

Randolph County Drainage Board

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

Present:

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

Kathy Cox

Minutes for March 7, 2022

Tom Chalfant calls the Randolph County Drainage Board meeting to order. First is the approval of minutes from January 28, 2022. Gary Girton moves to approve the minutes as presented, Mike Wickersham seconds, Minutes approved, motion carries.

Surveyors report:

First thing that we have is a land owner Cathy Cox on 100 South. She says, it was a lake this morning. Cathy presents pictures from two weeks ago, there is no mistake there is water. Tom ask if this is new water or has it always been this way? Ed replies, this is the third time that I have been approached by the problem. Gabe Thorn had lived in the house prior and had the same problem. The tile that services this, runs in to the Kora Davis legal drain but it's a private tile comes up and crosses under old 27 follows the swale behind these houses. This tile like many 6 to 8-inch tile put in around the 1920's. I put together a rough estimate. Cathy ask if we would use the same access only bigger? Ed says, yes about the same place and it would be bigger. Cathy says there was water going through it this morning. Ed says that's the culvert, we are talking about the tile under the culvert. She says she didn't realize there was a tile under the culvert. Ed says, yes there is a tile under the culvert, Mikes next door neighbor has worked on it. That tile was when they

repaired it was 5 or 6 inch. Mike says that square runs on my south property line to the south. It gets areas of property that I can't mow occasionally, but it is on the south end. Ed says there's 16 acres of farm ground between them that is affective. I think she has figured out that most of the neighbors are not worried about it. Cathy says I'm not saying that its that new people have moved in to the west of me and Larry Mills has been involved in this for years. She hasn't been able to catch anyone home. Ed says that I don't think Larry has never been in to see him. If we go through there we would make it a lateral of that ditch, the west of that drain doesn't go through that soil. The biggest problem is it's a small watershed, under 400 acres. Like I said you have the swale here and the road and then you have the rest of the watershed. This runs across old 27 and ties in to what I believe is a 15inch tile behind Rusty Symmes and the neighbors in there. If we took the other water across 100 and ran a new 12 down along the side ditch across the road across the high road and ran it to Salt Creek. We replaced that a couple of years ago, but this portion still uses the original and all of it ends up in Salt Creek. Mike say the water now is a bigger problem than in the 40 years he has lived there. Cathy agrees that everyone who has lived out there said its never been this bad, this many time as they have seen. Ed agrees that the tile has probably failed. Mike says, that it has been working until the last 7 to 10 years. Ed agrees that in the last 10 years is when it started, Gabe contacted me probably about 5 years ago and we worked to tried to figure a way to take it South on the other side, but with the elevation there it wouldn't work. I think this problem has gotten considerably worse since then. The challenge is that the majority of the ditch is not affected by this and the people that are it becomes a \$975.00 an acre problem. Mike ask how many acres are there. Ed says, the number of acres affected by this project is 29.25. Tom says carrying a petition probably wouldn't be successful. Mike says, and 16 of it is out of the farm field. Ed says, Yes, the farm field share if the project goes would be around \$29,500. Cathy say, for the first time ever Tyler Lanter, the first house has water standing, he has a little and my son Tyler Cox never has any standing. Mike ask if it standing behind him in the field. She says no not when I drive by. The construction guy Jeff is the deepest I've ever seen it pooled there and I'm lower so it come another way to the back of my deck. My yard never ever dries. Mike ask how much of your back yard is wet. She says all of it. I was two weeks ago and again today. Eds says according to the previous home owner in the summer 2/3 of the way back up to the deck it lays wet. Most likely the house had tile tied into this ditch. A row of 40-year-old pine trees and a tile don't go well together that would be a small fix that would be putting 30 foot of tile through the trees to replace it, but the outlet is obviously not working. To make it a prong of the ditch we are looking to spend, with the news I got on some tile prices, probably \$40,000.00 plus. The ditch takes in barely \$1000.00 a year. Cathy says, I know water is

pooling every where right now but my yard is underwater more than its not. Mike says, I'm in a difficult position because I'm on this watershed as well and it does not affect me. Cathy says, I have a video of your property this morning and all the neighbors. Mike said if he was to spend money on tile at his house it would be in the front, that is in the road right of way. Now that they have fixed the road it pools in the right of way and not the road. I guess I wouldn't be uncooperative in the effort, I think that if I were in your shoes I would be more persistent in contacting the neighbors and see they are interested in spending any money to do this. Mike ask if this is something we can borrow from general drain? We can, but the challenge is getting it paid back. So, can the property owners pay it back? If we design this and made this a drain project they would pay it back on their property taxes, it becomes an assessment on your property taxes. They would have five years to pay it back, the first year would be interest free, then 10% interest. Mike said it would be beneficial to Cathy to make a sheet to show this to show to her neighbors. Which house is yours? I'm the 5th on from the right the red brick. It's a shame she is in such a small water shed, in the past we have ran a tile at the bac of a row of house out of the maintenance fund. Any time you have a row of houses you have a water problem. I will put a proposal together for them, will that work. She says that's a start, what would happen if they don't want to do it where would that leave me. Mike said you would have to do it yourself. You would have to get permission to put tile through there property. Tom ask if this was county not city? Old 27 is county not city. Mike said if I can help in any way call me. Cathy says thank you.

The second thing that I have is the same problem, different solution. This right across from Gary's farm on middle school road. This lady has a similar problem water stand in her front and back yard. But the county ditch is little over 250 ft away, if run up in her yard and tee to that and run it up to the next party south 3 others can tie into it. This ditch has enough money in the maintenance fund to cover it.

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


Signed this 4th day of April, 2022 in the Randolph County Commissioners Room,
Winchester Indiana.



Thomas E. Chalfant, Chairman



Gary L. Girton, Vice Chairman



Michael D. Wickersham, Member



Edwin L. Thornburg, County Surveyor