

DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

August 5, 2019 – 12:00 P.M.

Newton County Courthouse, Kentland, IN

The Newton County Drainage Board met on August 5, 2019 at 12:00 P.M. in the Newton County Courthouse with the following persons present: **Board Members – Mickey Read, Scott Carlson & Tim Drenth; Surveyor - Chris Knochel; Secretary - Debra Chapman; Attorney – Candace Armstrong; Christopher B Burke Engineering – Jason Durr; Abonmarche – Randy Peterson; Beam, Longest & Neff – Patti Smith, Chris Kaufman & Taylor Eash; IDNR/F & W – Mike Schoof; VS Engineering – Randy Strasser; Landowners - Thom Cutts, Matt LaTulip, David Hoover, Jr, Kenneth & Susan Hester, Jodi & Benny Stromatt.**

The meeting was opened by Mickey.

Minutes – July 15th– Deb mentioned minor changes that had been made to the minutes by Candace and Chris. **Tim motioned to approve the minutes with the changes mentioned by Deb. Mickey seconded the motion and the minutes were signed. Scott signed the minutes from the May 15th Executive Session.**

Hearings – Due to several drains requiring a bi-county or tri-county meeting Deb suggested the hearings previously scheduled for September 16th be postponed until a later date. **Tim made a motion to cancel the hearings previously scheduled for September 16th with a second from Mickey. Motion carried.**

Financial Reports – Deb introduced the financial reports for **GDIF, McGraw Tile and Morrison #3** that were included in the meeting packet. She asked if the \$150,000 had been addressed with the council for the Kankakee River project. Scott replied that while he didn't think it would be an issue it has not yet been handled. He would get with Tami to see what needed done. She also advised the board that reimbursement in the sum of approximately \$26,000 had not yet been reimbursed by Commissioners for the Lawler project. Scott thought this was to come from the Commissioners Business Development line item. Tim will get with Ashley on this.

Knight-Moffit Extension – Chris reviewed the maps, petition and watershed area with the board and the landowners. The proposal by the surveyor is to follow the natural flow of the ditch with a 75' easement on each side. After much discussion the landowners were told they would be receiving a letter announcing the hearing date and time once plans are completed.

Hibler – Valley Forge – Proposed swale needs corrected as there is a hump in it. There will be an easement that is shared with the utilities. Once utility removes the trees then we can work on the swale. **Valley Forge Lat #1** (to Valley Forge Main) – Chris suggests making this a regulated drain with an easement that outlets into the Valley Forge Main. Issues were discussed with landowners. Tim and Mickey suggested lowering the 75' easement since it is in a residential area. Landowners will be notified again in the future as the plans progress.

Hibler – Jason Durr, CBBE – The possibilities were discussed on the Hibler project. The far east end of the Hibler is supposed to drain into Jasper Co however due to the culvert under I-65 not

functioning properly the water does not flow. If the culvert under county line at 600 E were lowered back down to the original height and if INDOT repaired the culvert under I-65 then the ditch between I-65 and county line would naturally flow to the east into Jasper Co. as was originally intended.

Lawler – Jason Durr, CBBE – Two proposals were received from surveyors to do grade staking – one \$14,000 - \$16,000 and the other \$15,000. CBBE is preparing the grading plan. The grade staking could be included in the contractor contract with specs to have grade staking every 100'. The board chose to do that.

Knight-Moffit System Assessment – Jason Durr, CBBE – Jason said this was a follow-up to the proposal made in June and the presentation made by Bob Barr in July. He asked if the board was ready to proceed. Tim and Mickey do not feel we are to that point yet as we can't even get to the river legally.

Kankakee River Embankment Project – Randy Peterson, Abonmarche – Randy presented the surveying & engineering and wetland delineation & mitigation expense summaries. He also presented the estimate to complete the project which Chris will forward to Scott Pelath, Director of Kankakee Yellow River Basin Commission.

Project Updates – Chris Kaufman, Beam, Longest & Neff – Bridgeman Tile was originally approved for work at \$7,000 then additional approval not to exceed \$20,000. **Darroch** - Project approved for \$53,000. Their project is completed with remaining approved funds in the amount \$21,500. The design phase would be \$65,300. **Tim made a motion to approve a partial preliminary design plan with a not to exceed of \$21,500. Scott seconded the motion. Motion carried.** **Taylor Eash, BLN - Moran Tile** – Taylor gave an update on the project along with introducing the proposed fees for tasks going forward. Deb reported that \$4,200 remains from the previously committed funds for the project and the ditch fund has a cash balance of \$56,851.49. **Scott made a motion to proceed with the survey & design with a not to exceed total of \$27,400 to include the remainder of the previously committed funds. Tim seconded the motion and the motion carried.**

Willow Slough Updates – Mike Schoof, DNR – Mike gave a report on the upcoming renovation project at Willow Slough stating there will be a public meeting on August 21st 6:00 P.M. at the Government Center. He stated the watershed boundary still needs defined for the project at 300 N.

Bid Opening – McGraw Tile – Chris' estimate \$29,258.90; JD Excavating \$83,500.00; Wielgus Drainage \$32,145.15. Deb stated bid bonds were also received from Wielgus Drng. **Tim made a motion to accept the bid from Wielgus in the amount of \$32,145.15 as long as it meets Chris' specs. Scott seconded the motion. Motion carried.** **Morrison #3** – Chris stated the Benton County landowner(s) will be responsible to hook all the private tiles into this new main and the converted open extension on the south side of 1800 S is to be repaired according to design specs furnished by Newton Co Surveyor. Chris' estimate \$12,133; Wielgus Drainage \$3,925; JD Excavating \$6,500. Chris reported the road cut permit fee was waived by NCHD. **Scott made a motion to accept the bid from Wielgus Drainage in the amount of \$3,925 as long as it meets the specifications. Tim seconded the motion and the motion carried.**

Alice Holley to Strole #537 – Fred Hermann requested to be on the agenda however is not present.

Hearings – Hibler – After much discussion regarding possible assessment rates, **Tim made a motion to establish the Hibler assessment at \$50.00 per acre with a \$200.00 minimum.** Scott seconded the motion and the motion carried. The hearing is scheduled for Monday, 10/7/19 12:30 PM at the government center.

Surveyor's Report – Thorpe-Beagley-Chizum – Chris will give this report next month if watershed can be determined; **Best Ditch** – There will be no report until the crops are off; **Frank Best Tile** – Scott and Chris both attempted to contact Doug DeYoung but were unsuccessful. No report.

Subdivision Approval – Butch Cain was not in attendance for presenting subdivisions for approval. **Tim made a motion to give Mickey authority to sign the subdivision acceptance for the Dollar General, Wagner Subdivision and one other.** Scott seconded and motion carried.

Bridgeman Tile – Chris went to Town of Kentland and they have no interest in working with us on this. The Industrial Park impervious surfaces still need addressed.

Randy Strasser – Randy asked where the new Kankakee River Conservancy board holds their meetings and where Scott's (Pelath) office is located. Chris said Scott works from his home and that they are all open meetings and held in various locations.

Tim motioned to adjourn with a second from Scott.

Mickey Read, Chrm

Scott Carlson

Tim Drenth