

MARSHALL COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

August 18, 2025

The Marshall County Drainage Board met for a regular meeting on August 18, 2025, at 8:30 am in the Commissioner's Room of the Marshall County Building, 112 W Jefferson St., Plymouth, IN. Board members present were: Randy Glinge, President; Stan Klotz, Vice President; Board Member; Jesse Bohannon, and Adam Faulstich. Also present were Craig Cultice, County Surveyor; Sean Surrisi, Board Attorney; and Angie Kibbe, Drainage Board Secretary. Absent today: David Stults. The meeting was opened in due form, and the following business was considered. The Drainage Board meeting is streaming live and can be viewed live at: www.co.marshall.in.us.

SNYDER-CAROTHERS WATERSHED/ASSUME JURISDICTION OVER A PRIVATE TILE AND A PORTION OF THE CAROTHERS DITCH

Craig Hawley with Farmer's Drainage, 9124 Hickory Rd. Plymouth came before the board to discuss what he found in his investigation of the private tile. In the fall of 2023, Mr. Hawley repaired the 24" tile (Snyder Arm). It was determined that the existing plastic tile, which is on maintenance, was plugged with tree roots. He noted at that time that the private tile in question appeared to extend and continue easterly towards Olive Road. He determined that the private tile upstream from the Snyder Arm was plugged with tree roots from various overgrown fence rows on the east and west property lines of the parcel at 14715 4th Rd. (Massengill property). Mr. Hawley believes the size of the tile is reduced to 18 inches as it approaches Olive Road. In Mr. Hawley's opinion, the tile appears to be in good condition. This tile was originally intended for subsoil drainage in this watershed long before the land was divided into residential tracts and now poses issues larger than what the average homeowner can afford to deal with when repairs are necessary. Mr. Faulstich noted that the Pica house looked remarkably close to the tile. He is wondering where their septic tank and leach field are located. The owner probably doesn't even know that tile is there if they have not had any water problems. Mr. Hawley states that if something were to happen with the tile close to the house, it might come down to rerouting the tile away from the house. Mr. Hawley believes it will cost approximately \$5,000 to make repairs on the private tile located west of Olive Road. Mr. Cultice now provides visuals of the Snyder-Carothers Watershed, which includes the approximate location of the private tile. Mr. Cultice believes the assessments will need to be raised to cover the cost of maintenance on the new tile and the work that needs to be done within the watershed. For the upcoming public hearing, the board will consider the petition from land owners to place approximately 3,200 feet of the Carothers Ditch (not currently on collection) on maintenance. The board was then presented with options of assessment rates to cover the projected estimated average annual maintenance cost of \$4,000-\$5,000. The assessment rates currently are \$5.00 per acre with a \$5.00 minimum, and the annual assessment is \$1,163.50. Rates to consider are as follows: \$10.00 an acre with a \$13.00 minimum = annual assessment of \$3,006.00: \$13.50 an acre with a minimum of \$17.00/minimum = annual assessment of \$4,055.50: \$17.00 per acre with \$20.00/minimum = annual assessment of \$5,097.43. The board discussed and felt that the \$17.00 an acre with the \$20.00 minimum is the best bet to cover the cost of the private tile and 3,200'± of additional ditch maintenance. **Mr. Bohanon motion to set the assessment at \$17.00 an acre with a \$20.00 minimum. Mr. Faulstich seconded the motion; the motion carried 4-0.** The Marshall County Surveyor's office will publish the assessment rate and set a public hearing date for

October 20, 2025. Property owners in the Snyder-Carothers watershed will receive notices regarding assessments and public hearing date.

GALL UNSICKER/MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENTS

Mr. Cultice goes over his surveyor's report on the Gall Unsicker Watershed; there are 231 parcels in Marshall County and 22 parcels in Kosciusko County. The surveyor's office did receive a letter from the Kosciusko County Drainage Board waving their right to have a representation on the joint board of the Gall-Unsicker drain. The watershed assessment right now is \$2.25 per acre with a \$5.00 minimum. The total annual assessment is \$12,171.00 ±, and as of current, the fund is in the red \$-16,833.00. Mr. Cultice believes the estimated average yearly maintenance cost would be \$30,000-\$40,000. The assessment will need to be increased to cover costs. Mr. Cultice provided various options. Changing the assessment to \$6.00 an acre with \$9.00 minimum, the annual assessment is \$32,338.59; \$6.50 an acre and a \$10.00 minimum, the annual assessment is \$35,037.55; \$7.50 an acre with a \$12.00 minimum will be \$40,434.82 in annual assessments. Mr. Bohanon asked Mr. Cultice how long he thinks it would take to recoup the money. Mr. Cultice believes it would be 3-4 years. Mr. Bohannon makes notes it would be a jump in price, and Mr. Cultice replies that there is a lot of farmlands in the watershed and the farmers understand the importance of drainage. Mr. Klotz states that he feels the annual assessment of \$35,000± would help get the drain out of the hole and have some left over to continue to do work on the drain. Mr. Bohanon agrees that the \$6.50 an acre with \$10.00 minimum would be the minimum for this watershed. Mr. Glinge asked how many drains there are in the shed. Mr. Cultice states there are 3 drains and 6 tiles. **Mr. Klotz made a motion for advertising assessment at \$6.50 an acre with a \$10.00 minimum. Mr. Bohanon seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.** Further discussion between the board and Mr. Cultice regarding the date for the public hearings for both watersheds, if it should be during a regular drainage board meeting or another day entirely. It was agreed that both hearings for the Gall Unsicker and Snyder-Carothers will be held during the regular drainage board meeting on October 20, 2025.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Cultice brought before the board to review the signed and recorded Easement Damage Agreement with Sequel Wire and Cable. Mr. Surrisi lets the board know he is still working on the agreement with the Town of Argos/Sequel.

MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Klotz, seconded by Mr. Bohanon, to approve the July 21, 2025, minutes. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Stoller of 3708 Grape Rd, Bremen, comes before the board with concerns. He states that last week at the BZA meeting, they approved a construction company to build at 5th Rd and Elm Road. His concerns are with

the George Bowser Arm drain, which is broken down and very shallow. Mr. Stoller has spoken to Mr. Cultice regarding this a couple of times. The building is 50,000 square feet; Mr. Cultice believes this permit is still pending on the drainage plan. Mr. Stoller comments that approving buildings like this puts a burden on the farmers, the drainage is not that great, and the community does not want to put money into cleaning the drain, the George Bowser fund does not have a lot of money in it as well. Mr. Surrisi questions whether the BZA requires a drainage plan before they start to build. Mr. Cultice tells Mr. Surrisi that he believes the builders were going to be required to replace Mr. Stoller's private tile that runs along Elm Rd., along with a drainage plan that would be a slow release into the Bowser Arm. Mr. Faulstich asked Mr. Stoller if he knew what they were building, Mr. Stoller said two large shops with an office and fenced-in area for parking. It is a construction company that has outgrown their home. Mr. Stoller states he just wants to inform the board about what was going on and his concern about the drainage.

Rex Crump of 900 S Michigan St., Plymouth, comes before the board as a friend of Calvin and Brenda Montgomery. Mr. Montgomery's health is not well, and Mrs. Montgomery asked Mr. Crump to help with a legal situation they have with Don Green on Myers Lake, Plymouth. The Montgomerys were served with a lawsuit regarding drainage issues. This drainage issue was brought before the Marshall County Drainage Board when Don Green filed a petition for obstruction of a private/mutual drain in September 2024. In November of that year, the drainage board motioned that the board could not make a definite determination on the obstruction; Mr. Crump is looking to the board for advice on this or a recommendation on an attorney. Mr. Surrisi tells Mr. Crump that any civil lawyer would be able to help him and that the drainage board cannot help or advise on this civil issue.

Jody Overmyer with Marshall County Soil and Water Conservation District comes before the board with the intent of reapplying for the 319 grant. Last year, they received the grant and worked in the headwaters of the Yellow River; now they would like to go further down the Yellow River. She is asking for the Surveyor and Drainage Board to send a letter in support of her applying for the \$66,000± grant. This grant is under the Federal Clean Water Act and provides funding for various types of projects that work to reduce nonpoint source water pollution. Funds may be used to conduct assessments, develop and implement TMDLs and watershed management plans, provide technical assistance, demonstrate new technology, and provide education and outreach. Mr. Bohanon asked her if she was aware of the testing on the headwaters of the Yellow River for E. coli and if she knew of the source of the E. Coli. Ms. Overmyer is aware of the testing but does not have the reports or if it was investigated on where the source of the E. Coli came from. Mr. Bohanon goes on and asks that the reports be given to the drainage board to understand where the E. Coli came from before moving on to other projects. **Mr. Klotz makes a motion to support Ms. Overmyer applying for the 319 grant and to have Mr. Cultice send a letter of support, seconded by Mr. Bohanon. Motion carried 4-0.** Mr. Bohanon asked Ms. Overmyer if she could get him any reports on the E. Coli tests and anything else done on the headwaters of the Yellow River. Ms. Overmyer does not believe she has access to that report and directed Mr. Bohanon to their website for more information.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the board **Mr. Klotz motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Bohanon.**
Motion carried 4-0.

MARSHALL COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

Randy Glingle, President

Stan Klotz, Vice-President

Jesse Bohannon, Board Member

David Stults, Board Member

Adam Faulstich, Board Member

Attest: _____

Angie Kibbe, Drainage Board Secretary