

REGULAR DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING:

August 18, 2014

Vice President John Landers called the meeting to order. Roll call held. Present at the meeting were the following:

John Landers, Vice President
Larry Bledsoe, Member
Charles Whitehair, Member
William Whitehead, Member
Jake Dunnuck, Board Attorney
Phil Taylor, Surveyor
Stan Willis, Chief Deputy/County Surveyor
Cindy Harty, Recording Secretary

Mr. Landers opened the meeting by inviting all to participate in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Landers entertains a motion for the approval of the July 21, 2014 Drainage Board minutes. Mr. Whitehead moved for approval. Mr. Bledsoe seconded the motion. **Motion passes 4-0.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Taylor introduced Dave Eichelberger with Christopher Burke Engineering. Mr. Taylor informed the Board that Mr. Eichelberger was present to give the Board an update on the Pate-Shoemaker, J.J. Vance and the Schram Ditch Reconstruction projects. Mr. Taylor stated that the Pate-Shoemaker Ditch is located on Highway 67 South and 700 West, and the J.J. Vance Ditch is located in Oakville.

J.J. Vance Reconstruction

David Eichelberger of Christopher Burke Engineering, Indianapolis, IN approached and informed the Board that he is the Director of Engineering Management at Christopher Burke Engineering. Mr. Eichelberger stated that this Board hired his firm to help with the drain reconstruction work in three separate regulated drains in Delaware County, and stated that Mr.

Taylor asked him to be present at this meeting to give the Board an update as to where they stand on all three projects.

Mr. Eichelberger stated that the J.J. Vance Ditch is located in Oakville, near County Roads 50 West and 775 South. Mr. Eichelberger stated that the contract between his firm and the Board was to do the initial assessment report on the reconstruction, which he does have. He stated the benefit of that is they will get to a certain point, and if the project is not viable with the landowners, then they will not be spending a lot of money getting into preliminary and final designs until that portion is worked out. Mr. Eichelberger stated at this point on the J.J. Vance project, they have completed several site investigations, surveyed the drainage system completely, evaluated all of the drainage patterns, have developed some potential solutions, and initiated the assessment report. Furthermore, he stated his firm is approximately eighty percent (80%) complete on the J.J. Vance Reconstruction project. Mr. Eichelberger stated the next steps on the project would be to finalize those potential solutions, come up with some estimated construction costs, have the landowners meeting to discuss what those costs and assessments would be; and then if everything works out, have the reconstruction hearing. He explained the next step would be to proceed with the second phase by doing a preliminary design and getting the reconstruction hearing completed. Mr. Eichelberger informed the Board the first step is just to get everyone to understand what needs done to get the drain fixed and what the potential costs might be. Mr. Eichelberger suggested that the next step should be the scheduling of the landowners meeting.

Pate-Shoemaker Reconstruction

Mr. Eichelberger stated that the Pate-Shoemaker Ditch is located near County Road 700 West on the south side of State Road 67, and runs approximately 3,500 feet south. Mr. Eichelberger informed the Board that the project is approximately thirty percent (30%) complete, which means their process would be to proceed with the design, go through the reconstruction hearing, and put together the construction bid packages. Furthermore, Mr. Eichelberger stated they have completed several site investigations, the survey coordination is completed, and they have had wetland personnel out delineating where the wetlands are located. Mr. Eichelberger stated that if they are familiar with that area, there is a very large wetland south of State Road 67. Mr. Eichelberger stated they are looking at some of the potential solutions, but will be waiting for crops to be removed before they start “potholing the tile,” or exposing the pipe at various locations so they can get the surveyors in to see where the location of the pipe is both horizontally and vertically located. Mr. Eichelberger informed the Board they do that to make sure that they do not complete a reconstruction job and are not able to tap into private lateral, so they want to make sure that they know exactly where the pipe is located. However, he stated that they would not do that until the crops are removed, in order not to have to pay any type of crop damages. Therefore, Mr. Eichelberger stated the next step on this project is to let the crops come out, get the survey completed, develop those solutions, and then proceed with the reconstruction hearing and assessments.

The Schram Ditch Reconstruction

Mr. Eichelberger stated the Schram Ditch is near County Road 200 East and 500 North. He stated that the contract again is the initial stages. Mr. Eichelberger stated they went out and originally thought that the drain reconstruction was to be with the tile upstream of County Road 200 East, but as they did a little investigation in that area, they determined it appeared there is something going on downstream that is precluding this area from draining. Mr. Eichelberger stated they have changed their tact, and are now looking at the situation downstream of County Road 200. He stated that they have completed several site investigations and the survey coordination, and they have some ideas to what they think they will do for potential solutions. Mr. Eichelberger explained this is a little bit different job because the tile runs under the county road and proceeds to the west, including a shallow ditch over the top that appears to go nowhere, but ends up going to the farm fields. Mr. Eichelberger stated as they completed investigations on that, it looked like a lot of the farm fields to the west are not getting the crops to grow because either the surface flow or water is backing up through the tile and coming up above ground and then flowing over ground. He stated originally his firm was going to wait until the crops came out to get the potholing completed to finish the survey, but based on what his crew told him, there are no real crops growing in that area. Mr. Eichelberger stated they are going to attempt to work with the landowner and the Surveyor's contractor who will do the excavation, to get the potholing completed. Mr. Eichelberger stated this project is approximately ten percent (10%) completed at this time. He stated his next step would be to get the survey completed so they can move ahead and develop some solutions.

Mr. Taylor asked Mr. Eichelberger what the possibility would be to have this project under construction by the first of year.

Mr. Eichelberger stated the project would commence by the first of the year, which means Spring of 2015, and before the crops are planted. Mr. Eichelberger stated they have to get the survey completed, and once it is done, it is just a matter of putting together the plans and having the assessment hearing. He stated there is some timeframes involved as they all know with getting notifications to the people. He stated that he thinks the key would be to keep in contact with the landowners no matter when it is done, so they know when the project will be completed so they are not wasting time and money in the easement areas.

Mr. Taylor stated that he feels he is also speaking for the Board in stating that the reconstructions in the past have taken so long, that they want to get it done the correct way, but within a good timeframe.

Mr. Eichelberger stated that he would like to think that they might be in good shape by Spring to get that done. Mr. Eichelberger stated many of the other counties that they have worked for tend to do the work in Fall. He stated that it is just a matter of getting the survey information and once that is completed and there are no problems, they can all decide when they actually want it bid and actually construct it at that point.

Mr. Taylor stated that once they get it put together and they have the meetings with the landowners, they could discuss that if they could get in there while their crops are still in there. He does not think they will disagree with that, because he feels they want the reconstruction done badly enough that they would let us do that.

Mr. Eichelberger stated they were doing one in Tippecanoe County and they just had them leave them a swath by giving them an idea of what swath they should leave open, and they planted everything except that swath, and it worked out great. Mr. Eichelberger asked if the Board would like him to go into further

detail about their options or if he could answer any questions.

Mr. Landers asked if there were any questions from the Board. The Board having no questions, both Mr. Landers and Mr. Bledsoe stated that they appreciated Mr. Eichelberger's input.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Whitehead introduced a *Resolution Opposing the Expansion of Federal Control Under the Clean Water Act* and stated that he would like to make a motion to pass this on to the County Commissioners. Mr. Bledsoe seconded the motion. Mr. Bledsoe stated that this Resolution was passed by the Randolph County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Bledsoe stated that he and Angie Moyer received an e-mail about this matter recently suggesting the EPA and the Army Corp of Engineers might want a permitting process for any type of drain work the county might do. Mr. Bledsoe reiterates that the Resolution was approved by the Randolph County Board of Commissioners, and stated it would be nice to have a favorable recommendation from the Drainage Board to pass to the Commissioners of Delaware County to read and introduce. Mr. Bledsoe stated that the Resolution reads, "That it was established to maintain the integrity of these nation's waters by preventing pollution and other hazards, but disagrees with the proposed changes". Mr. Bledsoe stated this would make it tougher to get those things done. Furthermore, Mr. Bledsoe stated the Highway Department, as an example, might be affected. Mr. Bledsoe stated with the highway's daily operations, including employees' sick time and vacation times, if they go out to do these projects in such an order, the last thing they need to do is to wait on a permitting process. Mr. Bledsoe stated the permitting process would probably include an inspection process. Furthermore, Mr. Bledsoe stated this would definitely make their repairs more costly and would take longer to get them completed. Mr. Bledsoe addressed Mr. Taylor and stated that in having to get a permit to do all of the Surveyor's work, would not be very fruitful. Cindy Harty asked Mr. Bledsoe if he would like her to revise the same to include Delaware County instead of Randolph County. Mr. Bledsoe stated that would be great.

Mr. Dunnuck asked if the best response would be a Resolution, and if this is what they wanted from each county. Mr. Dunnuck stated he assumed the Resolution would be forwarded to the Governor's Office. Mr. Bledsoe stated it is his understanding that many of the counties are doing this by Resolution. Furthermore, Mr. Bledsoe stated that they are trying to get local government to show their opposition to this particular issue.

Mr. Landers stated that they have a motion and a second, and calls for a vote. **Motion passes 4-0.**

MAINTENANCE CLAIMS:

Mr. Landers entertains a motion to approve the maintenance claims as submitted. Mr. Whitehead so moved. Mr. Bledsoe seconded the motion. **Motion passes 4-0.**

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

John Landers, Vice President

Larry Bledsoe, Member

Charles Whitehair, Member

William Whitehead, Member

Cindy Harty, Recording Secretary