

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, Drainage Board Secretary

Minutes for April 1, 2024

Mike Wickersham calls the meeting to order. Let the time reflect it is 11:19 A.M. The first item is to approve the Minutes for Monday March 18, 2023 meeting. Gary Girton moves to approve the minutes as presented, Gary Friend seconds, Minutes approved as presented, motion carries.

Mike asks, what's next on the agenda? Ed replies, basically, at this point we're looking at some project updates. We obviously have got a contractor cleaning a section of open ditch on the on the Keys Ditch at the end of the T road over the airport. We're cleaning about 1/4 of a mile there. It was a great filter for tornado debris. We're planning and filing on both sides. Usually we don't burn brush but, I thought, those people didn't ask for this, so we're going to go ahead and burn the brush and clean up the brush piles. Mike asks if it is ok to burn the brush. Ed replies, yes. We've also got a section we're going to do, close to middle School Road, on the Wilson-Browne-Leavell-Monks ditch, where it crosses there. It won't be as intense of a ditch, it's not as in as bad of shape. Mike ask if any other public ditches being cleaned. Ed says, he has work orders for two more, one of which was cleaned by the Field Walkers. It was a clean ditch, we had it was good shape. So, when they got there they could get up and down the banks and pick stuff up. I think I've got two others. We have one property on Sugar Creek that has trees we need to fish out. The next-door neighbor to Jim Keener's to the north. Between her and Jim, they had probably an acre of really nice pine trees and some other nice stuff out there. That's all in a pile about 50-foot-wide and 100 feet long now, except for about a dozen trees that the volunteer group pushed up against the edge of the bank. The group that came in did a fantastic job with this property. She said, they asked if they could clean up and we are not going to charge you. And she said OK, she said there was like 10 or 12 people and four pieces of equipment in there before they were done. It was a some of the Church of Christ related was one of those groups came in. But that is the only place on Sugar Creek. Is there anything else it kind of had was just hitting was just touching ground at that point headed into town. The nonpublic ditches, got a real issue. We're not sure if Salt Creeks got an issue. Mike says, That's on my list, Salt Creek. Ed continues, we still got White River on 400 E it's got a real issue. The people that own it cleaned the section on another one of their farms few years ago, got in trouble by IDEM. Questioning whether we'll see them back, working on it or not, there's about 1/4-mile-wide river to really a real disaster. Mike ask if that's our responsibility. Ed replies Its downstream from us. It's a mile downstream from where it quits being a county drain. So, technically it's not ours. Mike says, and Salt

Creeks, not ours either, right? Ed replies right, Salt Creek is a not. Mike asks, who's is Salt Creek. Ed continues, No-ones. I Have four County drains that form Salt Creek but it quits being a county ditch just as it comes on to Jim Fruit's property. When it comes off of camp Yale on to Jim Fruits it quits being county drain. Mike says, it's a mess down there on Jane St. And I'm not sure. The mayor has already said something to me about it. He's not said we need to do something. He's just said Salt Creeks a mess, basically what I said. Ed replies, it truly is. Mike says, my response to him was I think it's going to just like everything else. It's going to have to be a coordinated effort to clean that out. And, if its no bodies, then you're going to have to have permission of private property owners to get to it. And some of the stuff I saw down in the South end its going to take some heavy equipment to get out. Ed says, definitely it's not something you're going to do with the backhoe. it's not going to be quick and easy. It's the same equipment that we're using on the Keys ditch is what we'll need to do that. We had, we've got a guy in my neighborhood that came in and working for a couple private land owners on their sections of White River. He called me he wanted to do our clean out work for well, I never heard of you for one thing, and I've got a dozen contractors of my own here in the county for another. When he rolled in with the larger mini excavator, but mini excavator and skid loader and he's trying to work on trees near White River. And yes, he gathered up some sticks and made a couple piles. But, that's definitely not the answer. Not bad fellow, I mean, he's doing the best he can with what he's got, but he's way overmatched. The Salt Creek should take 320 Cat size equipment and. Either pile brush and haul it out, or grind it, and now city's been grinding a whole bunch of the stuff that they hold out there to the city garage. Their pile, they've got a big grinder they mulched a whole bunch of trees. Gary Girton asked what do you feed that with. Ed replies you can feed it with any size hoe. The thing is, it's not where you're putting stuff in the tub. It's put on a flatbed. You've got a platform about 5 feet off the ground, you can drop the tree on it. There it takes it right through. I would love to have one, if I could ever come up with a way to fund it. I would love to have a flatbed grinder and the feller bunches like commercial timber guys use. Saw all the trees off drop them on their side. You mark the good timber you sell the junk timber, you grind, pull it out and haul it away and that give you a way to clean along river bank not violate IDEM. Along White River, I'm going to say there's 50 trees down in the 1st 200 foot. From the bridge on 400. I've not talked to any of the Barga family. The ones that own it, that section there.

Mike says, well, if we were to work in cooperation with the city on Salt Creek. Could you participate in developing a plan that can manage? My thinking is that we use ARPA Funds. It's going to need to get cleaned up and I don't think that I can't imagine the city having any money, and I guess the sooner we get some cost estimates anywhere, the sooner that we qualify for FEMA money if they're going to get it back. Ed says, we're going to need estimates to turn in on that and we need to have that the justice has to be in by June 14th. Mike says we have Two and a half million dollars to spend by the end of this year. Gary Girton, says what's that. Gary Friend replies ARPA. Gary Girton says we have until 2026, we just have to have it designated buy the end of 2024. Mike says the only thing it know it can't be used for is Commissioner, salaries. I think I will be talking to the Major about it today.

Gary Friend ask if we have any other open ditches out there, that's in critical shape. Ed replies, Owl Creek on Base Rd. And now those landowners, they, well, they put together, they're working on a plan. We're trying. They're trying to get a contractor to give them a quote. They need help. Owl Creek is again is two miles from where a county ditch quits being a County ditch. You

know, goes private and then this area, the area of the tornado went through and where woods, nothing to ditch. All of it. If you drive out there and look it certainly if you. Go out 500 E. Go West quarter a mile. When you set the stop on the bridge and Look North. I worked on the section of that 20 some years ago for the landowners and I think I cleaned an eighth of a mile of it because they had some real bad log jams we got out it's right there where those gravel pits around Union City used to put stuff in. The guy that farms it and the lady owns it are willing to put some of their own money into it, but it's going to take more than they they're able to spend. I get quotes on all that. Gary Fiend ask if cleaning a private dish like that allow on the FEMA reimbursement. Mike replies it should, if we are doing it. Gary Friend says would there be if the land owners done it on their own. Mike replies not the public.


But, not doing private ditches. We can't start, that up. Ed say if do it we'd have to specify that we're cleaning up 2024 for Randolph County tornado damage and that limits it. Really it limits it to about 1/2 a one-mile area. Mike replies if we do that today for Gary and I did it myself two days ago. I'm going to say where are you and it cost me \$500 to do it. You owe me \$500. Ed replies here's now the other side of that. If you can document it, somebody that did their own, they cleaned up their own section. I mean number one would be pictures or else you know. Mike says Well, I know, but my point is I think we should stay away from private cleanup. I don't think we should do private cleanup. I don't know how you feel about it. Gary Girton says Well, that's true, but If you go out To Salt Creek, you will be doing that. Mike replies Yes, but Salt creek is not private it's not owned by anybody. Ed says it is owned by people in part of the town. There's an area. Down there, what's the what's the street? The E Street Churches is on North St. There's an area down there Where the property lines come down to the edge of the ditch. And don't come into the middle at the south end of town, there's property lines go to the center or to one side or the other. part of that is the Orange St. to the end of the cemetery that that's owned by the City, Ed says that city does own a good bit of that. I can come up with a map showing it. Mike says why don't you do that. I'd say to Orange Street, probably go to Carl St. and down to the South end of the cemetery. Ed says I'll get a detailed map that it won't take any time at all. Gary Friend says, yeah, make a detailed one of all of them that are effective. And then in in the farming community, are they going to get reimbursement for this? Clean out, I mean, is there going to be federal funding available to them for disaster? Ed replies I don't know whether there's any money available to them or not. Mike says the individual if it's approved, and it only comes after insurance. Gary Friend says OK. Ed says I know my homeowner's insurance doesn't cover my trees in my yard, but if my tree takes out my house, it covers my house. Gary Girton replies Right. How did the county get? I'm sorry. How did the county handle? When the ice storms with them, more trees. And debris in the private ditches then this. It had well, first thing that we. Didn't do anything on private ditches. We didn't. We didn't do anything on the privates. Gary ask if it's fair to say the ice storm dropped just as much debris. Ed replies No. The difference was the ice storm dropped the level of debris everywhere we had. I felt like I had more problems from the ash borer than I had the ice storm. Because the acreage. Started dropping about six years in and they're still falling. There is some discussion on the Ash Bore and the problems with falling trees.

Mike says for discussion purposes, Western Ave. By the Armory, there's the cemetery down there. They have trees down and piled them up, but there's. also trees down at the cemetery that were uprooted that the root system would barely fit in that square right there. Does Somebody own that cemetery? Somebody told me that if nobody, if they don't have cemetery board that

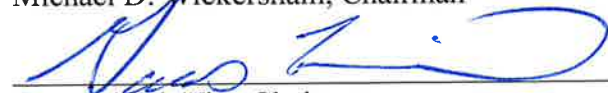
runs it, then it reverts to the County. Ed says it reverts to the township trustee. Whiteriver township should have the money to fix it, but if they wouldn't have then it reverts to the county. Mike replies, OK, I just want to make sure. Somebody's going to pay to get those things ground up. The Trustee is, Susie, she's good. Somebody said the National Guard is out there cleaning them up. They did a nice job of piling the sticks. Ed says, there have been people show up everywhere

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


Signed this 6th day of May, 2024 in the Randolph County Commissioners Room, Winchester Indiana.



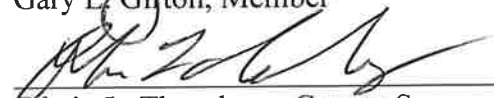
Michael D. Wickersham, Chairman



Gary Friend, Vice Chairman



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Edwin L. Thornburg, County Surveyor