

DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

July 1, 2019 – 12:00 P.M.

Newton County Courthouse, Kentland, IN

The Newton County Drainage Board met on July 1, 2019 at 12:00 P.M. in the Newton County Courthouse with the following persons present: **Board Members – Mickey Read & Tim Drenth; Surveyor - Chris Knochel; Secretary - Debra Chapman; Attorney – Candace Armstrong; Christopher B Burke Engineering – Bob Barr; Landowners - Thom Cutts, Alan Cameron (Indian Gardens Inc.), Judy Chabai, Jimmy Fugate and Milan Bozovich.**

The meeting was opened by Mickey.

Minutes –June 3rd– Tim motion to approve. Mickey second. Minutes signed.

Engagement Letter – Candace Armstrong, Armstrong Law, presented official engagement letter to be signed by board. **Signed.**

Knight-Moffit Petition – Chris presented map and advised board unregulated portion is 3,325'. He suggested notifying adjoining landowners with 2 letters. The first letter should state a petition presented to regulate which will involve easement through their property followed by second letter advising of hearing date and time. **Hearing is to be held on Sept. 16th 12:30 P.M. at the Government Center along with all other drains requiring a hearing except Hibler.**

Other Matters – **Judy Chabai** was present to discuss flooding on Water St. in Kentland and to ask who is responsible. A culvert was installed under Goss and water now freely flows under Goss St and floods everyone. Chris will bridge the subject with the Town of Kentland.

Award Project - Tim motioned to award the #613 Beaver Lake Ditch Outlet Repair Ph III project to KB & E II with a second from Mickey. Motion carried.

Sign Contracts – Contracts were signed for #602 Hunter Ditch Side Bank Repair & Channel Reroute, #604 Strole Ditch and #613 Beaver Lake Ditch Outlet Repair Ph III.

Lidar Watersheds – Chris presented LiDAR Watershed maps for the following: **Darroch Tile, McGraw Tile Hoover Simons, Morrison#3, Thorpe-Beagley-Chizum and Hibler.** He stated the first two have culverts under the roads which are sending water into Newton County from Benton Co but Benton Co. is not paying assessments on these and the third is also a bi-county watershed. There is a bi-county board meeting at Fowler on July 16th. The Thorpe-Beagley-Chizum needs work. **Tim called for a surveyor's report on the Thorpe-Beagley-Chizum with a second from Mickey. Motion carried.** **Hibler** – Chris stated everything has been corrected and the watershed will include the subdivisions – also Valley Forge. Chris said he is waiting for the permit from Army Corp. for the work to be done on 500 E. Chris will get the project estimate and suggested assessment rate to Deb by the end of July to be presented to the board at the August meeting. **The board scheduled the Hibler hearing on October 7th 12:30 P.M. at the Government Center.** Tim requested this be the only thing on the agenda.

Standard Specifications – Chris stated the seeding of projects is a function of his office as found in Drainage Law 36-9-27-29. He shared two pictures from the Rebecca Spitler. The contractor had subcontracted. Upon review Chris found the area was still covered with limbs

and branches and was neither prepared for seed nor had it been seeded. Candace said the contractor should be informing the board and seeking their written approval before hiring a subcontractor. If it is part of the packet or standard specifications then no other notification is necessary. She said the contractor is on the hook and not the subcontractor because he was not approved – the contractor violated the statute. The contractor is ultimately responsible for the completion of the project as he is the one with whom the board contracted for the project.

Long Range Plan – Kankakee River – Best Ditch Report Date – Chris explained that according to the long range plan the board needs to call for a surveyor's report so that the assessment process can begin. **Tim made a motion to call for a surveyor's report on the Best Ditch. Mickey second and the motion carried.** Deb did state there was \$100,000 approved at 2019 budget time and placed in contractual services for work to be done on the Best Ditch.

Other Matters, cont. – McGraw Tile – Chris stated because of the weather the last couple years, willows trees have rooted in the tile. So now we need to kill the willows, jet vac the tile and possibly reroute a portion of the tile. He was given a quote of \$2,000 to spray the willows. **Tim made a motion to hire John Anderson to spray the willows for the amount of \$2,000. Mickey seconded the motion and the motion carried.** **Jimmy Fugate** from Lake Village was present seeking answers to the problem with Lake Village drainage. Mickey explained that the engineers will be here on July 15th to discuss the options available for the south side of Lake Village. Study will include area where Jimmy's house is located. **Milan Bozovich** was present also with flooding issues. He said there seems to be more water since Scherenga's dug out a pond - the flooding is worse now. The barn south of Milan is flooded also. Chris will look at this. **Alan Cameron** was again in attendance seeking reimbursement for work they did on the Kankakee River embankment. Tim stated Newton County does not have any money for this. Cameron should address this issue with Scott Pelaff, the new executive director of the Kankakee Yellow River Basin Commission. Rob Churchill is the Newton Co. representative on the new board with Tim as the proxy. Chris said there is also the expense for erosion control material on embankment which has not yet commenced. **Thom Cutts** – He asked if anything had changed since last meeting when it was stated no work was going to be done beyond 400 W on the Lawler Ditch. Chris responded that nothing has changed however they have looked at a length of the drain between 400 W & Beaver Lake Ditch. There is considerable fall however there is a control structure in it that acts as a grade stabilizer that needs removed or re-engineered. If it is removed then whatever problems they have in that short stretch should be resolved.

Knight-Moffit – Bob Barr, Christopher B. Burke Engineering – Bob displayed a slide presentation depicting the work that had been done on the Yellow River He feels the same process would work for the Knight-Moffit project in Newton County.

Tim made a motion to adjourn with a second from Mickey. Meeting adjourned.

Mickey Read, Chrm

Scott Carlson

Tim Drenth