

Montgomery County
Drainage Board Meeting
October 9, 2024

The Montgomery County Drainage Board met on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at the Montgomery County Government Center at 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana.

Chairman Dave Rhoads, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, called the meeting to order. Vicki Emmert gave the prayer.

Board members in attendance were, Dave Rhoads Chairman, Vice Chairman John Frey, Secretary Matt Mitchell, & Doug Mills. Member Lance Sennett was not present. Present were Tom Cummins, Surveyor, and Attorney Dan Taylor. Vicki Emmert.

Also present was Joe Enlow, Sue Pensinger, Nance Dice, Paul Smith, Brian Verhey, Dottie Rose, Richard Inskeep, Heather Laffoon, Robert Hall, Everett P. Morrison, Zach Haley, Karon Smith, Brenda Foster, Ed Graham, Scott Brady, and Vickie Sparks.

Approval of Minutes

John Frey moved, seconded by Lance Sennett, to approve the September 11, 2024 Drainage Board minutes. Motion carried, 4-0

Landowners Meetings

Roy Harper #592

Dave Rhoads – reported we have three informational meetings today. The purpose of this meeting is to give everyone a heads-up of possible reconstructions of these three drains.

Tom Cummins – reported all three drains you see on the agenda, remain on the long-range, reconstruction plan. All three drains have been partially reconstructed. The landowners informational meeting today is to discuss and determine if further work is required on the drains. The **Roy Harper #592** drain is located in North Union Township, which includes the town of Garfield. The screen was used to display the area while Mr. Cummins explained the area. The red line is the tile installed in the first reconstruction. The green line is the original tile still in place. Last completed reconstruction was in 2016. The Cain's had discussed vacating the remaining original tile, but now report it should remain a regulated drain.

Nance Dice – reported she lives on 500 East between Cain and Mennen. The County Highway Dept. came out and cleaned part of the road-side ditch.

Nance Dice – inquired about the cost of the new tile.

Tom Cummins – reported that estimates are not available yet. This is only an informational meeting to begin the process of defining the potential project.

Nance Dice – reported cannot see that she has written a check for any assessments.

Tom Cummins – reported maintenance assessments are paid along with your property taxes and reconstructions are a special assessment.

Vickie Sparks – reported the area has already been worked on and does not work correctly now and why do you want to do more.

Tom Cummins – reported the new tile is working. There is stormwater runoff but that is a separate issue.

Tom Cummins – recommends moving forward with the investigation and engineering for a reconstruction of the upstream reach of the **Roy Harper #592**.

Dave Rhoads – inquired who owns most of the ground.

Tom Cummins – reported Cains own the majority of the upstream acreage and used the screen to show area.

Doug Mills – inquired if it because it is undersized, shallow, repair problems.

Tom Cummins – reported is more than likely all three and is off grade and new tile would be deeper.

Doug Mills moved, seconded by John Frey, to move forward with the Roy Harper #592 investigation.

Tom Cummins – reported he wanted to clarify the plan is for reconstruction in 2025.

Motion carried, 4-0.

Edward Berry #593

Tom Cummins – reported the **Edward Berry #593** drain is located in Wayne and Ripley Townships. The screen was used to display and explain the issues. It is on the 2025 schedule for reconstruction. The red lines are the tiles that were replaced in the first phase and the green lines are the original tiles. Reported most of the engineering was done for the first reconstruction in 2018. Two of the tributaries are not functioning properly.

John Frey – inquired about the four road crossings.

Tom Cummins – reported yes, unless we can combine the tributaries. There is a lot of tree growth. The tiles are 12”.

Doug Mills – inquired in the southern portion of the watershed, do the landowners have access to the tiles and who owns it.

Tom Cummins – reported the Mills own those sections.

Tom Cummins – reported there is tile there, just not regulated.

John Frey – inquired if North of Division Rd will have access.

Tom Cummins – reported yes. Old tiles are probably not working. Received no notices from landowners. Several landowners were present.

John Frey – inquired engineers will access the area.

Tom Cummins – reported one of those tributaries was probably installed because one of the others was failing.

Dave Rhoads – inquired who owns the property at the ponds.

Tom Cummins – reported Lafayette Bank & Trust. Mr. Cummins reported he actually went back and listened to the old minutes to prepare for today.

Dave Rhoads – inquired how many acres in the watershed.

Tom Cummins – reported 726.56 acres.

Dave Rhoads – reported visiting the area in 2016 and followed the path. Back then, the Mills part was cow pasture.

Tom Cummins – reported they now farm it.

Doug Mills – inquired how many acres in the **Roy Harper #592** watershed.

Tom Cummins – reported 236.72 acres.

Dave Rhoads – inquired of landowners if there were any comments.

Everett Morrison – reported on the last reconstruction the property marker was taken out on the Northwest corner. Inquired if it could be replaced.

Tom Cummins – reported we could go back in and replace it.

Everett Morrison – reported that would be great.

Brian Verhey - inquired using the screen to display the area. The red lines are tiles that have been replaced and the green are the original lines. If there were any plans for cleaning road ditches.

Tom Cummins – reported no. Would discuss with the engineer about possibly extending the tributary.

Brian Verhey - reported the pipe under the road has been replaced; other landowners concerned about erosion; inquired if lift station by hog barns was still in place.

Tom Cummins – reported no.

Dave Rhoads – inquired of the tile size.

Tom Cummins – reported all three tributaries are 12", according to the records.

Tom Cummins – reported will have the County Highway Department check out the road ditch.

Joe Enlow – reported it pools east of the culvert.

Doug Mills – reported when a tile comes up to a County Rd, the tile always crosses the road, to give the other individual access within reason.

Robert Hall – inquired if the schedule of assessment of landowners could be put on screen.

Tom Cummins – reported this schedule of assessments was approved for the first phase of reconstruction. Any property that has changed hands would not show on this schedule. Will create a new one for the next phase.

John Frey moved, seconded by Matt Mitchell, to move forward with the investigation of the Edward Berry #593. Motion carried, 4-0.

Joseph Conway #700

Tom Cummins – reported the **Joseph Conway #700** is in Coal Creek Township. The screen was used to display the area. It was partially reconstructed in 2018. Tributary 4 was one of the worst problems and needs a lot of input from landowners.

Dick Inskip – reported that he appreciates the work that is done now and the difference is night and day. His concern is lack of notice last time and of losing crops. Would like more notice to plan ahead better in future.

Doug Mills – reported it would be best to plant an early harvest bean crop.

Dick Inskip – reported if he could be notified in March or April, it would help.

Tom Cummins – reported that is why we're planning early for next year.

Dick Inskip – inquired when do you plan to know.

Tom Cummins – reported will try to have meeting in March.

Doug Mills – inquired if all the tributaries will be replaced.

Tom Cummins – reported likely just the worst ones. They are not always deep enough.

Doug Mills – reported if you plan to pattern tile, you should let Tom Cummins know early on.

Tom Cummins – reported will be going out after harvest to check the fields for tile holes etc. May have to do in phases because of cost.

Sue Pensinger – reported she was representing her mother in law, and inquired about the blue line.

Tom Cummins – reported blue line represents the regulated open ditch; currently doing maintenance only and dealing with some erosion on the banks and checking for obstructions.

Dave Rhoads – reported the assessment maintenance fund pays for open ditch work.

Sue Pensinger – inquired what the farm field drains into.

Tom Cummins – reported the other part is not in the watershed.

Sue Pensinger – reported the family has lived here for twenty-two years. Has always worked to have clean waterways, and inquired what the plans for future further work are.

Tom Cummins – reported no plans to work on the west side. Culvert under State Rd 25. Mr. Cummins reported if they were to come out and work, a letter would be sent to landowners beforehand.

John Frey moved, seconded by Doug Mills, to move forward with the investigation of the Joseph Conway #700.

Tom Cummins – reported he would like to clarify in the **Joseph Conway #700** there is 3,014.46 acres which helps to lower the cost, with more acreage to assess.

Dave Rhoads – inquired if Phil Rice has a tributary on his property that needs to be re-done.

Tom Cummins – reported Phil Rice does not farm that area, but spoke with Russ Hutchinson who says it is okay. Investigating that area to make sure it is working well.

Dave Rhoads – reported there are many tributaries. Do not want to do phase reconstructions.

Tom Cummins – reported there are six tributaries. The screen was used to display the area and explained the tributaries and what is regulated.

Doug Mills – inquired about tributary going east, should it be regulated.

Tom Cummins – reported a hearing is required, to vacate a regulated tile.

Dave Rhoads – inquired about if Mr. Cummins has a time frame when all the tributaries were established.

Tom Cummins – reported Mr. Rhoads may come in at look at files; we have paper maps that are old and drawn in pencil. We do have records when it was done. Most of the parcels have changed hands over the years.

Matt Mitchell – inquired how many feet of tile for each drain. Surveyor gave the footage totals for each drain.

Tom Cummins – reported the **Joseph Conway #700** has 46,282 feet of regulated drain; in 2018, 8,380 feet of new tile was installed in first phase of reconstruction.

Motion carried, 4-0.

Tom Cummins – thanked the landowners for coming today.

Old Business

Fred Maxwell #585 Reconstruction

Tom Cummins – reported still waiting on a response from INDOT, regarding one of the road crossings.

Tom Cummins – reported there were two change orders for the **Fred Maxwell # 585** and explained the changes. The first was work completed by Arthur's Excavation & Farm Drainage, for a total of \$41,595.00.

Dave Rhoads – asked to have the map brought up to display the area.

Tom Cummins – reported the green line is the new tile. Phase II is completed. Phase I is not completed with INDOT.

John Frey moved, seconded by Doug Mills, to approve the change order for the Fred Maxwell #585 for \$41,595.00 to Arthur's Excavation & Farm Drainage. Motion carried, 4-0.

Tom Cummins – reported the second change order is from Banning Engineering. The change order is for the costs of the geotechnical investigation that Banning Engineering performed for the **Fred Maxwell #585**.

John Frey moved, seconded by Matt Mitchell, to approve the change order for the Fred Maxwell #585 for \$5,000.00 to Banning Engineering. Motion carried, 4-0.

Tom Cummins – reported the final contractor payment, for the **Fred Maxwell #585** reconstruction Phase II, is \$196,614.44.

John Frey moved, seconded by Matt Mitchell, to approve the final payment for the Fred Maxwell #585 reconstruction Phase II for \$196,614.44. Motion carried, 4-0.

Tom Cummins – reported the drain will be kept on the agenda for approval of the final schedule of assessments.

New Business

Tom Cummins – announced that this would probably be the last Drainage Board meeting for Vicki Emmert, who is retiring at the end of October. Would like the Board to join him in thanking Vicki for the last 16 years of service.

The Board thanked her for her service.

Vicki Emmert – replied thank you.

Public Comment

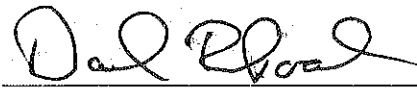
None

Dave Rhoads – reported the next Drainage Board meeting would be November 13, 2024.

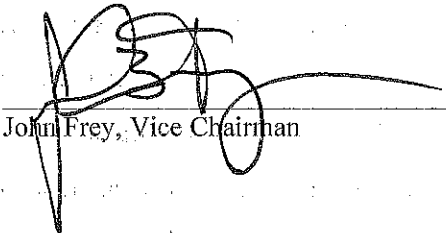
John Frey moved, seconded by Doug Mills, to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 a.m. Motion carried, 4-0.

Tom Cummins,

Surveyor



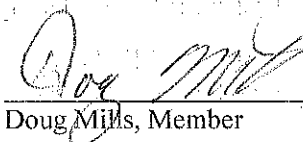
David Rhoads, Chairman



John Frey, Vice Chairman

Matt Mitchell, Secretary

Lance Sennett, Member



Doug Mills, Member