

June 5, 2023

The Newton County Drainage Board met in the Commissioners Room of the Newton County Courthouse at 1 p.m. CDT, on June 5th, 2023.

Members present were Glen ‘Butch’ Cain, Scott Carlson and Abbey Rossiter. Also present were Surveyor - Beau Watkins, Drainage Board Secretary – Jamie Rowe and Drainage Board Attorney – Candace Armstrong, Tamra James – Newton County Auditor, Zack DeYoung of LaSalle Fish & Wildlife, Jason Durr and Mike Carey of CBBE, Mike Schoof of Indiana DNR and Howard Marshall - Mt Ayr Town Board Member.

Glen ‘Butch’ Cain called the meeting to order.

Minutes

May 1, 2023

Abbey Rossiter made a motion to approve the minutes. Second by Scott Carlson. Motion passed 3-0.

Illinois Drain Assessments

Auditor Tamra James was present to discuss the process of billing Illinois land owners which are benefited by Indiana drains. There are two drains that Illinois land owners are assessed and billed for, Abner Whaley and James Whaley. Discussion was held regarding current process and the need for Attorney Armstrong to research this situation further.

Best Ditch – LaSalle (717)

Jason Durr and Mike Carey of CBBE, along with Zack DeYoung of LaSalle Fish & Wildlife, were present to discuss the ongoing issue with Best Ditch – beaver dams that hold back water, adversely impacting farm land near LaSalle. Much discussion was had regarding the wetlands along Best Ditch, and the impact this presents when bringing the proper equipment to remove the necessary trees. All agreed the first step to correcting this issue will be securing access. In an effort to begin this process, Mr. DeYoung shared contact information for a DNR Environmental Supervisor with Mr. Durr.

Willow Slough

Property Manager, Mike Schoof, was present to discuss upcoming projects that he would like to receive input from the Drainage Board.

Mr. Shoof presented three different handouts labeled Area 8 Wetlands – The Meadows and Area 13 – The Muck Hole Expansion and a handout showing what he feels the appropriate line for the Lawler watershed would be on the DNR (Willow Slough) property.

He also discussed with the Board two projects he has planned for the Willow Slough in the upcoming years, how it will impact regulated drains within the property and requested the Board’s input.

After due discussion regarding the project on Area 13, **Scott Carlson made a motion that the Drainage Board would approve the plan for DNR to put the structure on the Lawler in Area 13 as presented. Second by Abbey Rossiter. Motion passed 3-0.**

After due discussion regarding the project on Area 8, **Scott Carlson made a motion that the Drainage Board would allow DNR to put their structure on what we believe is the Sanderson Main and Lateral. Second by Abbey Rossiter. Motion passed 3-0.**

Illingworth Extension to the O'Brien

Surveyor Watkins believes the next step regarding this petition would be to have the watershed surveyed. Attorney Armstrong let the Board know that she has reached out to the Benton County Drainage Board Attorney, Jacob Ahler regarding this petition.

Surveyor Watkins will attempt to make contact with Benton County Surveyor Dave Fisher to discuss this petition and watershed.

2024 Drainage Board Budgets

Secretary Jamie Rowe presented the 2024 Drainage Board budget to the Board for their review and approval. Discussion held, **Abbey Rossiter made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Second by Scott Carlson. Motion passed 3-0.**

Other Matters

Frank Johnson & John R. Camblin Invoices

Two invoices were presented to the Board from a landowner requesting that payment be made to Geri & Steve's Carpentry for tile holes fixed on these drains.

After due discussion, **Abbey Rossiter made a motion to pay \$403.07 for the Frank Johnson tile repair. Second by Scott Carlson. Motion passed 3-0.**

After due discussion, **Abbey Rossiter made a motion to pay \$726.00 for the John R. Camblin from the Carlson Johnson Group (730). Second by Glen 'Butch' Cain. Motion passed 2-0,**
*Scott Carlson abstained from the vote.

Mount Ayr Town Board-Stucker Tile

Howard Marshall, Mt. Ayr Town Board Member was present to thank the County for their assistance with this drainage issue.

Newton-Jasper Drainage Board Meeting

Secretary Rowe inquired from the Board when they would like to meet. Agreement to discuss at a later time, nothing on agenda currently except for the joint approval of Chemical Maintenance Bids.

2023 Chemical Maintenance

Commissioner Cain inquired about a situation that Anderson Tree Service faced regarding spraying on 600 S. Surveyor Watkins advised the Board this was handled – landowners will handle their portion of the ditch.

Adjournment

Being no other business, *Scott Carlson made a motion to adjourn. Second by Abbey Rossiter. Motion passed 3-0.*

X

Glen 'Butch' Cain
President

X

Scott Carlson

X

Abbey Rossiter