

4 COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 14, 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 14th day of August 2025. The following members were present: Ed Jernas, Jeff Mitzner, John Linn, Ken Redlin, Gwen Rentz: Starke County Surveyor, Autumn Ferch: Drainage Board Attorney, Sara Dingman: Recording Secretary. The following proceedings were held to wit:

IN RE: MAY 8, 2025 MINUTES

Jeff Mitzner made a motion to accept the minutes from the May 8, 2025 meeting. John Linn seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: CLAIMS

Jeff Mitzner made a motion to approve the following claims: Beaver Excavating/Robbins/\$5735.00, Allsop Excavating/Burnside Tile/\$2,860.00, Allsop Excavating/Powell Tile/\$2,860.00, Heritage Drone/Shearin Ditch/\$1,835.00. John Linn seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: GROSHAN DITCH – OPEN BIDS

The following bids were opened for the Groshan Ditch project: Beaver Excavating - \$9,500 and Allsop Excavating - \$9,749. Ken Redlin made a motion to accept Beaver Excavating's bid in the amount of \$9,500.00. John Linn seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: ROBBINS DITCH

Lee Nagai came before the board to discuss a section of the Robbins Ditch bridges on his property. There is some erosion along the banks. Lee Nagai offered to mow and maintain the bank, but he can't physically do the west half due to dirt being piled up and creating a cliff like area. Nagai asked if he could grade the west half similar to the east half. Ed Jernas stated they did the east half that way for the irrigators. Ed Jernas stated at this point it would be another bid to get someone to move the dirt down like is being requested. Nagai also noted that sumac grows fast and it is already up underneath the irrigator. The ditch side will need to be maintained. Ed Jernas stated they would get some figures on what it would take to knock the dirt down and reseed it in the future.

IN RE: SPRAYING UPDATE

Gwen updated the board on the spraying for this year. Heritage Drone went out and did touch-ups in areas that needed it. They worked on their chemical ratio, so next year prices will increase. A lot of areas could not be accessed with the drone so they had to use the side by side. Jeff Mitzner stated that when the spray project is bid out, that companies are bidding the same chemical. Jeff Mitzner made a motion that everyone bids the same product. Specifically, the product being 1.5 quarts per 100 of Tordon 22K, 2 quarts per 100 of Garland, and 1 quart per 100 of oil. John Linn agreed that there should be specs so everyone bids the same thing. The motion dies for a lack of a second. John Linn made a motion that we bids are sent out for spraying, the bids should specify the products and the rate at which the products are applied. Ken Redlin seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

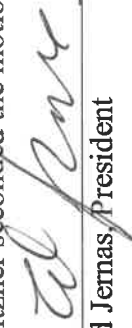
IN RE: SCHROEDER DITCH

Gwen brought before the board the Schroeder Ditch in Mashall County. A property owner is having a hard time accessing their land because the ditch has not been cleaned. The job would have to be bid out but it needs completely debrushed and gone through to see if there is water standing. Jeff Mitzner made a motion to bid the project and see what it will cost. John Linn seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: VARIANCE REQUEST – BENNINGHOFF DITCH

Surf Internet submitted a variance request to bore a directional bore a minimum depth of five feet under the Benninghoff ditch. Jeff Mitzner made a motion to approve the variance request. Ken Redlin seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

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


Ed Jernas, President

John Linn, Secretary


Jeff Mitzner, Vice President

Adam Faulstich, Member


Gwen Rentz, Starke County Surveyor

Ken Redlin, Member


Sara Dingman, Drainage Board Recording Secretary

ABSENT