

**KOSCIUSKO COUNTY
DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2025**

PRESENT

CARY GRONINGER - CHAIRMAN
JIM SCOTT
JOE IRWIN
STEVE METZGER

ABSENT

DENNIS DARR

ALSO PRESENT

JIM MOYER – SURVEYOR
SANDY ANGEL – DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY
AMY HURD – GIS TECHNICIAN

CARY GRONINGER – CHAIRMAN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER.

DECEMBER MINUTES

JIM SCOTT MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES FROM DECEMBER AS PRESENTED SUBJECT TO ANY AND ALL AUDITS. JOE IRWIN SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

DECEMBER CLAIMS

JOE IRWIN MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CLAIMS FROM DECEMBER AS PRESENTED SUBJECT TO ANY AND ALL AUDITS. JIM SCOTT SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

NEW FORMAT FOR MEETING INFORMATION

JIM MOYER EXPLAINED THAT MEETING INFORMATION WILL BE IN A BINDER FORMAT. RELEVANT INFORMATION WILL BE PLACED IN THE BINDER FOR REFERENCE. THE MEETING AGENDA, BALANCE SHEET AND A WORK ORDER SUMMARY ARE IN THE LEFT-HAND POCKET. THE WORK ORDER SUMMARY LISTS ALL THE INCOMPLETE WORK ORDERS. HE IS UP TO DATE ON ALL OF THOSE PROJECTS. THE FIRST SIX PAGES ARE GENERAL INFORMATION.

- PAGE 1 – MAP OF COUNTY DIVIDED INTO 4 QUADRANTS
- PAGE 2 – MAP SHOWING 2023 WORK ORDER LOCATIONS
- PAGE 3 – MAP SHOWING 2024 WORK ORDER LOCATIONS
- PAGE 4 – SUMMARY OF DRAIN INFORMATION

JIM MOYER NOTED TWO POINTS OF DISCUSSION FOR THE FUTURE. THERE ARE TWELVE DRAINS THAT ARE MORE THAN TWO YEARS IN DEBT. MOYER PLANS TO MONITOR AND LIMIT WORK ON THESE DRAINS. THERE ARE 67 DRAINS THAT COULD HAVE RATES RAISED 25%. OF THOSE 67 DRAINS, 19 HAVE NOT HAD HEARINGS FOR 10 YEARS OR MORE. MOYER FEELS THAT DRAINS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT LEAST EVERY 10 YEARS.

- PAGE 5 – YEARLY COMPARISON OF DITCH EXPENSES
301 WORK ORDERS WERE DONE LAST YEAR AND MOYER DOES NOT INTEND TO DO THAT MANY. HE FEELS TOO MANY WORK ORDERS WERE REISSUED, AND MANY WORK ORDERS WERE DONE FOR MINOR THINGS.
- PAGE 6 – LISTING OF DITCHES NOT COLLECTING IN 2025.
MOYER WOULD LIKE THE BOARD MEMBERS TO TAKE NOTE OF THE LOGAN KIMES, JJ OCONNELL, VANDERMARK, WARNER RUSSELL AND ENOCH WATKINS.

JIM STATED WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THESE MORE IN THE FUTURE. THESE ARE SMALL COLLECTION DRAINS, AND HE HAS IDEAS FOR RAISING RATES, COMBINING THEM WITH OTHER DRAINS OR ABANDONING THEM.

BURKHOLDER RECONSTRUCTION

JIM MOYER EXPLAINED WE HAD A JOINT BOARD MEETING WITH ELKHART AND NOBLE COUNTIES REGARDING THIS DRAIN. RANDY SEXTON, OF NOBLE COUNTY, WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THAT JOINT BOARD. IT STANDS THAT THE BOARD ORDERED THE SURVEYOR TO CREATE A RECONSTRUCTION REPORT. THIS DRAIN INVOLVES A GOOD PORTION OF NAPPANEE WHERE A LOT OF THEIR INDUSTRIAL GROWTH IS. MOYER, ALONG WITH RANDY SEXTON, WOULD LIKE TO HIRE AN ENGINEERING FIRM TO WORK ON THIS PROJECT. HE FEELS THE PROJECT IS A LITTLE BEYOND THE NORMAL SURVEYING PROJECT. IT WILL REQUIRE DETAILED INFORMATION REGARDING ROUTES AND TILE SIZES. JIM PLANS TO TALK TO RANDY SEXTON AND ELKHART COUNTY AND PRESENT SOME SPECIFICATIONS TO SOME ENGINEERING COMPANIES TO BID ON. HE CAN THEN TAKE THOSE BIDS TO THE JOINT BOARD FOR APPROVAL. HE FEELS THIS DRAIN NEEDS TO BE TAKEN CARE OF FIRST BECAUSE IT IS A LARGE PROJECT, AND IT HAS BEEN ON HOLD FOR SOME TIME. CARY GRONINGER MENTIONED IT WAS ALSO A PROBLEM BECAUSE THIS DRAIN HAS BECOME MORE OF A MUNICIPAL STORM SEWER INSTEAD OF JUST AN AGRICULTURAL DRAIN. THE BOARD AGREED THAT A MOTION WAS MADE FOR THIS TO BE DONE IN JULY OF 2023, SO NO FURTHER MOTION WAS NEEDED TO MOVE FORWARD.

SPRAYING

JIM MOYER STATED THAT IN FEBRUARY OF 2021, JIM SCOTT MADE A REQUEST THAT A TEST BE DONE SPRAYING EVERY YEAR FOR A TIME VERSUS SPRAYING IT THE STANDARD OF EVERY THREE YEARS. HE HAS TALKED TO A COUPLE OF SPRAY APPLICATORS, AND THEY AGREE THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN APPLICATIONS WHERE YOU NEED TO SPRAY EVERY YEAR AND WATCH THE GROWTH. MOYER PLANS TO MAKE THAT PART OF HIS SPRAY PROGRAM. IN FEBRUARY OF 2024, THE BOARD ASKED THAT A COMPARISON BE MADE OF SPRAYING AND MOWING. IN AUGUST OF 2019, JIM PREPARED A REPORT FOR MIKE KISSINGER AND AT THAT TIME SPRAYING WAS DONE AT A RATE OF ELEVEN CENTS PER FOOT AND MOWING WAS DONE AT A RATE OF FORTY-FOUR CENTS PER FOOT. HE PREPARED ANOTHER REPORT LOOKING AT 2024 BILLS AND SPRAYING BY DALTONS AVERAGED TWENTY-SIX CENTS A FOOT AND MOWING BY TIMBER VALLEY AVERAGED SEVENTY CENTS PER FOOT. HE FEELS THERE ARE APPLICATIONS WHERE MOWING IS APPROPRIATE, BUT NOT TO THE EXTENT IT HAS BEEN DONE. HE PLANS TO DO MORE SPRAYING, AS HE FEELS IT IS MORE COST EFFECTIVE. IN SEPTEMBER OF 2024, THE BOARD FELT IT WAS TIME TO REBID THE SPRAYING CONTRACT. MOYER HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH DALTONS, RIGHT-OF-WAY MANAGEMENT, A DRONE APPLICATOR AND AN AQUATIC SPRAY APPLICATOR. HE HAS AN APPOINTMENT NEXT WEEK WITH ANOTHER DRONE APPLICATOR. HE IS PUTTING TOGETHER A MORE DETAILED PROGRAM OF WHAT GETS SPRAYED. IN THE PAST, THE SPRAYER WAS LEFT WITH THE DECISION OF WHAT GETS SPRAYED. MOYER PLANS TO TAKE THAT RESPONSIBILITY BACK ON HIMSELF AND TELL THEM WHAT TO SPRAY. HE HAS FORTY PARCELS THAT HAVE BEEN DEBRUSHED IN THE PAST AND HAVE NOT BEEN SPRAYED. HE HAS ANOTHER FORTY PARCELS THAT ARE LESS THAN A MILE LONG. HE WILL COORDINATE THE LARGER BROADCAST SPRAYERS WITH THE DRONE SPRAYERS AND SMALLER ATV OR TRUCK SPRAYERS TO TAKE CARE OF SPOT SPRAYING. JOE IRWIN ASKED IF MOYER WAS GOING TO COME UP WITH A WAY TO KEEP TRACK OF WHAT GETS SPRAYED AND WHEN. MOYER SAID WE PLAN TO DO MUCH BETTER MONITORING OF WHEN AND WHERE THINGS HAVE BEEN SPRAYED. CARY GRONINGER MENTIONED THAT THE COUNTY DOES AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CONDITION OF ALL ROADS AND WONDERED IF WE COULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT WITH DRAINS. JOE IRWIN STATED THAT THE STATUTE SAYS

THAT THE SURVEYOR IS TO GIVE A REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE DRAINS EACH YEAR. GRONINGER FELT THAT HAVING THIS TYPE OF INFORMATION WOULD ALLOW US TO BE MORE PROACTIVE IN MAINTAINING OUR SYSTEM. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN GETTING ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE DRAIN INFRASTRUCTURE. IT WAS AGREED THAT GOOD RECORD KEEPING WAS CRUCIAL TO MOVING IN THIS DIRECTION. JOE IRWIN ASKED WHEN THEY WILL BE DOING SPRAYING. MOYER SAID THE IDEAL TIME IS JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER. CARY GRONINGER SAID THAT FOOTAGE FROM THE DRONE SPRAYERS MIGHT ALSO BE HELPFUL IN EVALUATING DRAIN CONDITIONS. HE ALSO ASKED IF THE COUNTY HAD A DRONE. MOYER SAID WE DO HAVE A DRONE AND HE IS WORKING ON GETTING TRAINED AND LICENSED TO USE IT.

AP JONES

JIM MOYER SAID THIS HAS BEEN A PROBLEM DRAIN FOR SEVERAL REASONS. IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE THERE HAS BEEN A MAINTENANCE HEARING ON THE DRAIN. IT FLOWS OUT OF ELKHART COUNTY INTO KOSCIUSKO COUNTY THEN BACK INTO ELKHART COUNTY. IN 2017, WE STARTED DISCUSSING RAISING MAINTENANCE. AT THAT TIME A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADVERTISE THE RATE AT \$4 PER ACRE AND A \$25.00 MINIMUM. PRIOR TO A HEARING, MIKE KISSINGER DECIDED TO DISCUSS THIS MORE WITH ELKHART COUNTY. THEY WOULD HAVE TO WAIVE THEIR RIGHTS OR FORM A JOINT BOARD TO DISCUSS MORE DETAILS. AT THAT POINT, ACTION STOPPED. IN 2023, DENNIS DARR AND CARY GRONINGER WERE APPOINTED TO REPRESENT KOSCIUSKO ON A JOINT BOARD. MOYER WOULD LIKE TO VOID DARR AND GRONINGER AS JOINT BOARD MEMBERS FOR THE PROJECT. HE WOULD LIKE TO APPROACH ELKHART COUNTY TO FORM A JOINT BOARD AND START ANEW. WHEN IT COMES TIME TO APPOINT MEMBERS, WE CAN DO THAT AGAIN. THIS DRAIN HAS NOT HAD A HEARING SINCE THE SIXTIES. IT IS IN BAD SHAPE AND IS A MUCK DITCH THAT NEEDS ATTENTION. IT DOES NOT COLLECT ENOUGH MONEY TO MAINTAIN ITSELF. JUST A SMALL PORTION OF IT IS TILED. MOST OF IT IS OPEN DRAIN. THE LAND OWNERS ON THE DRAIN IN KOSCIUSKO COUNTY, HAVE REPEATIVELY REQUESTED SOME ACTION. THE BEGINNING OF THE PORTION OF THE DRAIN IN ELKHART COUNTY IS IN A WETLAND ELKHART CREATED. JOE IRWIN MADE A MOTION TO VOID THE CURRENT JOINT BOARD ESTABLISHED FOR THE AP JONES AND START WITH A NEW MAINTENANCE HEARING PLAN. JIM SCOTT SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

ENOCH FELKNER

JIM MOYER SAID THE TOWN OF MILFORD APPROACHED THE COUNTY SURVEYOR TO MAINTAIN THE ENOCH FELKNER DRAIN. IT IS A MAINTENANCE NONREPAYABLE DRAIN THAT IS IN BAD SHAPE. THE TOWN OF MILFORD WANTS US TO MAINTAIN A 2,300 FOOT SECTION BETWEEN STATE ROAD 15 AND OLD STATE ROAD 15 AND TAKE THIS PORTION INTO THE TURKEY CREEK SYSTEM. IT IS AN ARM OF THE TURKEY CREEK DRAIN AND COULD BE TAKEN INTO THE TURKEY CREEK SYSTEM. IN FEBRUARY OF 2023, THE SURVEYOR WAS ASKED TO PROVIDE AN ESTIMATE TO DEBRUSH AND CLEAN THIS DRAIN FOR THE BOARD. MOYER WOULD LIKE TO GET THE ESTIMATE TO DO THIS PRIOR TO DECIDING TO ACCEPT IT INTO THE TURKEY CREEK SYSTEM. HE WOULD THEN BRING THIS INFORMATION TO THE BOARD FOR FURTHER ACTION. TURKEY CREEK IS A JOINT DRAIN WITH NOBLE COUNTY, AND IF WE WANT TO BRING A DRAIN INTO IT, NOBLE COUNTY HAS TO HAVE INPUT ON THE DECISION. MOYER HAS BRIEFLY TOUCHED BASED WITH RANDY SEXTON OF NOBLE COUNTY. ENOCH FELKNER IS SUCH A SMALL DRAIN AND WOULD HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON THE TURKEY CREEK DRAIN WATER FLOW IN NOBLE COUNTY. THERE IS A FAIRLY STRONG CHANCE THAT NOBLE COUNTY WOULD WAIVE THEIR RIGHTS TO BE INVOLVED IN THE DECISION. CARY GRONINGER ASKED ABOUT THE CONDITIOIN OF THE ENOCH FELKNER OUTSIDE OF THIS SECTION. MOYER SAID THE OPEN DRAIN FROM OLD STATE ROAD 15 TO WAUBEE LIKE IS IN FAIR CONDITION. THERE IS NOT MUCH BRUSH AND IS FAIRLY SHALLOW, BUT THE CHANNEL IS VERY NARROW AND

COULD BE IMPROVED. THE CONTROL STRUCTURE AT WAUBEE IS IN BAD SHAPE AND WE WOULD WANT TO WORK WITH DNR AND WAUBEE LAKE OWNER'S ASSOCIATION ON THAT. THERE IS A HOOPENGARNER MAINTENANCE NONREPAYABLE TILE THAT DRAINS DIRECTLY INTO THE ENOCH FELKNER THAT IS IN BAD SHAPE. IT IS BROKEN AND FULL OF ROOTS AND IT WOULD HAVE TO BE A TOTAL RECONSTRUCTION. IT WOULD HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH AS A SEPARATE ITEM. CARY GRONINGER SAID MILFORD IS BUILDING A TRAIL THAT WILL COME FROM THE TOWN TO THIS AREA. MOYER SAID HE WOULD PREPARE A REPORT TO DEBRUSH, CLEAN AND MAINTAIN FROM OLD STATE ROAD 15 TO TURKEY CREEK AS PER THE PREVIOUS FEBRUARY, 2023 MOTION. JOE IRWIN MADE A MOTION THAT HE PREPARE A SECOND REPORT TO SEE WHAT IT WOULD COST MAINTAIN THE SECTION FROM OLD STATE ROAD 15 TO WAUBEE LAKE. JIM SCOTT SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR. CARY GRONINGER ASKED THAT MOYER MAKE SURE WE DON'T SOMEHOW INHERIT THE OUTFALL AT WAUBEE LAKE. MOYER SAID HE WILL MAKE CONTACT WITH THE DNR TO ADDRESS THAT.

DRAINS IN NEED OF RECONSTRUCTION

JIM MOYER HAS PRIORITIZED THE FOLLOWING DRAINS FOR RECONSTRUCTION.

- BURKHOLDER – AS PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST PRIORITY.
- LEVI EATON – THIS DRAIN IS BETWEEN THE MENTONE AND PALESTINE AREA. THERE WAS A LAGOON SYSTEM CREATED FOR THE OLD KRALIS BROTHERS PROCESSING PLANT. WHEN THE LAGOON WAS EXPANDED, THE TILE WAS MOVED TO THE EDGE. THE TILE IS COLLAPSED ALONG THE ENTIRE EDGE OF THE LAGOON AND IS NOT REPAIRABLE. IT NEEDS TO BE RECONSTRUCTED. IT IS POSSIBLE FOR THE TILE TO GO INTO THE TEEGARDEN DRAIN TO THE NORTHWEST TO GET AWAY FROM THAT LAGOON. IN 2007, THE LEVI EATON WAS PUT ON THE RECONSTRUCTION LIST, AND IN 2023 THE BOARD RESTATED ITS PRIORITY ON THE RECONSTRUCTION LIST. NO SURVEYING OR ENGINEERING HAS BEEN DONE ON IT. MOYER HAS INVESTIGATED THE TILE TO DETERMINE IT IS UNFIXABLE. HE FEELS THIS SHOULD BE THE SECOND PRIORITY.
- VANCUREN – IN 2016, JAY OUTCELT REQUESTED THAT A PORTION OF THE TILE BE REPLACED. OUTCELT HAS BEEN IN THE OFFICE YEARLY REGARDING THIS. IT AFFECTS THE STUMP FAMILY FARMS TOO. IT WOULD START AT THE OPEN DITCH AT THE LAKELAND REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT. THIS WOULD BE THE THIRD RECONSTRUCTION PRIORITY.
- CAUFFMAN – THIS WOULD BE THE FOURTH RECONSTRUCTION PRIORITY. THIS TILE COMES OUT IN THE TOWN OF CLAYPOOL. THE REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION IS WORKING WITH THE TOWN OF CLAYPOOL ON THE AULT PROPERTY. THIS IS ON THE SOUTH EAST CORNER OF CLAYPOOL. MOYER WANTS THIS ON THE RADAR BECAUSE WITH REDEVELOPMENT THERE IS TIF MONEY INVOLVED. THE TOWN OF CLAYPOOL ENGINEER HAS DISCUSSED REPLACING THIS TILE. MOYER HAS A MEETING WITH THE ENGINEER THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE. FOR THE MOST PART, MOYER WOULD LIKE TO USE OTHERS MONEY FOR THIS PROJECT. CARY GRONINGER QUESTIONED WHETHER THIS WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR TIF MONEY BECAUSE THE TIF MONEY IS TIED TO LOUIS DREYFUS.

JOE IRWIN QUESTIONED IF MOYER COULD DO THE BURKHOLDER AND LEVI EATON RECONSTRUCTIONS AT THE SAME TIME. MOYER FELT THAT WAS POSSIBLE. IRWIN ALSO ASKED ABOUT ADDING THE DRAIN AT THE FIRE STATION IN ATWOOD TO THE LIST. MOYER HAS PLANS TO LOCATE THE TILE AT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR THE OTTERBEIN CHURCH, WHICH HAS A PARSONAGE DRAINAGE PROBLEM. ONCE HE GETS EYES ON IT AND THE ELEVATION, HE WILL HAVE A BETTER HANDLE ON THE APPROACH TO TAKE. HE PLANS TO USE THE POLE RUN FUND TO ANSWER SOME OF THESE QUESTIONS.

DRAINS THAT SHOULD BE VACATED

JIM MOYER STATED THAT IF WE CHOOSE TO VACATE ANY DRAINS, WE WILL NEED TO HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING. HE THEN REVIEWED THE FOLLOWING DRAINS HE FELT SHOULD BE VACATED:

- VANDERMARK – THIS DRAIN GOES ACROSS PROPERTY THAT HAS LOTS OF TREES AND IS IN TERRIBLE SHAPE. IT ONLY COLLECTS \$127 PER YEAR AND NOT MUCH CAN BE DONE WITH THAT AMOUNT.
- ENOCH WATKINS – THE ENTIRE DRAIN LIES IN THE STATE ROAD 19 RIGHT-OF-WAY. IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO DO ANYTHING WITH THIS DRAIN, BUT THE STATE WON'T MAINTAIN IT. IT DOESN'T SEEM TO DO TAXPAYERS JUSTICE TO COLLECT ON A DRAIN THAT THE STATE MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN.
- RUSSELL WARNER – THIS DRAIN IS NEAR WACO DRIVE ON LAKE WAWASEE. IT IS A SMALL OPEN DITCH BETWEEN TWO HOMES ON THE LAKE AND THERE IS VERY LITTLE SPACE TO DO ANY WORK. MOYER IS NOT SURE HOW THEY RECEIVED BUILDING PERMITS. THE DRAIN BEGINS ACROSS THE STREET IN A WET AREA AND IT IS ROOTED UP. IT ONLY COLLECTS \$443 PER YEAR AND HASN'T COLLECTED SINCE 2004. WE NEED TO DISCUSS IF IT IS EFFECTIVE FOR US TO EVEN BE HANDLING THIS DRAIN.
- JJ OCONNELL – THIS TILE IS EAST OF WARSAW AND FLOWS FROM THE SOUTH AND CROSSES UNDER US 30 AND FLOWS INTO DEEDS CREEK. IT IS IN HORRIBLE SHAPE. THERE ARE LOTS OF COTTONWOOD TREES GROWING ON IT. THE LANDOWNERS WANT THE WILDLIFE IN THE AREA, AND THEY DON'T LIKE US DOING WORK THERE. IT ONLY COLLECTS \$307 PER YEAR.

DRAINS THAT SHOULD HAVE PUBLIC HEARINGS

JIM MOYER FEELS THE FOLLOWING DRAINS SHOULD HAVE PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- FOURTEEN MAINTENANCE NONREPAYABLE DRAINS SHOULD BE ABANDONED. THEY HAVE NOT BEEN MAINTAINED AND THEY CANNOT WORK IN THE WAY THEY WERE INTENDED TO.
- THERE ARE SEVEN MAINTENANCE NONREPAYABLE DRAINS WE SHOULD DISCUSS SETTING MAINTENANCE ON.
- THREE MAINTENANCE NONREPAYABLE DRAINS SHOULD BE COMBINED INTO ANOTHER DRAIN.
- ONE MAINTENANCE NONREPAYABLE DRAIN SHOULD BE RECONSTRUCTED. LANDOWNERS REQUESTED IT BE PUT ON THE RECONSTRUCTION LIST IN 2016.
- THIRTEEN DRAINS CURRENTLY COLLECTING SHOULD BE COMBINED INTO OTHER DRAINS.
- FOURTEEN DRAINS THAT ARE CURRENTLY IN DEBT COULD BE RAISED TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT.
- AP JONES – THIS DRAIN WAS PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED AT THIS MEETING.
- AUSTIN BLUE – THE LAST ASSESSMENT WAS IN 1968. WE NEED TO LOOK AT AN ASSESSMENT HEARING FOR THIS DRAIN.
- LOGAN KIMES – THE LAST ASSESSMENT HEARING WAS IN 1967. WE NEED TO LOOK AT ASSESSMENT HEARING FOR THIS DRAIN.

DRAINAGE BOARD ATTORNEY

SINCE WE NO LONGER HAVE A DRAINAGE BOARD ATTORNEY, JIM MOYER HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR ONE. AUSTIN ROVENSTINE RECOMMENDED RAMA SOBHANI OF ROCKHILL PINNICK LLP. SOBHANI WAS THE KNOX COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AND HAD EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH THE KNOX DRAINAGE BOARD. HIS RATE IS \$250 PER HOUR, WHICH IS IN LINE WITH OTHER OFFICES. WE HAVE \$4,000 IN THE DRAINAGE BOARD BUDGET FOR LEGAL SERVICES AS NEEDED. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION, JOE IRWIN MADE A MOTION TO

RETAIN RAMA SOBHANI AS THE DRAINAGE BOARD ATTORNEY. JIM SCOTT SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

JIM MOYER REQUESTED A MOTION FROM THE BOARD THAT ANY WORK TO BE DONE ON ANY BOARD MEMBER OR SURVEYOR'S OFFICE STAFF PROPERTY BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD FOR APPROVAL BEFORE A WORK ORDER IS RELEASED. HE PRESENTED A COUPLE INSTANCES AS EXAMPLES OF WORK BEING DONE THAT WEREN'T IN THE BEST INTEREST OF ALL THE PROPERTY OWNERS INVOLVED IN THE WATERSHED. JOE IRWIN FELT AN ESTIMATED DOLLAR AMOUNT SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED SO IF A BOARD MEMBER OR OFFICE STAFF EMPLOYEE HAS A SMALL PROBLEM, THEY WOULD NOT HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE NEXT BOARD MEETING TO HAVE IT RESOLVED. CARY GRONINGER ASKED IF IT WAS POSSIBLE TO GAIN BOARD APPROVAL WITHOUT HAVING A MEETING. JIM MOYER SAID THAT WAS POSSIBLE. JOE IRWIN MADE A MOTION THAT ANY DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE WORK TO BE DONE ON ANY BOARD MEMBERS OR SURVEYOR'S OFFICE STAFF PROPERTY IS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE BOARD FOR THE SAKE OF TRANSPARENCY BEFORE A WORK ORDER IS RELEASED. JIM SCOTT SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL WERE IN FAVOR.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

JIM MOYER OUTLINED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION:

- IF A DRAIN IS IN DEBT MORE THAN TWO YEARS, HE WILL BE CAREFUL ON WHAT TYPE OF WORK IS DONE OTHER THAN SPRAYING.
- RAISING THE DRAIN MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT 25% AFTER IT HAS BEEN TEN YEARS FROM A PUBLIC HEARING DATE.
- REQUIRE A SEPARATE MATERIALS BID ON ALL PROJECT OVER \$20,000. THE BOARD DISCUSSED THAT CURRENTLY PROJECTS \$25,000 OR OVER REQUIRE A BID.

ELIZAH YEAGER CLAIM

JIM MOYER SAID THAT THE ELIZAH YEAGER DRAIN IS A MAINTENANCE NONREPAYABLE DRAIN. FARMER'S DRAINAGE DID WORK ON THIS DRAIN AND IT EXCEEDED THE \$1,500 LIMIT. THE CONTRACTOR WAS TOLD VERBALLY TO BILL \$1,500 IN 2024 AND THEN ANOTHER \$1,500 IN 2025, WHICH HE HAS. THE CONTRACTOR IS WILLING TO WAIT UNTIL 2026 TO COLLECT THE BALANCE OF THE PAYMENT DUE, WHICH IS AROUND \$1,000. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE BOARD AGREED THAT THE BALANCE SHOULD BE PAID IN 2026.

NEW OPTION TO REPORT DRAIN ISSUES

AMY HURD HAS CREATED A NEW SYSTEM THAT ALLOWS ANYONE TO GO ONLINE AND ASK A DRAINAGE QUESTION OR FILE A COMPLAINT. THERE IS A FORM THEY CAN COMPLETE AND SUBMIT. AFTER IT IS SUBMITTED, AMY HURD AND JIM MOYER WILL RECEIVE AN EMAIL WITH INFORMATION ON THE SUBMISSION. THE OFFICE CAN THEN RESPOND THROUGH THIS PROGRAM AND TRACK THE PROGRESS. THERE IS ALSO A QR CODE THAT AMY HAS PRINTED ON A BUSINESS CARD THAT CAN BE DISPERSED. CARY GRONINGER ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYTHING FROM A PERMITTING PERSPECTIVE THAT COULD BE MOVED ONLINE. AMY FELT THAT WE COULD DO SOMETHING WITH VARIANCES REQUESTS.

ADJOURN

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

CLAIMS

1/14/2025

CAUFFMAN	M KOLESIAK	\$1,590.00	2700
FLEUGLE	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$873.47	1158
GAY EASTERDAY ROBINSON	M KOLESIAK	\$420.00	2700
GAY EASTERDAY ROBINSON	M KOLESIAK	\$4,160.00	2700
HOOPENGARNER	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$422.48	2700
HOOPENGARNER	TIMBER VALLEY	\$3,000.00	2700
JONES WB	L.I. EXCAVATING	\$2,567.70	2700
PLYE JOHN	KLINE TRUCKING	\$3,675.00	2700
SHOEMAKER ISAAC	TIMBER VALLEY	\$2,650.00	1158
SWICK MEREDITH	TIMBER VALLEY	\$1,820.00	2700
TRUAX	TIMBER VALLEY	\$2,240.00	2700
WYLAND	KLINE TRUCKING	\$1,705.00	2700

MAINTENANCE: \$ 21,600.18
GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 3,523.47

1/28/2025

ARMEY	L.I. EXCAVATING	\$16,560.00	2700
DANNER	FARMER'S DRAINAGE	\$2,186.85	2700
FLEAGLE	DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS	\$512.19	1158
FLEAGLE	TIMBER VALLEY	\$8,170.00	1158
HUFFER DAVID	KLINE TRUCKING	\$2,175.00	2700

MAINTENANCE: \$ 20,921.85
GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 8,682.19

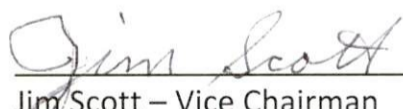
DECEMBER TOTALS

MAINTENANCE: \$ 42,522.03
GENERAL DRAIN: \$ 12,205.66

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD



 Cary Groninger – Chairman



 Jim Scott – Vice Chairman



 Absent
 Dennis Darr



 Steve Metzger



 Joe Irwin