

**Montgomery County
Drainage Board Meeting**

March 12, 2025

The Montgomery County Drainage Board met on Wednesday, March 12th, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the Montgomery County Government Center at 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana.

Chairman Dave Rhoads called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members in attendance were, Dave Rhoads Chairman, Jake Bohlander, and Secretary Lance Sennett. Present were Surveyor Tom Cummins and Attorney Dan Taylor.

Also present were Breanne Deaver and Heather Laffoon.

Approval of Minutes

Lance Sennett moved, seconded by Jake Bohlander, to approve the February 12th, 2025 Drainage Board minutes. Motion carried, 4-0.

Hearings

Thomas Clark #619 Vacate Hearing

Tom Cummins – gave a report describing the drain and the request to vacate. The drain is currently assessed \$2.50 per acre with a \$5.00 minimum assessment. The watershed consists of 164.33 affected acres, which collects \$419.70 annually. Mr. Cummins explained how the Drainage Code defines a drain that needs to be vacated. Based on these criteria, Mr. Cummins recommends vacating the **Thomas Clark #619**.

Dave Rhoads inquired if there were any landowners present that wished to speak. No landowners were present.

Dave Rhoads moved, seconded by Matt Mitchell, to vacate the Thomas Clark #619. Motion carried 4-0.

Petitions

Tom Cummins – reported receiving a petition to attach to the **John Galey #518** from Mr. Marcus Smith, CR 150 S. This request is for a perimeter tile for a new septic system. Mr. Cummins requested that the request be tabled, until the next Board meeting. Mr. Cummins is still waiting for a site plan for the request, and the regulated drain is currently obstructed in the area. Mr. Cummins will investigate and repair. Petition request tabled to the April meeting.

Old Business

Tom Cummins – reported a revision to the **James Servies #703** schedule of assessments, approved at the February meeting. The revision consists of an error of 0.12 affected acres. The revision is necessary due to a change in the watershed boundary.

Lance Sennett moved, seconded by Jake Bohlander, to approve the technical error in the previous schedule of assessments for the James Servies #703. Motion carried 4-0.

Tom Cummins – submitted a preliminary reconstruction report for the Samuel Humphrey #526. The report describes the drain, history, and Drainage Code cites regarding a drain in need of reconstruction. Based on these criteria, Mr. Cummins recommends scheduling a reconstruction hearing. Mr. Cummins presented a reconstruction estimate based on engineer's design.

Dave Rhoads inquired if the drain is located near Elmdale, and Mr. Cummins confirmed.

Mr. Cummins explained that the proposed plan includes extending the new drain further upstream which will include discussions with the landowner on north side of Old SR 55. Mr. Cummins will attempt to begin discussions with landowner.

Tom Cummins explained that the April meeting will need to be moved to satisfy the mail notice requirements for the reconstruction hearing. Mr. Cummins recommends moving the April meeting, scheduled for April 9th, 2025, to April 16th, 2025.

Dave Rhoads moved, seconded by Jake Bohlander, to move the April 9th, 2025 meeting to April 16th, 2025. Motion carried 4-0.

Dave Rhoads moved, seconded by Jake Bohlander, to set a reconstruction hearing on the Samuel Humphrey #526 for April 16th, 2025. Motion carried 3-0, with Lance Sennett abstaining.

Tom Cummins – submitted a preliminary reconstruction report for the Roy Harper #592. The report describes the drain, history, and Drainage Code cites regarding a drain in need of reconstruction. Based on these criteria, Mr. Cummins recommends scheduling a reconstruction hearing. Mr. Cummins presented a reconstruction estimate based on engineer's design.

Dave Rhoads inquired if this drain was partially reconstructed previously. Mr. Cummins confirmed that the downstream end was reconstructed in 2016.

Lance Sennett moved, seconded by Jake Bohlander, to set a reconstruction hearing on the Roy Harper #592 for April 16th, 2025. Motion carried 4-0.

Tom Cummins – submitted a preliminary reconstruction report for the Edward Berry #593. The report describes the drain, history, and Drainage Code cites regarding a drain in need of reconstruction. Based on these criteria, Mr. Cummins recommends scheduling a reconstruction hearing. Mr. Cummins presented a reconstruction estimate based on engineer's design.

Dave Rhoads moved, seconded by Jake Bohlander, to set a reconstruction hearing on the Edward Berry #593 for April 16th, 2025. Motion carried 3-0, with Lance Sennett abstaining.

New Business

Tom Cummins – informed the Board that he will begin working on watershed and landowner assessment revisions. After multiple reconstructions completed over the years, many watersheds need to be revised

based on newer, more accurate watersheds. When a reconstruction project design includes an updated watershed, it also affects any surrounding regulated drain watershed boundary. Revising these watersheds are mainly administrative. Mr. Cummins advised the Board that some revisions could require a hearing, if any landowner is newly assessed for a drain.

Dave Rhoads commended the minutes submitted today. Mr. Cummins explained the process that he uses for creating the Board meeting minutes.

Lance Sennett informed the Board that his family is affected by three of the five reconstructions scheduled for 2025, and the cost is going to be tough, based on crop prices. Mr. Cummins explained that the Board has policies to help reduce the issue of landowners being assessed for multiple reconstructions at the same time, but for larger farmers, this will continue to be an issue.

Dave Rhoads explained the process of reconstructions over the years, and the work it took to reestablish trust with the landowners in the county. Mr. Cummins explained that lack of maintenance has led to most of these drains failing at the same time.

Heather Laffoon stated that the special assessment notices will be mailed out soon, to the landowners affected by the reconstructions completed in 2024.

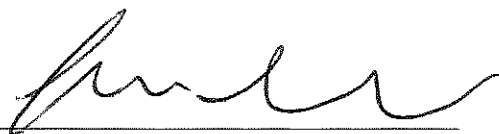
Dave Rhoads – reported the next Drainage Board meeting will be on April 16th, 2025.

Matt Mitchell moved, seconded by Jake Bohlander, to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 a.m. Motion carried, 4-0.

Tom Cummins,
Surveyor


Dave Rhoads, Chairman

Doug Mills, Vice Chairman


Lance Sennett, Secretary


Matt Mitchell, Member


Jake Bohlander, Member