

# **Randolph County Drainage Board**

**325 South Oak Street \* Suite 206 \* Winchester, IN 47394 \* Phone: (765) 584-0609**

## Present:

Michael D. Wickersham, Chairman  
Gary Friend, Vice Chairman  
Gary L. Girton, Member  
Edwin L. Thornburg, Surveyor  
Meeks Cockerill, Drainage Board Attorney  
Casey Keener, Secretary

Minutes for October 7, 2024

Mike starts, Let's call the Randolph County Drainage Board meeting to order. Let the record reflect it is after 10:30. The first item on the agenda is to approve our minutes for our Tuesday, September 3rd 2024 meeting and I entertain a motion to accept those as presented. Gary Girton makes a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Gary Friend seconds. All in favor of that motion signify by saying aye, all opposed, same sign. Motion Passes 3-0.

## Mote & Associates Quote

Mike says, the next item is a Mote Associates Quote for section corners. And this is at an estimated cost of \$5000 for phase one. This four-year project. Phase one is \$5000 Township, 18 N of 15 E. There are 5 phases for a total fee of \$67,500. We're voting for phase one right now. So, we want to go ahead and enter this agreement with Mote & Associates to do phase one of our section corners. Gary Friend ask if this is recommended by the surveyor. Ed replies yes. Gary Friend then makes a motion to accept the agreement with Mote & Associates to do phase one of our section corners. Gary Girton seconds. All in favor of that motion signify by saying aye, all opposed, same sign. Motion Passes 3-0.

## Henry Rowe Proposed Reconstruction

Mike says, that brings us to our reconstruction hearing and taking the reconstruction of the Henry Rowe and making it a legal drain. And based upon. What the attorneys indicated that he had some research to do. I'm not sure I'm ready to make a decision. I'm inclined to say that, I don't normally like to do this without further research to see if it can even be done well. Gary Friend says, I'm inclined to deny straight up just now. Mike says, I think there's too many unknown issues. It would be one thing if this drain wasn't vacated, obvious, the property owners and the citizens of Randolph County would know the drain is out there. When we take a vacated drain. And try to reestablish it. When it's going to affect. Building rights and other matters along that drain, I'm not sure that's something that I can in good conscience be a part of. Gary Friend responds, I actually can't. I can't even see my mind being changed by any research at all. I put myself in their shoes. I've talked to Ed about it. Not a problem I mean, it's not an extraordinary problem out there anyway. I'll make the motion to decline the reconstruction of the Henry Rowe ditch. Mike says, we have a motion to decline the petition for the reconstruction of the vacated Henry Rd. pitch. Do I have a second? Gary Girton, personally, I'd like to do more research before sure about it. Meeks replies, I'm very certain that the research is going to say you're going to pay somebody if you take away those rights. It's just how much I don't know. You'd have to get an appraiser out there. You have to do an eminent domain, there's no doubt in.

Mike asks, That's not part of this reconstruction. Ed replies, No. Gary Girton Seconds the motion. Mike goes on, we have a motion and a second to deny the petition to reconstruct the Henry Rd. vacation. All in favor the motion signifies by saying aye. Aye. All opposed same sign. Motion passes 3-0. So, you ditch. Remains vacant.

Ed says, I will keep all the acreage information. I've had a file of reconstructions that have failed over the years and we keep all that. There is nothing to prevent Rick or any of the neighbors that wanted to do tile work on their properties. There's nothing to prevent any of that work from being done. The bigger problem being whitewater, it still is just what it is. Now, where you're from your I know some of your water and outlets crossed through the end of that ditch. Is that culvert working adequately? Rick asks, Which one? Ed continues, one on 350 before you get the Lovell property. Rick says, Yeah, all those works. Ed continues, those are all OK. That was one of the things if the coverts were working all right. I didn't see any sign of the tile coming off your farm not working. Rick says, That's right. The only place I know the tile is not working. Well, 3 properties are Wiley's, Shumaker, and Doc. Howell.

Doc Howell challenges on him is it's a single 8-inch tile that turns into two 8-inch tiles when it gets the Fishers. Up there on Randy Keys, the only way to make it work for him is to clean part of the woods on Shoemaker off. While the Shoemaker family is all 45 miles away. They're as interested in taking trees off as the Lovells are. It's just a simple matter of if the culverts get to work across the other side of the road and then it gets away and that's where his flood surface water does go. But yeah and Doc. Howells problem is 40 years of cattle. I've worked on the tile on Dock Howells, I used to do that. I was at the contractor for 35 years. I fixed that ditch for him a lot. I worked on his pastures a lot. I don't know how many tons of stone we put in making the driveway crossings and all the stuff you do working on a cattle farm. Mike says You might look, at going around Lovells. Rick says, How? Mike replies, through your farm, I guess. Rick says, But there's no way in hell here. Mike says, it'd have to be closed. It would have to be a tile. Ed adds, it'd be deep, if you go to the South edge of Lovells property, just cut across and then go down the backside of him looking at a 10- or 12-foot cut. I plotted that. Mike says, It's obviously not desirable. Ed says at least it's not at the bottom of a steep valley and it's all shallow. There is some more talk about where this could be done and how.

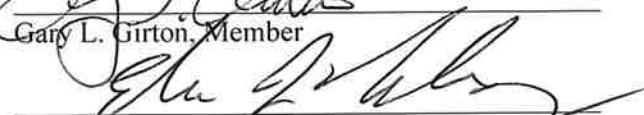
Gary Friend makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gary Girton seconds, motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Signed this 4th day of November, 2024 in the Randolph County Commissioners Room, Winchester Indiana.

  
Michael D. Wickersham, Chairman

  
Gary Friend, Vice Chairman

  
Gary L. Girton, Member

  
Edwin L. Thornburg, County Surveyor