group - $1,900

The Board decided to open all bids for projects located on the O'Hara-Rice Ditch, before awarding the bids, to make sure there is ample money to cover all projects.

The Board opened one bid for the O'Hara-Rice Ditch Bank Spraying #2:

Davey Resource Group - $1,235

The Board opened one bid for the O'Hara-Rice Ditch Bank Spraying #3:

Davey Resource Group - $2,025

The Board opened three bids for the O'Hara-Rice Ditch Tree Removal Project:

Varro Services - $3,800

Davey Resource Group - $7,800

Precision Land - $3,200

The Board opened four bids for O'Hara-Rice Ditch Mowing Project #1:

Carl Netzer - $5,900

Al Allsop Construction, Inc. - $19,000

Varro Services - $10,750

Davey Resource Group - $9,675

The Board opened three bids for the O'Hara-Rice Ditch Mowing Project #2

Al Allsop Construction, Inc. - $19,000

Varro Services - $28,500

Davey Resource Group - $4,800

After a brief discussion, it was determined that this project was only supposed to be for the West side of the Ditch, not both sides. The Board decided to rebid this project for the WEST SIDE ONLY.

Pat Vance motioned to accept the following bids. Chad Hertges seconded.: O'Hara-Rice Bank Spraying #1 - Davey Resource Group - $1,900, O'Hara-Rice Bank Spraying #2 - Davey Resource Group - $1,235, O'Hara-Rice Bank Spraying #3 - Davey Resource Group - $2,025, O'Hara-Rice Tree Removal - Precision Land - $3,200, O'Hara-Rice Mowing #1 - Carl Netzer - $5,900. Motion passed.

BANK SPRAYING 2026: The Board opened one bid for the Berringer Ditch Bank Spraying Project:

Davey Resource Group - $2,800

Pat Vance motioned to accept the bid of $2,800 from Davey Resource Group. Mark Scarborough seconded. motion passed.

The Board opened one bid for the Davey Arm of the Rodman Ditch Bank Spraying Project:

Davey Resource Group - $1,150

Mark Scarborough motioned to accept the bid of $1,150 from Davey Resource Group. Pat Vance seconded. Motion passed.

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UPCOMING PROJECTS: The Board opened three bids for the Little Kankakee River Tree Removal Project #1:

Al Allsop Construction, Inc, - $7,500

Davey Resource Group - $7,800

Varro Services - $6,500

The Board opened four bids for the Little Kankakee River Tree Removal Project #2:

Varro Services - $10,500

Davey Resource Group - $6,000

Carl Netzer - $2,900

Al Allsop Construction, Inc. - $4,500

Mark Scarborough motioned to accept the bid of $6,500 from Varro Services for Project #1 and the bid of $2,900 for Carl Netzer for Project #2. Pat Vance seconded. Motion passed.

The Board opened three bids for the Rodman Ditch Tree Removal Project:

Precision Land - $8,400

Al Allsop Construction, Inc. - $7,325

Davey Resource Group - $28,000

The Board opened three bids for the Rodman Ditch Brushing Project:

Al Allsop Construction, Inc. - $9,700

Carl Netzer - $7,400

Davey Resource Group - $5,600

Mark Scarborough motions to accept the bid of $7,325 from Allsop for the Rodman Tree Removal Project and the bid of $5,600 from Davey for the Rodman Brushing Project. Pat Vance seconded. Motion passed.

The Board opened three bids for the Moon Ditch Tree Removal Project:

Al Allsop Construction, Inc. - $10,000, 2,000’ @ $5.00/ft

Davey Resource Group – 1,650’ @ $6.00/ft

Precision Land – 1,739’ @ $5.75/ft

Pat Vance motions to accept the bid from Allsop for the Moon Ditch Tree Removal Project. Chad Hertges seconded. Motion passed.

The Board opened three bids for the McKellips Ditch Mowing Project:

Al Allsop Construction, Inc. – 1,000’ @ $8.50/ft

Varro Services – 1,600’ @ $5.31/ft

Davey Resource Group – 2,200’ @ $3.85/ft

Mark Scarborough motions to accept the bid from Davey Resource Group for the McKellips Ditch Mowing Project. Pat Vance seconded. Motion passed.

The Board opened three bids for the Scipio Sunrise Basin #3 Mowing Project:

Al Allsop Construction, Inc. - $5,000

Precision Land - $7,400

Davey Resource Group - $1,800

Chad Hertges motions to accept the bid of $1,800 from Davey Resource Group for the Scipio Sunrise Basin #3 Mowing Project. Mark Scarborough seconded. Motion passed.

DRAIN CROSSING APPLICATION, RIDGE RUN, SURF INTERNET: John South reported that Beacon doesn’t show the correct location for the Ridge Run Drain. South presented a map to the Board showing the correct location. South stated that he dug into this and also talked to Elmer Varro, who estimated the depth of the Drain in this area is between 20’ – 22’. South estimated that the conduit will need to go at least 25’. Jeff Mitzner asked for a motion to require Surf Internet to go at least 25’ deep with conduit. Mitzner informed the surveyor that this is going to need to be checked when they’re out there and that he needs to be there. Chad Hertges motions that Surf goes under the tile at a depth of 25’. Pat Vance seconded. Motion passed.

DRAIN CROSSING APPLICATION, MULTIPLE DITCHES, ZAYO: John South reported that he has received all the applications from Zayo and all of the applications state a minimum of 48” below the bottom of the ditches. South stated there are 11 applications. Mitzner asks if there is anyway we can go back on that to prove it? Brad Adamsky responds that they are basically asking for forgiveness instead of permission. Mitzner adds that they need to verify the depth. We need better verification. South adds so we need them to send us the specs for each crossing? Mitzner replies yes. issue was tabled until the next meeting.

DRAIN CROSSING APPLICATION, KABELIN DRAIN, TIM KAWACIN: John South reported that this is another one where the location of the Drain is shown wrong on Beacon. South did some digging and was able to find a map showing the actual location of the drain which is to the southwest of the location shown on Beacon. The owner's garage burnt down, and he would like to replace it with a larger garage. Jeff Mitzner asked if we know how deep and how big it is? South replied we don't know. Brad Adamsky states that he thinks even the property owner would want a survey on this. Mitzner responds that we are going to need to get a survey. South added that the homeowner is applying for a variance to build within the setback. Adamsky adds that whether it's the property owner or the board requires a survey, everything's got to be located properly. Mitzner states that they are going to have to dig down and find it. Tell us how deep it is and how close they are actually going to be to it. Mitzner adds that he is going

to have to pay for this. We are not going to pay for it. He is going to need to locate the depth, how many exact feet he's going to be from our Drain and the size of it. Mark Scarborough made a motion to that effect. Chad Hertges seconded. Motion passed

WEBSTER DITCH, GEORGE LEDONNE, TREE REMOVAL: George Ledonne approached the Board and reported that he had sent a letter to Nancy Malone in regard to getting the ditch cleaned along her property. Ledonne reported that Malone sent a letter back stating that there is no obstruction in the water. There are trees that have fallen over from bank to bank and she is going to remove those. Ledonne also added that she has excavators there working on a different part of her property. Malone also mentioned in her letter that she thinks that the culvert under Hwy 6 is too high. Ledonne mentioned that he addressed that back in 2023. IDOT sent him a letter stating that the culvert is not an issue. Ledonne stated that they are suffering damages. Mike Coulter has decided not to farm the ground anymore. Ledonne stated that he has received a letter from the USDA that they are going to reduce the farm acreage there because it is not farmable. Ledonne states that he is requesting permission from the Board to solicit bids to the specs that were used when the board cleaned the ditch along his property, dig down one to two feet, remove the silt, clean the banks, put down the vegetation killer, all that needs to be done to put that ditch, Nancy Malone's ditch, where it needs to be.
Jeff Mitzner responds that he was involved in this back in 2022 or 23. He's been on the property. It is holding back water. Mitzner states that this is a court drain ditch with no money. Mitzner asks Ledonne so you are asking for the use of our easement to go in and clean the ditch? Ledonne responds yes. Mark Scarborough motions to grant Mr. Ledonne authority to use our easement.
Carl Netzer approached the Board and stated that the trees in the front stretch will be out in the week to two weeks. The trees will be out of that ditch. Netzer stated they will make sure there are no obstructions in that ditch. Pat Vance seconded Mark Scarborough's previous motion. Motion passed.

Jeff Mitzner added the follow topic to the agenda:

SLOCUM DITCH, BEAVER DAMS, WEINKAUFF: Brent Weinkauff approached the Board and asked for permission to use the right-of-way to clear beaver dams, the trees that are in the Ditch, and to tidy up the water flow to make this ditch flow better. Mitzner asks if they are going to clean the ditch? Weinkauff responds remove the trees, brush, and beaver dams that are in the ditch. Mitzner asks you're not going to clean the ditch? Weinkauff answers that they will dip a little bit of the ditch. Nathan Howell approached the Board and stated that he understands there is an issue there. Mitzner responds that the Weinkauff want to come in and clean the ditch, tidy some stuff up. They're going to have to come through our easement to be able to do that. Mitzner asked Weinkauff if they are going to remove any mature trees? Weinkauff stated they are going to leave things standing the best they can. Jeff Mitzner asked if the two of them can work it out? They responded yes. Mitzner asked for a motion to give them permission to go on our easement, at their expense, to clean this mess up. Pat Vance motioned. Mark Scarborough seconded. Motion passed.

Jeff Mitzner added the following topic to the agenda:

CINCOSKI, NON-REGULATED DRAIN, PUMP: Chad Hertges reported that Mr. Cincoski contacted him in regard to an issue with a pump. Mark Scarborough added that Mr. Cincoski called him last night and told him that somebody is pumping and asked him to pay a quarter of the pumping bill. Cincoski is a new tenant to the ground and he doesn't feel that he owes a quarter of it, so he does not want to pay it. and they then threaten to block off the ditch. Mitzner stated that they can't legally shut off the water. Brad Adamsky adds they're threatening to do it but haven't actually done it. if they obstruct or block a naturally flowing course of water, you would have authority, but they are just threatening to do it, so there is nothing for you to act on. Mitzner adds to tell Cowboy if they do it, he needs to come to a Board meeting.

HUDSON LAKE: Georgette Joyce approached the Board and reported that the water is still below the weir. They will be servicing the Drain when the weather breaks. Hard to tell the exact level because of the snow. They applied for the grants, still haven't heard. The sediment removal is done, but the equipment is still on the lake frozen. They will have to wait for that to thaw. They will do the sites once the mud has dried out.

BRAD ADAMSKY, ATTORNEY: No Report

JOHN MATWYSHYN, SURVEYOR: John Matwyshyn reported that he was asked to contact the city engineer and he did so. He sent a copy to the members of the committee. He reminded them yesterday. He sent a follow-up email, so they know the meeting is for today. He would like to amplify for the minutes that there was a request that he follow-up with Surf internet for the Ridge Run crossing. The President nodded in his direction. He nodded that he would be there. He just wanted to make sure that the names are attached for the minutes for the future. Also, something for the future, he was contacted by a proposed solar farm going in property that adjoins a regulated drain. They indicated that they met with John South on Wednesday of last week. maybe they didn't, I don't know. But, anyway, that's coming in the future. They don't have final engineering drawings yet and they need to get a zoning variance because it's currently agricultural land and our current ordinance does not permit a solar farm to be built on agricultural land

JOINT BOARDS: Mitzner reports that they have a meeting on Thursday.

SCHURZ DITCH, LOUIS SPEAR, COMPLAINT: Louis Spear approached the Board at the 1:11:00 mark of the meeting. The presentation by Mr. Spear and the subsequent discussion of his complaint regarding the Schurz Ditch ended at approximately the 2:11:00 mark of the meeting. If you wish to view the entirety of the fifty-nine-minute presentation and discussion, please follow the link provided at the end of these minutes. The result of the discussion was the topic was tabled until the next meeting.

CLAIMS: No claims

$2,735 available in engineer fund

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT: Pat Vance motioned to adjourn. Mark Scarborough seconded. Jeff Mitzner adjourned the meeting at 10:40 AM. The next regular meeting is Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at the LaPorte County Complex Meeting Room #3 at 8:30 AM.

John South, Secretary
Dated: February 10, 2026

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSR9u2kmy5E&list=PL8L8Y5g9S6bq8rlUrYSH2oxusFpU9Il_Z&index=1