

MARSHALL COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

February 17, 2025

The Marshall County Drainage Board met for a regular meeting on February 17, 2025 at 8:30am in the Commissioner's Room of the Marshall County Building, 112 W Jefferson St. Plymouth, IN. Board members present were: Stan Klotz, Vice President; Board Members; David Stults, Jesse Bohannon, and Adam Faulstich. Also present were Craig Cultice, County Surveyor; Sean Surrisi, Board Attorney; Angie Kibbe, Drainage Board Secretary. Absent today President Randy Gling. The meeting was opened in due form and the following business was considered. The Drainage Board meeting is streaming live and is available for live view at: www.co.marshall.in.us.

VARIANCE REQUEST/PIDCO DITCH

Scott Johnson with Hoosier Racing Tire Corp. came before the board to make the variance request. Mr. Cultice presents the board with sight plans and measurements of the variance for the proposed 45' x 40' addition and a proposed driveway re-route. The addition would be approximately 58'± on the southwest point and 76'± on the southeast point from the top of the ditch. The existing driveway will move to the south of the addition. Mr. Johnson tells the board there is some flexibility on the addition. The purpose of the addition is for a bandsaw they have purchased to cut tires for testing and the lab is right there at the back of the building. Mr. Johnson states that he is working with the city, and they are combining a parcel at the back of the building as well. Mr. Klotz informs Mr. Johnson that if maintenance is done on the PIDCO Ditch and any damage occurs to the re-routed driveway it will be at the owner's expense. **Mr. Bohannon motioned to approve the variance as presented, a 58± variance from southwest corner of the proposed addition. Seconded by Mr. Stults, the motion passed 4-0.**

HERITAGE DRONE SERVICE/JAKE WETZEL

Jake Wetzel, owner of the veteran business based out of Porter County comes before the board today. He wanted to inform the board of his business and the services that he offers with his drone. He is certified with the office of Indiana State Chemist to spray ditches for aquatic pest management and industrial weed management. Mr. Wetzel started the business in 2022, and he has sprayed over 50,000 acres with his drone. He states that about 35% of his business is working with government agencies. He explains with the drone he can get in easier and efficiently to the ditches, instead of using machinery or walking the ditch to spray. Mr. Cultice contracted Mr. Wetzel to spray the Gabriel Leffert County Ditch. Mr. Cultice took a video of the

work while it was being done and presented it to the board today. Mr. Faulstich asked Mr. Wetzel how do land owners know if he is working in the area. Mr. Wetzel states in Laporte County they mail out a letter to the property owners in the area that is being worked on to let them know a drone will be spraying the ditch. Mr. Cultice lets the board know that he was really impressed with the effectiveness of it and time saving of the work that was done by Mr. Wetzel. Mr. Faulstich asked if Mr. Wetzel gets a lot of drift spray, Mr. Wetzel responded that he does not do any spraying if winds are above 10 miles per hour. Mr. Bohannon asked Mr. Cultice if he thinks the drone spray is more precise than conventional way. Mr. Cultice explains that right now a lot of the guys are walking and spraying by hand but the cost saving of the drone is more impactful.

EMMA KUNTZ DITCH/ ROBERT GOO

Mr. Cultice reminds the board that this a continuous from the January meeting. There was discussion of looking for the alternative was to address the two culverts that are hindering the flow in the Emma Kuntz ditch. Mr. Cultice had a contractor look at the culverts and the 24' pipe is in bad shape. It was determined the best approach to this is to either fill them up or block a portion. Mr. Cultice states before they can do anything he will have to contact IDNR to find out if permits are a requirement. Once he gets information back from the regulators they can see how to proceed.

ADDENDUM TO THE ACTIVE AND NON-ACTIVE DRAINS

Mr. Cultice reviewed the list of the approved drains from the January meeting that should be active and non-active for 2025 collection. The Lemert Johnson drain was put on the non-active collection, under further review by the surveyor's office the Lemert Johnson has not reached it shut off limit. Mr. Cultice would like to request the board approve the drain be put on the active collection for the year 2025. **Mr. Bohannon motion to approve the addendum and put the Lemert Johnson on the active collection for 2025, seconded by Mr. Faulstich. Motion carried 4-0.**

Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Faulstich, seconded by Mr. Stults to approve January 21, 2025, minutes. Motion carried 4-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Bohannon addressed the board regarding the joint boards that they were assigned to and if any upcoming meeting were scheduled that he did not receive notification on. None were.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the board, **Mr. Stults motioned to adjourn the meeting, second by Mr. Bohannon. Motion carried 4-0.**

MARSHALL COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

Randy Glingie, President

Stan Klotz, Vice-President

Jesse Bohannon, Board Member

David Stults, Board Member

Adam Faulstich, Board Member

Attest: _____

Angie Kibbe, Drainage Board Secretary