

STARKE COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 6, 2026
@ 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 6th day of January, 2026. The following members were present: Greg Troike, Ed Jernas, Justin Hazelton, 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: REORGANIZATION

Ed Jernas made a motion to retain the same officers that held a seat in 2025. Matt Lawrence seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

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

IN RE: APPOINTMENTS TO DRAINAGE BOARDS

Starke-Pulaski- Greg Troike, Justin Hazelton, Motion by: Matt Lawrence, Second by: Ed Jernas
Starke-Marshall- Matt Lawrence, Charlie Chesak, Motion by: Ed Jernas, Second by: Justin Hazelton
4-County- Ed Jernas, Motion by: Matt Lawrence, Second by: Greg Troike
Monon- Matt Lawrence, Motion by: Justin Hazelton, Second by: Ed Jernas
Zec-Chap-Lohr- Greg Troike Motion by: Ed Jernas, Second by: Matt Lawrence

IN RE: DRAINAGE BOARD ATTORNEY CONTRACT

Ed Jernas made a motion to approve the 2026 Attorney Contract for Autumn Ferch. Matt Lawrence seconded and the motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

Gwen Rentz presented the board with two emergency maintenance contracts that the office received back.

IN RE: DECEMBER 2, 2025 MINUTES

Ed Jernas made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2025 meeting. Matt Lawrence seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: AYRES DRAIN

At the December 2, 2025 meeting, a property owner came before the board to request permission to clean out the Ayres drain himself and remove stumps. Another property owner came before the board to voice their concerns over this project and having the project work done. After discussion, Gwen recommended to the board that Gwen work with the drainage board attorney and not move forward with this project until they have discussed this further. Matt Lawrence made a motion to stop work until the board decides what needs to be done. Ed Jernas seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

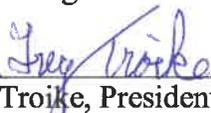
IN RE: 2026 DITCH ASSESSMENT RATES

Gwen informed the board that the office had went through old records and researched on prior ditch assessments being raised. Gwen noted the safest thing to do would be to have a public hearing if the board is thinking of raising any ditch assessments. After discussion the board decided to discuss which ditches will need raised and discuss further later in the year.

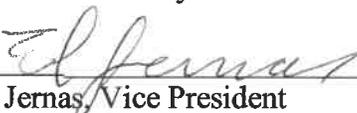
IN RE: FEE SCHEDULE

Gwen presented the board a copy of a proposed fee schedule for the Surveyor's Office. The fee schedule would help with compliance with different types of projects that need permitted through the office. The drainage board noted that some of pricing on the fee schedule would need lowered. Gwen noted that she would hold off on the fee schedule and come back with different prices.

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



Greg Troike, President



Ed Jernas, Vice President

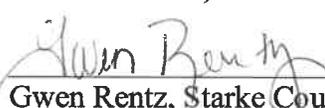
ABSENT
Charlie Chesak, Secretary



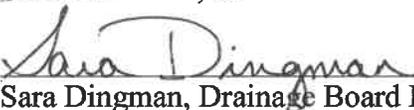
Matt Lawrence, Member



Justin Hazelton, Member



Gwen Rentz, Starke County Surveyor



Sara Dingman, Drainage Board Recording Secretary