

**KOSCIUSKO COUNTY
DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING
APRIL 25, 2024**

PRESENT

JIM SCOTT – VICE CHAIRMAN
DENNIS DARR
JOE IRWIN
STEVE METZGER

ABSENT

CARY GRONINGER – CHAIRMAN

ALSO PRESENT

MIKE KISSINGER – SURVEYOR
SANDY ANGEL – DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY
AMY HURD – GIS TECHNICIAN

LAND OWNERS PRESENT

CHAD TUCKER
GEORGE AND LORNA STROHSCHIEIN
MICHAEL MURPHY
LINDA HEIGHWAY
HEATHER HEIGHWAY GRIFFITH
SEAN KOOS

JIM SCOTT – VICE CHAIRMAN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER.

MARCH CLAIMS AND MINUTES

JOE IRWIN MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CLAIMS AND MINUTES FROM MARCH AS PRESENTED SUBJECT TO ANY AND ALL AUDITS. STEVE METZGER SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

BIERCE VARIANCE – KOOS

MIKE KISSINGER PRESENTED A VARIANCE REQUEST FOR THE BIERCE DRAIN BROUGHT TO HIM BY NEAL BROWN FROM THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT. THE PROPERTY OWNERS' SEPTIC SYSTEM HAS FAILED AND THEY ARE LIMITED ON WHERE THEY DO REPAIRS TO THE NEW SYSTEM. BROWN SAYS HE HAS HAD SOIL BORINGS DONE, AND HE FEELS THEY CAN DO THE NEEDED REPAIRS IF A 50 FOOT VARIANCE IS GRANTED. SEAN KOOS, THE PROPERTY OWNER, WAS PRESENT AND CONFIRMED THE REQUEST WAS AS KISSINGER STATED. AFTER DISCUSSION, JOE IRWIN MOTIONED TO GRANT A VARIANCE FOR 50 FEET. DENNIS DARR SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

SEDALIA WHITE HEARING

KISSINGER REPORTED THAT THE DRAIN HAS 5.3 MILES OF OPEN DRAIN AND 8.2 MILES OF TILE DRAIN. THE WATERSHED IS ABOUT 3750 ACRES. CURRENTLY THE RATE IS \$1.25 PER ACRE WITH A \$6.25 MINIMUM. ANNUAL COLLECTION IS \$4,717.10 AND IT STOPS COLLECTING WHEN THERE IS A BALANCE OF FOUR YEARS COLLECTION. THE LAST HEARING WAS IN 1982, AND THE RATE WAS INCREASED 25% IN 1997. THERE IS ADDITIONAL CLEARING TO DO OVER THE TILE AND DEBRUSHING OF 3,800 FEET OF OPEN DRAIN WITH AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$25-30 THOUSAND. ESTIMATED ANNUAL MAINTENANCE IS \$12-15 THOUSAND. THE DRAIN IS CURRENTLY IN DEBT \$22,484.03.

THE PROPOSED ASSESSMENT IS \$5 PER ACRE WITH A \$50 MINIMUM WHICH WOULD COLLECT \$21,117.45 PER YEAR.

THE MEETING WAS OPENED TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS. MIKE MURPHY, THE SON-IN-LAW OF LAND OWNER LINDA HEIGHWAY SAID HE HAD SENT A LETTER/EMAIL TO MIKE KISSINGER REGARDING THIS DRAIN. HE ASKED WHEN THE CURRENT WORK ORDER ON THEIR PROPERTY WOULD BE COMPLETED. KISSINGER RESPONDED THAT WORK HAD BEEN STOPPED DUE TO THE NEGATIVE BALANCE OF THE DRAIN FUND, AND IT IS UP TO THE DRAINAGE BOARD IF WORK IS TO CONTINUE. MURPHY SAID THE PROPERTY WAS PART OF A FORESTRY PROGRAM WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE WALNUT TREES TO BE HARVESTED FOR INCOME. THIS INCOME POTENTIAL HAS NOW BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED DUE TO THE 150 FOOT WIDE DEBRUSHING THAT WAS DONE. THE WORK HAS BEEN STARTED AND NOT COMPLETED AND THERE IS STANDING WATER AND MUCK. IN THE PAST WATER HAD BEEN MOVING, BUT NOW IT IS STANDING. MURPHY FELT MORE THAN A LETTER SHOULD HAVE BEEN SENT TO NOTIFY THE PROPERTY OWNER OF THE UPCOMING WORK. HE REQUESTED THAT THE LANDOWNER BE COMPENSATED FOR THE LOSS OF INCOME FROM THE WALNUT TREES THAT WERE CUT. KISSINGER EXPLAINED THAT THERE IS STILL A 75 FEET RIGHT OF WAY ON EACH SIDE OF THE DRAIN EVEN ON ANY PROPERTY IN FORESTRY PROGRAMS. ANY CROPS IN THIS RIGHT OF WAY ARE AT RISK. HE IS NOT SURE THE DIVISION OF FORESTRY EXPLAINED THIS FULLY TO THE HEIGHWAY FAMILY. HE ALSO SAID THAT A NOTIFICATION LETTER WAS SENT IN SEPTEMBER AND A WORKORDER WAS INCLUDED WITH THE LETTER. THE WORKORDER SAYS TO GRIND AND CHIP ALL THE BRUSH AND TREES. KISSINGER SAID THEY HAD NOT DONE ANY WORK IN THESE WOODS FOR A LONG TIME. THE FIRST RECENT WORKORDER WAS FOR DEBRUSHING AND THEN IT WAS IDENTIFIED THERE WERE TILE PROBLEMS SO THERE WERE FURTHER WORK ORDERS. DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS, WORK WAS HALTED.

HEATHER HEIGHWAY GRIFFITH, THE DAUGHTER OF LAND OWNER LINDA HEIGHWAY, EXPRESSED A DESIRE IN THE FUTURE THAT IF A PROPERTY IS IN A FORESTRY PROGRAM, A CONSERVATIVE APPROACH BE TAKEN WITH CLEARING. SHE ALSO FELT THE CONTRACTOR DOING THE DEBRUSING BEHAVED DISRESPECTFULLY. GRIFFITH FELT THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE COMMUNICATION THAN A LETTER PRIOR TO THE WORK.

CHAD TUCKER, OF CC TUCKER FARMS, SAID THAT 34% OF THE INCOME FROM THE DRAIN ASESMENT WOULD COME FROM HIS PROPERTY. THE INCREASE IN THE DRAIN ASSESSMENT WE ARE PROPOSING IS A 400% INCREASE. HE FEELS THAT THE HOFF PROPERTY WOULD BENEFIT MOST FROM ANY DRAIN WORK AND THAT HOFF SHOULD HAVE BEEN APPROACHED ABOUT COST SHARING. HE PROPOSED THAT WE GO TO \$3 PER ACRE INSTEAD OF \$5 SO IT WOULDN'T HAVE SUCH A BIG IMPACT ON THEIR CASH FLOW. TUCKER ASKED IF THE PROJECT HAD BEEN BID. KISSINGER SAID DUE TO A LACK OF CONTRACTOR AVAILABILITY, THE PROJECT WAS NOT BID, BUT A QUOTE WAS PROVIDED. THE STATE DOES NOT REQUIRE ANYTHING UNDER \$150,000 BE BID. KISSINGER SAID THAT PAST SURVEYORS TRIED TO AVOID DRAIN HEARINGS, DUE TO THE COSTS TO LANDOWNERS. THIS DRAIN RATE SHOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN ADJUSTED PREVIOUSLY. PUBLIC COMMENT WAS CONCLUDED.

COMMENTS WERE OPENED TO THE DRAINAGE BOARD. JOE IRWIN FELT THAT AS SOON AS FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE, THE PROBLEMS WITH THIS DRAIN NEED TO BE ADDRESSED. IRWIN ALSO ASKED WHAT THE COST WOULD BE TO COMPLETE THE WORK. KISSINGER SAID THE COST COULD NOT BE DETERMINED UNTIL FURTHER INVESTIGATION WAS DONE. AFTER DISCUSSION, THE BOARD DECIDED THAT THE SURVERYOR SHOULD DO FURTHER INVESTIGATION IN ORDER TO GET AN ESTIMATE OF WHAT IT WILL COST TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT IN THE HEIGHWAY WOODS. ONCE THAT INFORMATION IS

AVAILABLE, A DECISION CAN BE MADE ON MOVING FORWARD. KISSINGER ASKED THE HEIGHWAY FAMILY IF THE CURRENT TILE CONTRACTOR WAS ACCEPTABLE TO THEM AND THEY SAID THAT CONTRACTOR WAS ACCEPTABLE. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION, DENNIS DARR MOVED TO APPROVE THE RATE OF \$5 PER ACRE WITH A \$50 MINIMUM AND A 4 YEAR MAXIMUM COLLECTION. JOE IRWIN SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

ISAIAH KUHN RATES

MIKE KISSINGER SAID HE WAS GOING TO PROPOSE A RATE INCREASE FOR THE ISAIAH KUHN DRAIN THIS MONTH. PART OF THE WATERSHED GOES THROUGH NORTH WEBSTER AND WE DO NOT HAVE A REPORT OF THE STORM SEWERS FOR THAT TOWN. HE IS WAITING TO SEE IF HE CAN GET SOME INFORMATION FROM NORTH WEBSTER ON THEIR STORM SEWERS PRIOR TO FINALIZING THE WATERSHED. HE HOPES TO HAVE A RECOMMENDATION FOR THE MAY MEETING.

ADJOURN

BEING OF NO FURTHER BUSINESS JOE IRWIN MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. STEVE METZGER SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

CLAIMS

4/9/34

BIERCE	GARY DANT	\$240.00	1158
CONRAD WILLIAM	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,200.00	2700
CONRAD WILLIAM	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$270.19	2700
DANNER	GARY DANT	\$180.00	1158
ELDER	GARY DANT	\$180.00	2700
GAY EASTERDAY ROBINSON	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$87.13	2700
GAY EASTERDAY ROBINSON	JJT HAULING & EXC	\$460.00	2700
GILLIAM WILLIAM	TIMBER VALLEY	\$480.00	2700
KOONTZ MARY	TIMBER VALLLEY	\$480.00	1158
KOONTZ MARY	SHANKSTER BROS	\$3,202.74	1158
KOONTZ MARY	LI EXCAVATING	\$3,300.00	2700
KOONTZ MARY	SHANKSTER BROS	\$246.98	1158
KOONTZ MARY	KLINE TRUCKING & EXC	\$973.10	1158
KOONTZ MARY	LI EXCAVATING	\$30,288.71	2700
KOONTZ MARY	LI EXCAVATING	\$1,612.50	1158
KOONTZ MARY	LI EXCAVATING	\$399.72	2700
		\$710.28	1158
MCCONNELL NEVIN	DON'S EXCAVATING	\$2,110.00	2700
MILLER JB	KLINE TRUCKING & EXC	\$807.50	1158
PETERSON MARTIN	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,680.00	1158
PETERSON MARTIN	KLINE TRUCKING & EXC	\$1,242.50	1158
PYLE JOHN	M KOLESIAK CONST	\$18,848.32	2700
		\$121.68	1158
RUPLE ALLEN	RANSBOTTOM EXC	\$12,992.50	1158
SHANTON	GARY DANT	\$240.00	2700
SHOEMAKER ISAAC	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,970.00	1158
SHOEMAKER ISAAC	SHANKSTER	\$374.40	1158
SWICK MEREDITH	GARY DANT	\$240.00	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	TIMBER VALLEY	\$720.00	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	BRYANT LAKE & LAWN	\$750.00	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	WARSAW WHOLESAL	\$483.20	2700
WALNUT CREEK	GARY DANT	\$480.00	2700
WYLAND	KLINE TRUCKING & EXC	\$1,222.50	2700

MAINTENANCE: \$61,759.77
GENERAL DRAIN: \$26,834.18

4/23/24

DOKE	LI EXCAVATING	\$9,280.00	1158
KOONTZ MARY	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$42.92	1158
KOONTZ MARY	TIMBER VALLEY	\$630.00	1158
MCCLEARY GOCHENHOUR	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$479.28	2700
MCCLEARY GOCHENHOUR	LI EXCAVATING	\$9,310.00	2700
MCCONNELL NEVIN	M KOLESIAK CONST	\$10,050.00	2700
PLUNGE CREEK	TIMBER VALLEY	\$2,120.00	2700
PLUNGE CREEK	SHANKSTER BROS	\$371.36	2700
ROBBINS MAGEE	TIMBER VALLEY	\$690.00	1158
SHANTON	M KOLESIAK CONST	\$5,470.00	2700
SOLOMAN SECHRIST	BEAVER EXCAVATING	\$2,000.00	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	BEAVER DAM TREE SERVICE	\$5,550.00	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$508.05	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	TIMBER VALLEY	\$3,170.00	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	WARSAW WHOLESAL	\$230.40	2700
SWICK MEREDITH	SHANKSTER BROS	\$3,607.51	2700
VANCUREN	TIMBER VALLEY	\$6,640.00	2700
VANCUREN	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$857.10	2700
VANCUREN	M KOLESIAK CONST	\$9,575.00	2700
VANCUREN	M KOLESIAK CONST	\$12,437.50	2700
WALNUT CREEK	TIMBER VALLEY	\$525.00	2700
WYLAND	TIMBER VALLEY	\$2,310.00	2700

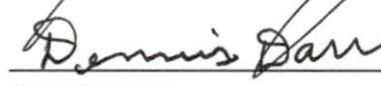
MAINTENANCE: \$75,211.20
GENERAL DRAIN: \$10,642.94

APRIL TOTALS

MAINTENANCE: \$136,970.97
GENERAL DRAIN: \$37,477.12

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD


Cary Groninger – Chairman


Dennis Darr


Joe Irwin


Jim Scott – Vice Chairman


Steve Metzger