

Randolph County Drainage Board

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

Present:

Gary Friend, Chairman
Tom Kerns, Vice Chairman
Missy Williams, Member
Edwin L. Thornburg, Surveyor
Meeks Cockerill, Drainage Board Attorney
Casey Keener, Secretary

Minutes for Monday, January 6, 2025

Gary friend starts the meeting. The first order business, we need to have the board appointments. We need to have a president and vice president. I was a vice president last year. Don't mind being president of the Drainage board.

Tom Kerns, makes a motion for Gary Friend to be President of the drainage Board. Missy Williams seconds, all those in favor signify by saying aye. Aye, opposed. Same sign. Motion Passes 3-0.

Gary says, now a vice president. Missy nominations of Tom Kerns. Gary says, I'll second. All those in favor signify by saying aye. Aye, opposed same sign. Motion Passes 3-0.

Gary says next is the minutes. Tom makes a motion to accept the minutes. Missy seconds. All those in favor signify by saying aye. Aye, opposed. Same sign. Motion Passes 3-0.

Gary continues, OK. We are down to certificate of assessment. Casey Explains we have to send a certificate assessment for the auditor 's office every year. We already done the on/off for this year. The rate changes and everything in already right in the system. So, we can Certified that these are the ditches we are collecting on. The affected acres, the minimum or the rate, and annual income. Gary asks if this is every ditch in Randolph County. Casey responds, No, these are just the ones we are collecting on. Gary ask, if this is what We're collecting annually. Do they turn off when they get a certain amount of money gets in them? Casey says. Yes, four times the annual amount. Ed adds, we can hold them over and collect more money if we know we're going to need in all the small assessment ditches stay on about all the time, because of that. We got some and only collect two hundred fifty dollars a year. I will say a third of our ditches are off right now. Gary says, Really. Ed replies, Yeah. One my contractors said We're not doing as many repairs as we used to. This is because we've been hitting them really hard for almost twenty years. We're not catching up, but we're gaining. we've been putting in more sections of tiles then just fixing holes. Which makes us not have to come back years often. Gary says, I don't know

about four times assessment accurate anymore, with the contracting. Ed replies, Well, it's for assessment rates stay or where they need to be, then everything stays pretty much even. Gary says, OK. Ed continues, when I started here in 2007, two thirds of our drainage collecting forty cents an acre. Which was a train wreck. It took twelve hundred acres, collect enough money to fix a five-hundred-dollar repair. Our lowest assessment now is two dollars and twenty cents. A lot of them at three dollars and forty-four cents. We raised a few here month ago and we're better shape than we've been in.

Tom makes a motion to certify that the schedule of assessments attached hereto has been adopted pursuant to Article IV, Chapter 305, Acts 1965 to provide funds for annual maintenance of the above listed drains. Missy Seconds, all those in favor signify by saying aye. Aye, opposed. Same sign. Motion Passes 3-0.

Gary says, Project updates, before we get started, that drain we told them no on, how's that going? Ed says, the two major the two main land owners, which was Bruns and then the guy carrying the petition. They are discussing putting in a drain across those two property's tying into the open portion of that right upstream of the other fellow. Anyway, they're talking about, you know, getting a drain that will drain those two farms doing it privately. Tom ask where this was. Ed replies, you know where Randy Keys lives. Roughly three fifty easts, and it starts actually starts South of Greenville Pike, right side of thirty-two. But most of it lays up towards three fifty, and then it goes into the river. There it catches that little subdivision on one hundred edge of the railroad catches about two thirds of it. The guy that was the main objector on it built a house fifty foot from the ditch. And you know, it's all open ditch on him. He wasn't interested to say the least and that ditch had been taken off assessment fifty or sixty years ago. Gary says, it was vacated and the farmers wanted to put it back on. The Person that owned the land with the open running through it would have been in violation. Ed says, obviously nobody was going to ask him to move the House. Gary says Nonetheless, there was no need to do it. Just no need to do it and do that to them. Even if they went around house they could wipe out all vegetation. We just want fairness. For the county to Come back fifty years later and say, by the way, the county is going to take this back. And it didn't do anything until. Ed says, it drains about five hundred acres. Gary replies, Yeah, but it didn't cause any problems. Eds says, No, it wasn't causing any problems. (There is further discussing on what is currently there and why the wanted to fix it.) Gary says, the reason I brought up that was there where A lot of letters and a lot of remonstrance. There were very few people in favor of this. Ed says, that's the first reconstruction where I've had remonstrance that was serious about it. Gary says, they filled up the room and they had good points. Ed says, they had a real good point. And that's why we have the process. Gary says, All right. What else you have for projects?


Ed says I'm working on a couple things. Nothing big right now, basic repair projects is about all that's going on. Looking at probably jetting out and camera in a section of the wagon works ditch, it's part of Sugar Creek. Wagon works ditch down in the southwest side. We've never known for sure where some of this goes. A property owner is worried about it. Chris Martin and I have been working on this for years. When they put the original storm sewers in Winchester, not the originals, but the nineteen forty year of storm sewers. Sugar Creek actually was moved some places three hundred feet and they built the substation in it. We've got a couple drains that we're trying to figure out where they go. we're going jet it and camera it to sort some of it out. You

know, it's a little exciting because that stuff is always expensive, but Sugar Creek 's one of the places that we can afford it.

Gary asks, does anyone have any questions for Ed. Everyone replies, no.


Missy Williams makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Kerns seconds, motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Signed this 3rd day of February, 2025 in the Randolph County Commissioners Room, Winchester Indiana.



Gary Friend

Missy Williams

Tom Kerns

Edwin L. Thornburg, County Surveyor