

**STARKE COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 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 October, 2025. The following members were present: Greg Troike, Ed Jernas, Merlyn Lucas, 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 – AUGUST 5, 2025**

Ed Jernas made a motion to approve the August 5, 2025 meeting minutes. Merlyn Lucas seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

**IN RE: CLAIMS**

Ed Jernas made a motion to approve the following claims:

- Allsop Excavating/\$15,405.00/Zedock

Merlyn Lucas seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

**IN RE: COTTONWOOD DITCH**

Gwen provided the board with an update on the Cottonwood Ditch. The section from Range Road to 200 E did not need anything done to it. The other sections did have vegetation overgrowth but it did not look to be causing drainage concerns at this time. There are mature trees in some of the area so the board may want to start debrushing in sections. Gwen will work on getting bids for a stretch of the ditch. The board wanted to try to keep the spending to about \$10,000 now as there is only roughly \$29,000 in the fund.

**IN RE: CEDAR DITCH-VARIANCE**

The board received a variance request for a property near the Bass Lake boat launch. The GIS map showed the tile running next to the property, but when Gwen went out and inspected the area, she could not find a tile next to the property. Gwen wanted to bring it to the board's attention but she did not believe it needed board approval after investigating.

**IN RE: ZEDOCK TILE DISCUSSION**

Gwen asked the board how they wanted to proceed with the Zedock Tile. There is \$408 left in that fund. Gwen noted that there are still big trees to get rid of on the tile. Merlyn Lucas mentioned establishing some kind of copper sulfate to stop the roots from growing in the tile. George Ono mentioned to that board that they should check with the DNR on what they could do. Gwen will investigate and update the board.

**IN RE: OLD BUSINESS- MCMURRAY CULVERT**

Mr. McMurray had a variance approved by the board and he came in to ask about the size of the culvert he could put in for his driveway. Mr. McMurray asked if it would be possible to use two smaller culverts and put them together. The current size is 6x7. The board noted that as long as he gets close to the volume so there are no flow restrictions.

There were no updates on the Craigmile. The petition still needs to come in from the property owner.

The Surveyor's office received a \$2,000 grant to obtain a drone for the office. The board will be able to start seeing drone pictures and a more up close view.

The next meeting for the Starke Drainage Board will be November 4, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

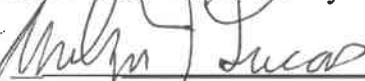
With no further business to come before this board at this time, Ed Jernas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Merlyn Lucas seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.


  
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Greg Troike President

  
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Ed Jernas, Vice President

ABSENT  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charlie Chesak, Secretary

ABSENT  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Lawrence, Member

  
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Merlyn Lucas, Member

  
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Gwen Rentz, Starke County Surveyor

  
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Sara Dingman, Drainage Board Recording Secretary