

Montgomery County
Drainage Board Meeting

March 9, 2022

The Montgomery County Drainage Board met on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. at the Montgomery County Courthouse, 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, Chairman Dave Rhoads, Vice Chairman John Frey, Secretary Matt Mitchell, and member Lance Sennett. Member Doug Mills was not present. Present were Tom Cummins, Surveyor, Vicki Emmert Secretary and Attorney Dan Taylor.

Also, present were Brenda Foster, Darrell Birge, Roger Kunkel, Judy Adams, Sherry Coon, Dick and Judy Hunsicker, Brenda Foster, Grant McBee, Roger Azar and Mr. Odle.

There were no minutes to approve.

Hearings

Phillip Dewey #584 Assessment Hearing

Tom Cummins reported the **Phillip Dewey #584** drain is located in Coal Creek Township near New Richmond. A lot of work has been completed, but more is needed. The current maintenance assessment is \$5.21 an acre with a \$5.00 minimum, which collects a total annual assessment of \$4,235.85. The current maintenance fund balance is zero and the improvement fund balance is in the red (\$27,631.69). The current projected payoff is 6.5 years, with expected additional expenditures of (\$5,000.00); making the total projected debt of (\$32,631.69) with a projected payoff of 7.7 years. The proposed assessment is \$15.63 an acre with a \$5.00 minimum. Total collected per year would be \$12,228.69 with a projected payoff of 2.67 years. The calculated maintenance assessment is \$5.39 with a calculated total annual assessment of 44,372.47.

The Surveyor recommends raising the current maintenance assessment of \$5.21 an acre with a \$5.00 minimum, to the proposed assessment of \$15.63 an acre with a \$5.00 minimum, for 2022, 2023 and 2024; this increase will pay back the existing deficit that the drain is currently carrying within the improvement fund, and collect the funds necessary for needed maintenance. The maintenance assessment would then be decreased, to the calculated assessment of \$5.39 an acre with a \$5.00 minimum in 2025, going forward.

Presented the Board with the ledgers of the Maintenance and Improvement funds for the drain to see how money has been spent.

The Maintenance Fund is the primary transaction fund for the **Phillip Dewey #584** drain. All collections are deposited in the maintenance fund, and this fund is used to pay invoices for work, hearing notices, etc. If an invoice total exceeds the balance in the maintenance fund, the remainder is paid out of the improvement fund, under the **Phillip Dewey #584** line item. This debt, carried by the improvement fund, must be paid back as assessments are collected. In some cases, assessment must be raised to ensure the improvement fund is reimbursed in a timely fashion. This was followed by the schedule of assessments.

Darrell Birge – inquired of the Surveyor if he aimed to pay back for work on the open ditch.

Tom Cummins – reported the work is not complete.

Darrell Birge – reported the Surveyor cleared out a wet land and burnt brush on the muck near the open ditch.

Tom Cummins – reported we are only responsible for the work that the Surveyor orders, not what the landowner contracted to have completed. We are currently in the process of dipping out the open ditch, from where the two tiles outlet up to CR 1100 N.

Darrell Birge – reported it is a sad looking mess out there.

John Frey moved, seconded by Matt Mitchell to raise the Phillip Dewey #584 assessment rate to \$15.63 an acre with a \$5.00 minimum for the following years 2022, 2023 and 2024 with an annual total assessment of \$12,228.69. Then reduce the assessment rate in 2025, to \$5.39 an acre with a \$5.00 minimum with a total annual assessment of \$4,372.47. Motion carried, 4-0.

Alfred Stingley #N/A Assessment Hearing

Tom Cummins – reported the Alfred Stingley #N/A was constructed in 1902 and then reconstructed in 1928 and in 1958 the drain was completely reconstructed by landowners. It is located in T20N, R4W, Sections 10,11,12,13, & 14 in Madison Township. The watershed consist of 1,070.37 acres. The tile length is 24,327 feet consisting of 8”, 10, 12”, 14”, 16”, 20”, 24” and 27” tiles. There is no open ditch. Total of twenty-five parcels in watershed. The drain is composed entirely of sub-surface tile, constructed in 1958, and established as a regulated drain in 1959. It outlets into the Lye Creek #535 drain. The overhead projector was used to display the area. The drain was taken off assessment in the 1960’s. The current maintenance assessment is zero. The proposed maintenance assessment is \$6.29 an acre with a \$5.00 minimum. Total annual assessment would be \$6,737.12. The Montgomery County Surveyor classifies this drain as a drain in need of maintenance for 2022 and recommends an increase to the maintenance assessment. This increase would allow for periodic maintenance of the tile.

Dave Rhoads – inquired about the reconstruction in 1958.

Tom Cummins- reported that it became a regulated drain in 1959, but never established a maintenance assessment.

Dave Rhoads – inquired of Mr. Odle if he remembered the reconstruction.

Mr. Odle – reported no.

Tom Cummins – reported Rick Ward did some work on drain when Greg Woods worked for the office, but we did not know it was a regulated drain at that time.

John Frey moved, seconded by Lance Sennett to put the Alfred Stingley #N/A back on assessment at a rate of \$6.29 an acre with a \$5.00 minimum with an annual collection of \$6,737.12.

Dave Rhoads – inquired when will the landowner see this on their taxes.

Tom Cummins – reported this year, 2022.

Eagles Nest #699 – Vacate Hearing

Tom Cummins – reported the Eagles Nest #699 sub-division was brought to the Board in 2021. Landowners sold and the new owners no longer plan to build a sub-division.

Dave Rhoads – inquired if there were any comments. The overhead projector was used to display the area.

There was none.

John Frey moved, seconded by Dave Rhoads, to vacate the Eagles Nest #699 drain. Motion carried, 4-0.

Tom Cummins – reported Dan Taylor to create an order to vacate for the Board to sign.

Old Business

Tom Cummins – presented a revised 2022 drain off list to the Board. The **Oscar Stevens #568** will be on the ON list instead of the off list. The **Rebecca Grimes #570** will be OFF for 2022.

Dave Rhoads moved, seconded by Matt Mitchell, to approved the revised off list for 2022. Motion carried, 4-0.

Other Business

Tom Cummins – reported the engineers are working on the **Allie Peterson #549** project design. The overhead projector was used to display the area. The area may have been a Joint drain with Clinton County at one time as there are fifty acres that drain into the **Allie Peterson #549** from Clinton County.

Tom Cummins - inquired if we should create a Joint board and inquired if we should have a landowner informational meeting. The Code states that Clinton County does not have to be involved. Most Counties want to be involved.

Tom Cummins – inquired if we could hold an informational meeting in April.

Matt Mitchell – inquired if Surveyor has the owner list from Clinton County.

Tom Cummins – reported no. There is a private tile in Clinton County too. The tile may need to be bigger to account for the approximately 50 additional acres coming from Clinton County.

Dave Rhoads – inquired if we have other Joint drains with Clinton County.

Tom Cummins – reported the John McLaughlin #097 is the Tri-County drain along with Tippecanoe and Clinton County.

Dave Rhoads – reported Clinton County might want to hook on to **Allie Peterson #549** drain.

Tom Cummins – reported he feels the landowners should be involved.

Dave Rhoads – inquired of Board their insight.

The Board directed Tom Cummins to send out a letter to landowners for an information meeting at our April 13, 2022 meeting.

New Business

None.

Public Comment

Roger Kunkel –reported at the Linden Cemetery a grave was opened up and it filled with two feet of water. Believes something is wrong with the tile that was installed between Linden and the cemetery in a few years ago.

Tom Cummins – reported sub-surface drainage has been a lot in the last couple of weeks. Did not reconstruct the tile through the woods and there is a possibly an issue there. Will look into opening up a tile in area. Appreciate Mr. Kunkel in notifying him.

Roger Kunkel – reported they will be opening up another grave tomorrow on the east side of cemetery and will check for water there.

Grant McBee – inquired about three farms that his mother, brother and he owns. The big main went in a few years ago, but did not go to the east.

Tom Cummins – Inquired if he was inquiring about the **Alfred Stingley # N/A** or the **George Barnett #663**.

Grant McBee – reported it was the **George Barnett #663**.

Tom Cummins - Used the overhead projector to display the **Alfred Stingley #N/A** and **George Barnett # 663** to show where their water drains. Mr. Cummins turned on the parcels.

Grant McBee – inquired how many total acres to **George Barnett #663**.

Tom Cummins – reported only affected acres; only six in **Alfred Stingley #N/A**.

Tom Cummins – reported 8.13 affected acres in **George Barnett #663**

Darrell Birge – followed up on Roger's inquiry and the cemetery wanted more work done in the swamp area in beginning but Board chose not to. Problems will continue.

Dave Rhoads – reported also that we have had a lot of water recently.

Roger Kunkel – inquired about a tile.

Tom Cummins – reported will verify by opening up the tile to see if it is flowing properly.

Tom Cummins – inquired where the April Drainage Board will be held.

Tom Klein – recommends meeting at the courthouse for April meeting.

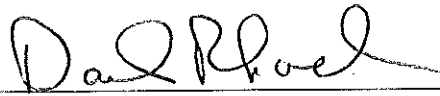
Tom Klein – reported offices to be open in new building in near future but not the conference room. Bi-Centennial events are being planned for County for the year.

Tom Cummins – reported Board usually cancels the May meeting.

John Frey moved, seconded by Lance Sennett, to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 a.m. Motion carried, 4-0.

Vicki Emmert,

Recording Secretary

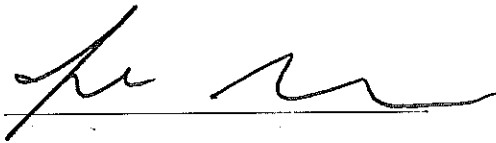


David Rhoads, Chairman

John Frey, Vice Chairman



Matt Mitchell, Secretary



Lance Sennett, Member

Doug Mills, Member

