

4 COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 12, 2026

@ 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 12th day of February 2026. The following members were present: Ed Jernas, Jeff Mitzner, Adam Faulstich, Gwen Rentz: Starke County Surveyor, Autumn Ferch: Drainage Board Attorney, Sara Dingman: Recording Secretary. The following proceedings were held to wit:

IN RE: REORGANIZATION

Jeff Mitzner made a motion to retain Ed Jernas as President. Adam Faulstich seconded and the motion passed with all ayes. Ed Jernas made a motion to retain Jeff Mitzner as Vice President. Adam Faulstich seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes. Ed Jernas made a motion to retain John Linn as secretary. Jeff Mitzner seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: DRAINAGE BOARD ATTORNEY CONTRACT

Jeff Mitzner made a motion to approve the attorney contract for 2026. Adam Faulstich seconded and the motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

Gwen presented the boards with the 2027 Emergency Maintenance Contracts. Adam Faulstich made a motion to approve the Emergency Maintenance Contracts. Jeff Mitzner seconded and the motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: NOVEMBER 13, 2025 MINUTES

Jeff Mitzner made a motion to accept the November 13, 2025 minutes. Adam Faulstich seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: VARIANCE REQUEST – DANIELSON DITCH

The board was presented with a variance request for the Danielson Ditch. The property owners submitted a request for a perimeter tile for a septic system that they would like to run to the Danielson ditch. Jeff Mitzner made a motion to accept the variance request. Adam Faulstich seconded and the motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: VARIANCE REQUEST – BENNINGHOFF DITCH

Mr. Forester sent a representative of his property to request a reduction in the 75-foot setback of the ditch. The property owner is building storage units and would like to place a security fence around the units. The fence would not run along the ditch. Jeff Mitzner made a motion to keep the 75-foot easement but to allow the property owner to build up to 35 feet from the top of the bank. Adam Faulstich seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: OPEN BIDS – PLACE DITCH

The following bids were opened for the Place Ditch: Renfrow Excavating - \$31,340, Dirt Works Excavating - \$36,493, Beaver Excavating - \$58,850, and Allsop Excavating - \$56,000. Adam Faulstich made a motion to accept the bid from Renfrow Excavating. Jeff Mitzner seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: KOONTZ LAKE SEDIMENT TRAPS- LAWRENCE PONTIUS

Pat Raycroft came before the board to discuss the sediment and nutrient traps at Koontz Lake and possibly lowering one of the structures. Raycroft explained that they are trying to maintain and improve the health of the lake and avoid green algae. They would like more water or equal water to flow through the west. After discussion, the board decided the first step would be to have Gwen reach out to DNR and have an on site meeting and discuss how to move forward.

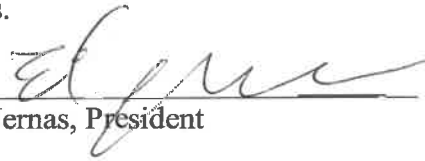
IN RE: ELECTRONIC MEETINGS POLICY

Gwen presented the board with the Electronic Meetings Policy. Jeff Mitzner made a motion to approve the Electronic Meetings Policy. Adam Faulstich seconded and the motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: SPRAY CONTRACT

Gwen mentioned the draft of the spray contract to the board. Gwen noted that if the board decided to put a specific chemical mixture into the contract, she would need that mixture and would update the contract. Jeff Mitzner gave the specific mixture as 1.5 quarts per 100(gallons of water) of Tordon 22K, 2 quarts per 100(gallons of water) of Garland, and one quart per 100(gallons of water) of oil.

Jeff Mitzner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Adam Faulstich seconded and the motion passed with all ayes.


Ed Jernas, President

ABSENT
John Linn, Secretary

ABSENT
Ken Redlin, Member


Sara Dingman, Drainage Board Recording Secretary


Jeff Mitzner, Vice President


Adam Faulstich, Member


Gwen Rentz, Starke County Surveyor