

**4 COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 20, 2025  
@ 8:30 A.M.**

Pursuant to adjournment the 4 County Drainage Board met in regular session in the Starke County Government Building meeting room this 20th day of February 2025. The following members were present: Ed Jernas, Jeff Mitzner, Jesse Bohannon by proxy for Adam Faulstich, Gwen Rentz: Starke County Surveyor, Autumn Ferch: Drainage Board Attorney, Sara Dingman: Recording Secretary. The following proceedings were held to wit:

**IN RE: REORGANIZATION**

Jeff Mitzner made a motion to retain Ed Jernas as President. Jeff Mitzner seconded and the motion passed with all ayes. Ed Jernas made a motion to retain Jeff Mitzner as Vice President. Jesse Bohannon seconded and the motion passed with all ayes.

President	-	Ed Jernas
Vice President	-	Jeff Mitzner
Secretary	-	John Linn
Attorney	-	Autumn Ferch
Recording Secretary	-	Sara Dingman

**IN RE: 2025 DRAINAGE BOARD ATTORNEY CONTRACT**

Jeff Mitzner made a motion to retain Autumn Ferch as the drainage board attorney. Jesse Bohannon seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

**IN RE: 2025 EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS**

Jeff Mitzner made a motion to approve the 2025 Emergency Maintenance contracts. Jesse Bohannon seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

**IN RE: 2025 DRAINAGE BOARD DATES**

The board decided to make the meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month.

**IN RE: MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 14, 2024**

Jeff Mitzner made a motion to approve the board minutes from November 14, 2024. Jesse Bohannon seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

**IN RE: CLAIMS**

The following claims were presented to the board for approval:

James Parker – Beaver Removal  
Renfrow Excavating – Amy Kelley Phase 1 & 2  
Beaver – Robbins Ditch

Jesse Bohannon made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Jeff Mitzner seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

**IN RE: PETITION FOR VARIANCE – PLACE DITCH**

Dalton Weinkauff came before the board to request a variance to put in drainage pump on the Place ditch. Jeff Mitzner made a motion to approve the variance request. Jesse Bohannon seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

**IN RE: OPEN BIDS – LAWRENCE PONTIUS**

Attorney Autumn Ferch opened bids from Hill Excavating 2,500 and Renfrow Excavating 1,300. Jeff Mitzner made a motion to accept the bid from Renfrow Excavating. Jesse Bohannon seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

**IN RE: OPEN BIDS – BEAL DITCH**

The project was bid in 3 phases. This job was requested by the landowners. The board discussed if the project was needed at this time. Attorney Autumn Ferch opened bids for phases 1,2, and 3. Bids were submitted as follows: Dirt Works – 6,750 (1), 9,300 (2), 19,464.50 (3), JD Excavating– 6,975 (1), 9,610 (2), 18,445 (3), Renfrow Excavating– 12,400 (1), 23,560 (2), 56,500 (3), Beaver Excavating- 7,500 (1), 10,200 (2), 19,000 (3). Jeff Mitzner moved to table the project. Jesse Bohannon seconded and the motion passed with all ayes.

**IN RE: SOLOMON DITCH**

Ryan Owen and Matt Patton with the USDA-NRCS came before the board to discuss a portion of the Solomon ditch. Ryan explained that they have three landowners that each own a piece of a historic wetland area. They are looking to restore the wetland area and place an easement over that wetland. Ryan explained that they are in the early stages of this project, but in order to complete the restoration they would need to block off a portion of the upper Solomon ditch. The board received letters of support from property

owners. The board hadn't received the letter of support from Ancilla College. Jeff Mitzner made a motion that as long as Ancilla College is in support, the drainage board is in support of abandoning the ditch pending the funding needed for the project. Jesse Bohannon seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

**IN RE: KELLER ARM**

Kurt Hayes came before the board to discuss that a portion of the Keller Arm has sediment in the ditch and it needs to be cleaned out. Gwen mentioned that she did go out to the Keller Arm and there is sediment in the ditch and she agreed that it needs to be cleaned out. The board instructed Gwen to bid out that section of the ditch.

**IN RE: SHEARIN DITCH SPRAY**


Gwen told the board that she was approached by two property owners that would like to take it upon themselves and hire a licensed sprayer. The property owners would pay for the work themselves and use Heritage Drone. Jeff Mitzner made a motion to allow the property owners to pay and use a licensed contract to spray the ditch. Jesse Bohannon seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

**IN RE: NEW BUSINESS**

Gwen mentioned to the board that she visited the Blad ditch with a property owner and there is a problem with curly leaf out there. Gwen noted that she would like to get that ditch put onto a spray plan and get that taken care of. The board agreed to have that ditch added to the spray plan.

Jeff Mitzner asked if the board discussed what spray they want the contracted sprayer to use. Mitzner noted that when the bids are sent out they should have the same product listed for all bids.

With no further business to come before this board at this time, Jesse Bohannon motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Mitzner seconded the motion with all ayes.


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ed Jernas, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
ABSENT  
John Linn, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
ABSENT  
Ken Redlin, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sara Dingman, Drainage Board Recording Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Mitzner, Vice President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Adam Faulstich, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gwen Rentz, Starke County Surveyor