

## **DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING**

**October 7, 2019 – 9:30 A.M.**

**Newton County Government Center, Morocco IN**

The Newton County Drainage Board met on **October 7, 2019 9:30 A.M.** at the Newton County Government Center with the following persons present: **Board Members – Mickey Read, Scott Carlson & Tim Drenth; Surveyor - Chris Knochel; Secretary - Debra Chapman; Attorney – Candace Armstrong; Newton Co Highway Dept – Dave Pluimer & Cathy Meier; Christopher B Burke Engineering – Jason Durr; VS Engineering – Randy Strasser.**

The meeting was opened by Mickey.

**Minutes – September 3rd – Tim motioned to approve the minutes. Scott second. Motion carried. Minutes were signed.**

**Lawler Ditch – Jason Durr, Christopher B. Burke Engineering** – The grading report was presented previously and Chris suggests moving forward with the construction phase. Jason mentioned starting with the 84” culvert upstream and increasing the size to 90” as the project moves downstream. If any of the culverts are larger than that downstream then he suggests leaving them their current size. Dave Pluimer has pictures of the culverts as an inspection was done last year. Dave requested a contractor on site to set the replacement culverts so that grade can be verified. Tim suggested starting the construction at the outlet end. Candace confirmed that construction can be done in phases to make use of available funds. **Scott made a motion for the surveyor to proceed with the construction phase by breaking the Lawler Ditch project into phases in order to utilize available funds and to begin at the outlet end at 400 W, Tim seconded the motion, motion carried.**

**VS Engineering – Randy Strasser – Kent Main** – An agreement was presented by Randy for Survey in the amount of \$18,000 and Analysis \$8,000 for this project. This involves 200’ bore under the railroad and US Highway 24 to replace the damaged tile that runs under the state and railroad culvert. An upsizing of the current 12” tile to 15” or 18” will be necessary. Chris has spoken to INDOT however they do not want to incorporate this project with their upcoming project. There are also new INDOT rules regarding work done in their ROW’s. The Kent Main regulated tile stops directly south of the railroad ROW and continues south as a private tile. Deb stated there is no assessment on this drain. Scott asked Chris if any landowners had come to him about this to which Chris replied that Charlie Dyer had asked him last spring if anything could be done. When asked if Charlie had petitioned this tile the response was no. Tim doesn’t have an issue with this project but DOES have an issue if the landowners don’t want to pay \$100,000 to have it done. The board requested that Chris ask the landowners to attend the next meeting (November 4, 2019). **Lake Village South Drain** – Randy explained that the plan had been presented by VS Engineering and that the next steps are the EA and land acquisition that must be completed before the county applies for the construction grant. The cost of the EA & land acquisition will be out of the county pocket and go towards their match on the grant. KIRPC will do the EA and there is a URA process for the

land acquisition. **Tim motioned to proceed with the EA and process for the land acquisition services and fees to be paid from GDIF. Scott seconded the motion and the motion carried.** Tim said if the culverts need replaced the highway department pays for the roadside ditch culverts. Dave Pluimer stated all of the roads are deadends and the landowners will not have access while they are replacing the culverts. He suggested making the ditch deeper by dipping with the excavator. VS Engineering will work with NCHD on size and elevations of the culverts.

**Bridgeman Tile** – Chris reported that the scope of work has changed for this project since the Town of Kentland does not want to participate. Whereas water from the industrial park is flooding a residential area we will now need a study completed by BLN based upon LiDAR for the watershed boundary. The Town of Kentland will be paying their share.

**Highway Project Materials** – *Mickey Read* – Chris said determination was made by commissioners to pay for road cuts on regulated drains. We now need a decision on access points where we cannot access a drain over roadside ditch. Will county highway be providing that since it is their ditches that are causing problems? Mickey stated the reason topic is on agenda is issue with contractors going into highway dept. for material. We need some organization on materials and products that are coming in and being picked up. Dave said contractors are coming in expecting to have product delivered right away and highway dept. is not equipped to do that. Chris said time is at liberty of the highway department. Cathy said there is a lack of communication between Chris, HD and the contractor. She suggested HD be copied on bid notice so that they know what materials will be expected for each project. Dave thinks HD should be included on bid notices. **Mickey made motion that contractors are to include material and culverts in their project bids. Tim seconded the motion. Scott objected. Motion carried by vote of 2-1.** Deb asked for confirmation that contractors are responsible for including all materials and culverts in their bids and the contractors will also be responsible for ordering those materials. Yes, contractors will be responsible for bidding and purchasing the material as outlined in the notice to bidders. Scott stated that the form for material from the highway department will no longer be necessary as according to the motion the drain will pay for the materials in the county ROW's as it will be part of the project. Chris said, "I have to object to that motion". Scott said all materials will be part of the bid.

**Proposals** – **Battleday Tile #666** – Chris estimate \$13,300.00; Wielgos \$14,500.00. **Tim motioned to accept bid from Wielgos Drainage as long as it meets the specifications and to pay for project from Landfill Drainage Fund #4906. Scott second. Motion carried.** **Moran Tile #518** – Chris' estimate \$6,903.60; Wielgos Drainage \$11,500.00. **Scott made motion to reject bid as it is more than 10% above surveyor's estimate. Tim seconded the motion. Motion carried.** Board asked Chris to review and rebid project.

**Contracts** – Contracts were signed for Sheep Creek Open and CC Kent Open.

**Reports** – **Frank Best Tile** – Report was given by Surveyor Knochel. **Original Chas Triplett Tile** – Report given. Scott suggested Chris present estimate for 8" tile and see what the two landowners want to do. If moved the tile will be just outside road ROW and on private land.

**Best Ditch** – Chris reported that three tiles have been converted and are now open laterals that are part of open ditch project. **Thompson Ditch** – Chris presented Thompson Ditch and

Laterals. Board decided to leave as is for now. **Lake Village Tile** – Chris stated there is evidence a tile runs on immediate south side of St Rd 10 and another through very end edge of grade school. It is unregulated. Mickey said the tile was found by witching.

**Unassessed Regulated Tile Status** – Chris reported that assessed regulated drains are routinely inspected however unassessed regulated drains are not. Chris asked if there was any concern from the board that we should be monitoring the unassessed drains as well as the assessed regulated drains. They are regulated tiles. Chris said the problem is they get really bad before the farmers bring them to Chris' attention. Board stated surveyor is not to worry about them unless landowner comes forward with issue.

**Beaver Lake Ditch Easement & TNC** – Chris stated TNC is requesting permission to spray and remove woody vegetation between 400N & 500 N in Newton County ditch easement. **Scott made motion to allow TNC to work in our easement for maintenance purposes. Tim second. Motion carried.**

**Kankakee River Log Jam** – Permit approved. Log jam will be removed.

Newton-Jasper Bi-Co Meeting – Chris reported a bi-county meeting is needed with Jasper Co to discuss the Monjon Tile along with any other bi-county drains needing discussion.

**Clark-Deardurff** – Trees and rocks are piled on this project. Chris had asked three contractors for estimates to burn and bury. Only two replied and they were the same amount: Yoder Drainage \$2,800, Geri & Steves Carpentry \$2,800. **Tim made motion to award project to Yoder's. Mickey second. Motion carried.**

**Tim motioned to adjourn. Scott second. Adjourned.**

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Mickey Read, Chrm

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Scott Carlson

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Tim Drenth