

STARKE COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 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 3rd day of February, 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: JANUARY 6, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Ed Jernas made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the January 6, 2026 meeting. Matt Lawrence seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: ELECTRONIC MEETINGS POLICY

Starke County Surveyor Gwen Rentz introduced an Electronic Meetings Policy to the board. The policy outlines how many meetings that members can attend by Zoom. This policy will help in case of emergencies and if board members can't attend the meeting in person. Ed Jernas made a motion to approve the Electronic Meetings Policy. Matt Lawrence seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NOTICE REQUIREMENT

Gwen brought before the board a draft of an Ordinance Establishing a Notice Requirement. Gwen noted that she decided to try another approach instead of the fee schedule that was mentioned at the last meeting. This ordinance would be to encourage people to come in and file variances. Matt Lawrence voiced his concerns regarding the ordinance.

IN RE: VARIANCE REQUEST- ORA ARM DITCH

NIPSCO submitted a variance request on the Ora Arm Ditch. Ed Jernas made a motion to accept the variance request. Matt Lawrence seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: INDOT LETTER – PICCHIETTI DITCH PROPOSED PROJECT

The drainage board received a letter from INDOT informing them that they are planning to replace 17 small culvert structures throughout Starke and Laporte County. They have not submitted variance request paperwork yet, but when they do they will come before the board.

OLD BUSINESS

IN RE: AYRES DRAIN

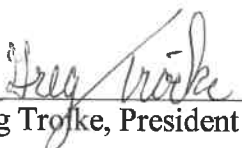
A property owner came before the board for an update on the Ayres Drain. Gwen noted that she is working with the drainage board attorney on this matter and will provide an update.

IN RE: CRAIGMILE DITCH DISCUSSION

Larry Wappel came before the board to discuss the Craigmile Ditch and the process of adding it to assessment and establishing a maintenance fund. The process and steps needed to take were discussed with board members and Attorney Ferch. Attorney Ferch recommended having Mr. Wappel list his questions and then she could research the answers to those questions and have an update at the next meeting.

Gwen presented the board with a draft of the 2026 Spray Contract and asked board members to review.

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



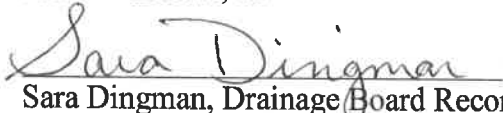
Greg Troike, President

ABSENT

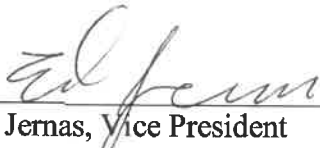
Charlie Chesak, Secretary



Justin Hazelton, Member



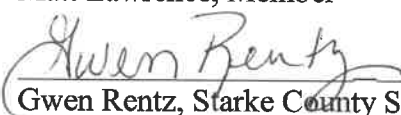
Sara Dingman, Drainage Board Recording Secretary



Ed Jernas, Vice President



Matt Lawrence, Member



Gwen Rentz, Starke County Surveyor