

DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

August 3, 2020 – 12:00 P.M.

Newton County Courthouse, Kentland, IN

The Newton County Drainage Board met on August 3, 2020 at 12:00 P.M. in the Commissioners Room of the Newton County Courthouse with the following persons present: **Board Members – Mickey Read, Scott Carlson & Tim Drenth; Surveyor - Chris Knochel; Secretary - Debra Chapman; Drainage Board Attorney – Candace Armstrong; Municipal Civil – Ken Smith.**

Minutes – July 20, 2020 – Tim motioned to accept minutes, Scott second, motion carried and minutes were signed.

Surveyor Reports – Kent Main/Clark-Churchill Combination – Preliminary LiDAR Watershed (Bi-Co Drain)- Discussion. More research to confirm watershed required after harvest. **Tim made motion to postpone meeting previously scheduled for 9/21. Scott second. Motion carried 3-0. Illingworth Extension to O'Brien –**

Preliminary LiDAR Watershed (Bi-Co Drain) – Discussion. Watershed needs confirmed after harvest. No action. **Brunton- Decker – LiDAR Watershed –** Surveyor estimates reconstruction cost at \$60,800. 1081.54 LiDAR acres in watershed. Surveyor recommends assessment of \$7.00/ac. for 8 yrs. **Tim made motion to accept the LiDAR watershed, set assessment at \$7.00/ac for 8 yrs with \$25 annual minimum and schedule hearing for September 21, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. CDT. Mickey seconded the motion and motion carried 3-0.**

(Following is the email from Surveyor Knochel on 8/5/20: Drainage Board, In preparation for the September 21 Drainage Board meeting it was discovered that the LiDAR watershed boundary was not confirmed “in the field” due to the size of the standing crop once discovery work was complete. Therefore neither I nor Steve can confirm the accuracy of the watershed based on surface flow determinations in the proximity of the boundary. Plus, farmers have not been consulted if Steve and I cannot conclude together, surface flow direction. Regretfully, this will delay the determination till after harvest. Chris). **Best Davis-Watts Open Combination (Bi-State Drain) –** Surveyor reported this is a bi-state drain with approximately 80 ac from Illinois benefitting. Discussion followed. **Tim made a motion to accept the LiDAR watershed and surveyor’s report as presented along with the recommended maintenance assessment of \$7.52/ac for 4 yrs. with an annual minimum of \$25.00 and to schedule the hearing for September 21, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. CDT. Scott seconded the motion and motion carried 3-0.**

Other Matters – Ken Smith, Municipal Civil – Ken was present to request approval for the drainage plan for the new Kentland Firehouse. Surveyor Knochel has reviewed the plans and along with the approval received from the Town of Kentland he recommends accepting the plans. **Scott made a motion to approve the drainage plans for the new Kentland Firehouse as recommended by the surveyor and Town of Kentland. Tim seconded the motion and the motion carried 3-0.**

Sign Contracts – Contracts were signed by the board for the Narrows Open and Goodland Lateral projects.

Financial Reports – GDIF – The financial report for General Drain Improvement Fund that was included in meeting packet was reviewed by the board.

Beaver Lake Ditch – Contract Extension - The surveyor reported that due to fact LaSalle didn’t want contractor working on project during hunting season along with no ground freeze last winter, the contractor has been unable to complete the project which has an August 7, 2020 completion date. He is therefore asking

if the board wants to extend the contract. **Tim made a motion to extend the contract with an October 1, 2020 commencement date and April 1, 2021 completion date. Scott seconded the motion and the motion carried 3-0.** **TNC Wetland Development** – According to the engineering report it is possible to not do anything on the Lawler Ditch through TNC property. The structure under 400 N is adequate. Technically the project will be shortened if we allow TNC to develop wetlands south of 400 N. Discussion followed. It was asked if we (Newton Co) could use the wetlands for mitigation to which there was no confirmed answer. According to the surveyor the original wetland request was received from USDA. The board would like more information on the request. **Tim made a motion to table the request with a second from Scott. Motion passed 3-0.** The board requested Deb to write a letter to the involved parties asking for their presence at the next drainage board meeting with Chris addressing the technical information. **Construction Estimates** – The county road culverts are to be funded through the county highway. Christopher B Burke Engineering will be providing the elevations. Chris' estimate for the entire project not including the county highway part is \$300,000 for the culverts. Phase 1 is 400 N to 700 N; Phase 2 is between 700 N and 600 N; Phase 3 is north of 400 N. CBBE recommended installing the culverts when the ditch is being dipped. CBBE will be handling the bidding process as part of their agreement. Finances were reviewed. **Scott motioned to proceed with bidding process. Tim seconded and motion carried 3-0.**

Other Matters – Bridgeman Tile – The surveyor reported the 8" rain has greatly damaged the Bridgeman Tile at the headwall. **Projects vs. Funding** – Chris introduced a report indicating ditch funds in relation to projects. **Obstruction on St Rd 55** – No other info to report. **Between 1550 S & 1400 S** – Chris reported Dan Stohler will work with other landowners to keep McGraw Tile clean. **Knight – Moffitt Ditch** - Funds are there – is any work planned? Yes. There is a hearing scheduled for the extension. Whereas Mickey & Tim both have property in the Knight-Moffitt they have to remove themselves from the hearing and will both need replaced on the board. Scott will fill in for Mickey and Russ Collins usually fills in for the other member. John Heimlich is unable to sit as 5th Member so Deb has reached out to Benton Co for a member to serve as the 5th. Should Russ be unable to fill in then board suggested she contact Jim Pistello. **DeHaan** – Bi-county meeting is scheduled for August 11th to resolve the DeHaan funds issue. Discussion followed.

Scott motioned to adjourn with second from Tim. Meeting adjourned.

Mickey Read, Chrm.

Scott Carlson

Tim Drenth