

**STARKE COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING**  
**JULY 1, 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 1st day of July, 2025. The following members were present: Greg Troike, Ed Jernas, Merlyn Lucas, Matt Lawrence, Gwen Rentz: Starke County Surveyor, Sara Dingman: Drainage Board Recording Secretary and Autumn Ferch: Drainage Board Attorney. The following proceedings were held to wit:

**IN RE: MINUTES - APRIL 1, 2025**

Ed Jernas made a motion to approve the April 1, 2025 meeting minutes. Matt Lawrence seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

**IN RE: CLAIMS**

Ed Jernas made a motion to approve the following claims:

- Dirtworks/\$1200.00/Mow Brush/ Lindstrand
- JD Exc/\$14,424.00/Debrush-Dredge/Howard
- JD Exc/\$8306.00/Debrush-Dredge/Bennett Arm

Matt Lawrence seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

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

Mr. Goins came before the board to request permission to install a culvert on his property across the Casper ditch in order to be able to access the back part of his property. Matt Lawrence made a motion to approve the variance request. Ed Jernas seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

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

A property owner submitted a petition for variance in order to replace a culvert that had collapsed under their driveway. The culvert would be the same size that is currently at the road. Board members noted they should install the same size that was in place before. Ed Jernas made a motion to approve the variance request. Merlyn Lucas seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

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

NIPSCO Gas Line submitted a petition for variance for the Cannon Ditch. Merlyn Lucas asked if there was a standard dept that the boarings have to be. Gwen stated in the past that the board had always stated 6 feet deep in the past. The board would like to see that added to the variance petition application/. Merlyn Lucas made a motion to approve the petition for variance with a caveat that the required depth at the bottom of the ditch is done. Matt Lawrence seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

**IN RE: CRAIGMILE DISCUSSION**

Gwen updated the board that she was able to come up with a close estimate of a watershed for the Craigmile. GIS, the mapping software, can add the watershed as a layer once they have a more detailed map.

**IN RE: VACATE UPPER WEST BRANCH DISCUSSION**

Gwen informed the board that property owner Brett Byers reached out to the office with questions regarding the Upper West Branch. He had thought it was vacated when the tile was put in north of the ditch. Gwen could not find any records indicating the Upper West Branch had been vacated. The drainage board members did not motion to vacate at this time.

**IN RE: OLD BUSINESS**

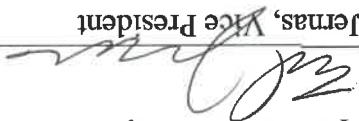
Greg Troike asked Gwen for an update on the Big Eastern Ditch. Gwen stated that Beaver Excavating will be removing rip rap out of the ditch and removing the trees also.

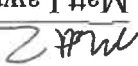
**IN RE: NEW BUSINESS**

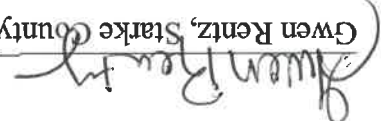
Gwen noted to the board to inform her if they run into any issues or needed touch ups with the ditch spraying that had been done.

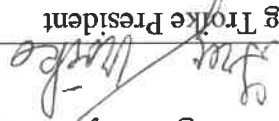
The next Starke Regular meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2025.

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

  
Ed Jernas, Vice President

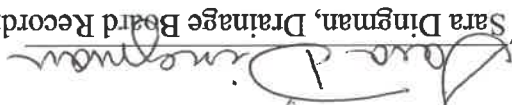
  
Matt Lawrence, Member

  
Gwen Rentz, Starke County Surveyor

  
Greg Trojke President

ABSENT  
  
Charlie Chesak, Secretary

  
Merlyn Lucas, Member

  
Sara Dingman, Drainage Board Recording Secretary