

REGULAR DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING:

March 12, 2025

President, William Whitehead, called the meeting to order. Members present at the meeting were the following:

William Whitehead, President
Joseph Hamilton, Vice President
Sherry Riggin, Member
John Christy, Member
Wayne Bothel, Member
Brandon Murphy, Attorney
Tom Borchers, Surveyor
Jennifer Licht, Recording Secretary

President, William Whitehead, opened the meeting by welcoming the audience and inviting them to participate in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Whitehead entertained a motion for the approval of the February 18, 2025 Drainage Board Minutes.

Mr. Hamilton moved for approval. Motion seconded by Ms. Riggin. **Motion passed 5-0.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Whitehead addressed Mr. Borchers and asked if he had any new business to present to the Board today.

Brandon Birch

Mr. Borchers stated Mr. Brandon Birch from Coffman Farms contacted me. He has a field on 600 E and 600 S on the SW corner, it goes across one of our ditches and they have been driving their equipment through the ditch and it's broken down the banks. He wants to put in a 4-foot round pipe and fill it in so they can drive across it. I think it will be fine. Right upstream from there, the ditch isn't 4 foot wide so this would be bigger than the upstream and will stop the bank from breaking down and keep the water from going out of the bank. I have a bridge permit to print off for the new guys that Mr. Murphy wrote up. When someone puts a culvert, bridge or anything across our ditch, it's an agreement they sign that they have to maintain it. At any time, they don't

keep it maintained we can go in and pull it out. It also relieves us from anybody coming back and saying we put it in and we have to fix it. I think it will help out the area to keep the water in the banks for the most part. If he signs the bridge acknowledgement form, I give it my full approval. **Ms. Rigg**in stated I'd like to see that piece of paper because Stockport is an issue. **Mr. Borchers** stated I can email it out to everybody. **Ms. Rigg**in asked did you put some specs on how much gravel to put on top? **Mr. Borchers** stated No. Right now, it is flat because they have been driving through it for 30 years. I'm going to go out there when he starts it. For the most part its going to be an improvement. **Mr. Hamilton** asked is he expecting us to cover any of the cost? **Mr. Borchers**, No. It's a private bridge crossing. **Mr. Hamilton** asked in the bridge permit agreement does it have wording that states it applies to future land owners. **Mr. Borchers**, yes. I talked to Mr. Murphy and I wanted to try and tie it to the deed, he was kind of iffy on if that would work. We are working towards it and it's signed by the land owner not the farmer. **Mr. Hamilton** moved to approve Coffman Farms to put in the 4-foot culvert. Ms. Rigg in seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Racer Ditch and Hog Creek

Mr. Borchers stated I have two different ditches I wrote Specs up for. I haven't proofed them. I have to send out letters but these are 2 ditches I want to clear. The first one is the Racer Ditch off of 1200 N. on the County Line by Dunkirk. Dunkirk flows into this ditch, Jay County cleared on their side last year and when we had a 4" rain they complained about the ditch. It holds a lot of water. I want to debrush one to two sides in a couple parts. So, we can gain access to clear the logs and debrush anything that is holding it up. I'm going to solicit quotes for both and open them up at our meeting in April. The other one is Hog Creek. Mr. Humbert from the Highway Department, came in about a situation he was having. This is just North of 32 off of 650 and Centennial. This is an area when we get heavy rains it all comes down to Centennial and 700. I'm going to clear the east and north side so we can have access to it. Right now, we can't even get to it. I know there is a lot of corn stocks that have accumulated that's holding up all the water coming from the south. These are two problem sections I would like to take three or four quotes on. **Mr. Hamilton** stated I have a couple questions that apply to both of these. Where you are debrushing one side would you be opposed to adding wording to include the interior side of the opposite bank. **Mr. Borchers**, the Racer Ditch has high tensile fence right on the ditch, if they can yes but some of it, they can't cut down without pulling out the fence. What I've done in the past, I take out the one side we can get to, then we spray what we can't and push the brush back off the fence. **Mr. Hamilton** stated the issue I see is if we don't take off the opposite side you still have potential for obstruction. If the cost is not significant to add that interior top of the bank to the water on the opposite side. I see a lot of benefit. **Mr. Borchers** I can do that as long there isn't any obstructions. I think every contractor we have used to debrush has a mulcher on the arm where they can reach the top of that. That's fine I can put that language in there. **Mr. Hamilton**, where it says everything 10" in diameter is to be cut and removed I assume you are leaving the stumps. **Mr. Borchers** "Yes". **Mr. Hamilton** stated would you include a specification that says the height of any remaining stumps is within 3" above the ground. **Mr. Borchers** "Absolutely". **Mr. Hamilton**, are you opposed to including a statement that it is required to treat stumps within 2 hours of cutting with Tordon? **Mr. Borchers** stated I have a spray crew that does it that way I know they are doing it right. They use different chemistry then Tordon so they don't have to do it within 2 hours. I've had problems with contractors not spraying right so I have a crew that does it. They treat stumps all over the State.

Mr. Hamilton stated I was trying to avoid some cost by having another contractor go out and do it, if we could include it with this quote. **Mr. Borchers** stated it's up to you guys. I've had better luck and it's not that expensive. Last month we had a 30" sloth they did some of the hairiest stuff and it was \$800.00. The contractors that don't want to do it and add it on, I think it will be more expensive. I feel we get better results with the guys that are licensed. **Mr. Christy** asked is it something we could do in house, do it ourselves. **Mr. Borchers** stated I don't have my license anymore and Stan doesn't. I don't know if we have the man power to do that when we are cutting this stuff down. **Mr. Hamilton** asked do you have to have a Class 6 license to apply Tordon as you cut stumps? **Mr. Borchers** stated if we are cutting across the water. I will have to look at the Specs on that. I just always hired license people. **Mr. Hamilton** stated the reason I brought it up, I've been reviewing other County's contracts. Most other Counties do include the cutting within 3" of ground and treating the stumps at time of removal. Most Counties ask for dyed herbicide so you can see that they treated it. **Mr. Borchers** stated a lot of times contractors would hire me out to spray the stumps because they didn't want to do it. **Mr. Hamilton** stated my request would be if it doesn't require a license to treat the stumps that we include this in the request for quote. Would the board support that? **Mr. Bothel** move for approval. Mr. Hamilton seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Drainage Board Meeting Schedule

Mr. Borchers stated we need to approve the amended Drainage Board Meeting Schedule. **Mr. Bothel** moved for approval. Motion seconded by Mr. Hamilton. **Motion passed 5-0.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Whitehead addressed Mr. Borchers and asked if he had any old business to present to the Board today.

Mr. Borchers stated I do not.

Stockport

Ms. Riggin stated we just got word the gas company has been out to Stockport Rd and fixed the old tile and buried the new. **Mr. Borchers** stated what Ms. Riggin is talking about is the Commissioners, Surveyor, Highway, Muncie Sanitary District we are all working together. Last year I was waiting for them to get everything moved to send a contractor out to mow the ditch down and do a little sight prep so they can get the culvert in where the bridge used to be. I had a contractor on standby for that. The ditch is maybe 100 yards. If that comes up before the next meeting, I would like the board's approval to go ahead and send a contractor out and get the sight work done. I don't want to be the reason it is held up. The highway is going to put it in. We are going to mow the stuff down then they are going to pull the bridge out, on each side of the bridge they want a contractor to scoop the ditch out so the pipe can sit down. I was going to meet Tommy and the contractor out there so they can be on the same page. You can't dip it out a whole lot because its right to the bottom of the flow pipe. **Mr. Hamilton** asked what do you estimate the total cost to be and the time frame? **Mr. Borchers** stated less than \$5,000.00. Probably \$3-\$4,000.00 to mow it.

There is some hand work, fences and then \$1,200.00 to unload the excavator and scoop it out. Time frame I don't know it was supposed to happen last summer. It could a month or 6 months from now. We were waiting on the gas company and now still waiting on easements I believe. I don't want to be the entity that holds it up. **Ms. Riggin** asked how many days or hours will it take? **Mr. Borchers** stated once we do the site prep, they should have it done in a day. **Mr. Hamilton** asked since we are waiting on easements and its going to be a \$5,000 job would you be opposed to requesting quotes and stating those quotes are good for 6 Months? **Mr. Bothel** stated the other thing is the county has a new gradall, if it's going to be that short of a ditch why can't the county just bring out the gradall out and just dip it out really quick. If it could save some expense. I saw the machine yesterday, its brand new. **Mr. Borchers** stated last year they just wanted me to mow the ditch. It might not even cost that much. **Mr. Bothel**, I can see handling the mowing but if it just needs dipped out a little bit. **Mr. Borchers** stated I can reach out to the County Highway and say the Drainage Board said we will mow it but since they have the equipment and they are putting the pipe in the board requests they do the site work and we can go from there. **Mr. Hamilton** stated sounds good.

Mr. Christy stated you guys did a job for Gillis's maybe some beaver dams. Is that job done?
Mr. Borchers stated "yes".

Morningside

Ms. Riggin stated I planned on being here earlier this morning, I have maps I gave to everyone. Ed Conatser has come up with the suggestion putting in 3-4 swells so take it home and read it maybe we can discuss it next month. Ed's information is on here. If you would like to contact him. I gave a copy to Delaware County Soil and Water. I gave it to Colby Gray and he gave it to Flat Land. I think with the different agency's we could all work together and get this done for Morningside. It's a doable project, there is a lot of grant money out there. It would really help storm water run-off. **Mr. Borchers** stated I looked at it before. My biggest issue is to require the land and dig four detention ponds. That would have to fall on a reconstruction on our part and that means everybody in Morningside would have to pay for it. When I talk to people at Morningside, they say it only floods once or twice a year and it's not that bad. I would be all about working with somebody to get grant money or working with other entities to put this together. As far as putting it solely on the Drainage Board I don't think I see it going through. That is just my personal opinion. **Mr. Whitehead** stated I think it needs to be looked at, see what the options are make sure we touch all bases before we cross home plate. **Mr. Borchers** 100% agree.

MAINTENANCE CLAIMS:

Mr. Hamilton stated I have a couple questions. JJC charged 10 hours for a 1-ton truck and gooseneck trailer at \$1,100.00 for his repair. Is there a precedent for what we allow for contractors to charge for their transportation equipment while doing a repair job? **Mr. Borchers** stated they hand me in what their hourly rate is for each piece of equipment. I didn't look at this one and break it down. It seems within realm. **Mr. Hamilton** stated he charged \$1,400.00 for running the

excavator but he charged \$1,100.00 to park his truck there. I was asking for an hourly repair job move in, move out cost, and transportation cost, what you allow. **Mr. Borchers** stated I really never put it down as far as what I allow. It seemed to be in line with what we have done in the past. **Mr. Hamilton** another question is for a job like this could quotes be requested instead of an hourly basis to avoid some of this difference in transportation costs and hours spent removing log jams. **Mr. Borchers** stated log jams, beaver dams and sinkholes I have always seen as something we need to get out quickly. A field with a log jam in it is just going to get bigger. If we get a big rain its going to push more stuff into it. Then it's going to flood out in the field and flood into houses. I try to get those out as fast as I can. Taking quotes pushes everything back another month. **Mr. Hamilton** stated I'm not arguing that he over charged for this job. My concern is Buck Creek and that area is full of dead ash trees and protentional log jams and seems we are repeatedly going out in the same area and having these \$2 to \$5,000 claims. I was asking for suggestions on what we could do to avoid some of this cost for repeat claims in the same area. **Mr. Borchers** stated without going through and taking out all the trees which is definitely not in our budget I don't see another alternative. You can start clearing some of it, when you talk about trees that big and haven't been cleared for 40-50 years. You're looking at \$15.00 a foot and 95% of our budget is spent on just maintaining. Putting out fires. I would like to clear every ditch. Under the current economic restraints, we have its not possible. If someone has an idea to save money I would love to. We just don't have the money to do it. Last year is the first year I have been in office that I was able to put any substantial amount back into the maintenance fund. Usually we are flirting with, or right at a break-even point. I am open for suggestions. **Mr. Bothel** asked you think it's about 85 thousand a mile? **Mr. Borchers** stated for something like that probably. By the time you cut, chip, and haul them out. I can quote it. It's just a lot of money when we got things to take care of over the rest of the county. Just a brush cutter is \$5 a foot that's not cutting trees. When you get to cutting trees, treating stumps, hauling it out reseeding grass. It all adds up. That's just kind of where I think it will be. **Mr. Bothel** stated I think it would be interesting if we could get a couple quotes just to know, we don't have any idea right now. Then we could start possibly budgeting. I don't think you would find if they could keep it up next to the bank. A farmer might let us stack it to burn it. **Mr. Borchers** stated most the time that is fine. The Buck Creek problem is in town, then it has to be hauled off if the land owners don't want it. I could quote a section of it to see where we're at. **Mr. Bothel** stated I think we need to start on the downstream side to get our quote. **Mr. Borchers** stated I can get some quotes. **Mr. Hamilton** stated I visited the site for JJC claim and he did leave a pile of logs. Did someone from the Surveyors Office inspect his work when it was complete? **Mr. Borchers** stated I went out as he was doing it. I didn't go after words. All I care the log jam was out. A lot of times when it's a wooded area we leave the trees there. **Mr. Hamilton** stated its not in the woods it's on the edge of the field. Did you ask him to remove the logs? **Mr. Borchers** stated I just asked him to remove the log jam. **Mr. Hamilton** stated my suggestion would be unless there are plans for the landowner to use the log jams if it is feasible to burn or get rid of those, so they are not left adjacent to the waterway. The cutting brush job near the roundabout at Madison, do you have jobs similar to this that they could be bundled and quoted. **Mr. Borchers** stated this was one Ms. Riggin asked to be cleared, she didn't like the trees growing on the sidewalk. It was all hand work. **Mr. Hamilton** stated seeing as there is a lot more work to be done out there, I didn't know if you had any plans to continue to cut brush there. **Mr. Borchers** stated we just got the hand work done for now. We will go back and quote the rest out because it's going to need to be done

with machinery. **Mr. Hamilton** “Okay”. On treated stumps are they required to use dye to verify coverage. **Mr. Borchers** stated I don’t have them do it but I can. **Mr. Hamilton** asked how long had it been since the trees were cut that the stumps were treated? **Mr. Borchers** stated the chemistry they use it doesn’t have to be fresh cut. The product used to be called Garlon 4. They changed the name I can’t remember what it is called off the top of my head. They mix that with crop oil not water. It’s what they use to mark trees with.

Mr. Whitehead entertained a motion for the approval of the maintenance claims as presented.

Mr. Hamilton moved to approve the claims as submitted. Mr. Bothel seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

Jennifer Licht, Recording Secretary

William Whitehead, President

Joseph Hamilton, Vice President

Sherry Riggan, Member

John Christy, Member

Wayne Bothel, Member

