

STARKE COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2025
@ 8:30 A.M.

Pursuant to adjournment the Starke County Drainage Board met in regular session in the Starke County Government Building meeting room this 7th day of January 2025. The following members were present: Merlyn Lucas, Greg Troike, Charlie Chesak, Matt Lawrence, Gwen Rentz: Starke County Surveyor. The following proceedings were held to wit:

IN RE: REORGINAZATION

Charlie Chesak made a motion to retain the same officers that held a seat in 2024 with the exception of the recording secretary. Matt Lawrence seconded the motion and the motion passed with 4 ayes.

President	-	Greg Troike
Vice President	-	Ed Jernas
Secretary	-	Charles Chesak
Attorney	-	Autumn Ferch
Recording Secretary	-	Sara Dingman

IN RE: APPOINTMENTS TO DRAINAGE BOARD

Starke Pulaski	-	Merlyn Lucas and Greg Troike
Starke-Marshall	-	Charlie Chesak and Matt Lawrence
3-County	-	Ed Jernas
4-County	-	Ed Jernas
Monon	-	Merlyn Lucas
Zec-Chap-Lohr	-	Greg Troike

IN RE: 2025 DRAINAGE BOARD ATTORNEY CONTRACT

Attorney Autumn Ferch’s 2025 contract was provided to the board for review. Matt Lawrence made a motion to approve the contract and Merlyn Lucas seconded. The motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: 2025 EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

Matt Lawrence made a motion to approve the 2025 Emergency Maintenance Contracts and Charlie Chesak seconded. The motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: 2025 DRAINAGE BOARD DATES

Gwen Rentz presented the board with a list of tentative dates for the monthly drainage board meetings for 2025.

IN RE: MINUTES

Charlie Chesak made a motion to approve the November 15, 2024 minutes. Matt Lawrence seconded and the motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: TODD LAWRENCE- PRETTYMAN DITCH

Todd Lawrence requested a variance on the Prettyman Ditch to put a pump in. Matt Lawrence made a motion to approve the variance. Charlie Chesak seconded and the motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: NEXT ERA DRAINAGE PLANS

Next Era came before the board to get drainage approval for the Next Era solar project. Gwen Rentz discussed with the board the recommendations given at Newly Elected Official training. They recommended the board choose an engineering company to submit the drawings and plans to and then the engineering company would sign off on those drawings. Next Era notes that a third-party engineer reviewed the plans that were submitted and provided minimal comments and those were immediately addressed. Next Era stated to their knowledge the engineer has approved those changes addressed. Greg Troike noted that he thought the information submitted was vague and would like to see better detail of what culverts are being put in and where. After more discussion, Charlie Chesak made a motion to table the Next Era Drainage Plans until the March 4 Drainage Board Meeting. Drainage Board Members reviewed the proposed drainage plans submitted by Next Era. Matt Lawrence seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes. The Board discussed having a special meeting with Bob Aloï to go over those drainage plans, along with Attorneys Ferch and Schramm.

IN RE: OLD BUSINESS

Gwen Rentz gave an update on the Bartee Tile. Allsop Excavating asked for an extension and it was granted until May 1st by the Starke Pulaski Board.

Gwen Rentz gave an update on the Howard Ditch, Zedock Tile, and Rummel Johnson Bennett Arm. None of the work on the projects had been started but were not set to be completed until March 31st.

Greg Troike commented that on Highway 10 between 50 E and 100 E the culvert was changed. In the engineering the culvert was placed deeper in the ditch than what was originally planned. The culvert is deeper than the ditch on the North side. Troike suggested trying to dip that ditch out to attempt to get it to the bottom of the culvert.

IN RE: NEW BUSINESS

Heritage Drone Service was present for the meeting to discuss the ditch spraying. They discussed the services they offer and the processes they use for ditch spraying.

Greg Troike asked that Gwen take a look at 500 S and 300 E on the north side of the road. He noted that there was a lot of growth in that ditch. Gwen stated that she would look into that and report back.

With no further business to come before this board at this time, Merlyn Lucas motioned to adjourn the meeting. Matt Lawrence seconded the motion with all ayes.



Greg Troike President



Charlie Chesak, Secretary



Merlyn Lucas, Member



Sara Dingman, Drainage Board Recording Secretary



Ed Jernas, Vice President



Matt Lawrence, Member



Gwen Rentz, Starke County Surveyor