

STARKE COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

APRIL 7, 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 7th day of April, 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: FEBRUARY 3, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Ed Jernas made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2026 meeting. Matt Lawrence seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: CRAIGMILE DITCH DISCUSSION

Larry Wappel came before the board to continue the discussion on the Craigmile Ditch petition. Gwen informed the board of an on-site meeting with Arm Corps, DNR, and IDEM on April 16th to go over any possible permits that would be needed if the project comes to that. Attorney Ferch discussed the process of petitioning for the Craigmile to be assessed. Gwen will provide the petition form to Mr. Wappel.

IN RE: BANASIAK DITCH – INSTALL TILE REQUEST

Lawrence Loehmer came before the board to request permission to close the Banasiak Ditch and install tile so he may irrigate the field. Attorney Ferch stated the most important thing is to see who the land owners are of the mutual property because the first step would be to everyone agreeing to the project, and then it could move forward. Mr. Loehmer asked if he could clean the ditch. Matt Lawrence made a motion that he could clean the ditch. Justin Hazelton seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: OPEN BIDS – TAYLOR DRAIN

Attorney Ferch opened the bids for the Taylor Drain. The bids were: Renfrow- \$4,750 and Dirt Works - \$4,000. Ed Jernas made a motion to accept the bid from Dirt Works. Justin Hazelton seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

OLD BUSINESS

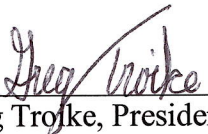
IN RE: EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Gwen provided the board with an Emergency Maintenance contract. Matt Lawrence made a motion to approve the Emergency Maintenance contract. Justin Hazelton seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.

IN RE: AYRES DRAIN

Property Owner Mitch Gaj came before the board for an update on the Ayres Drain. After discussion, the board decided to hire a contractor to go out and shoot the fall in the ditch.

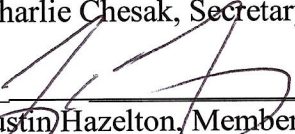
With no further business to come before this board at this time, Matt Lawrence made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Justin Hazelton seconded the motion and the motion passed with all ayes.



Greg Troike, President

ABSENT

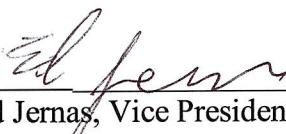
Charlie Chesak, Secretary



Justin Hazelton, Member



Sara Dingman, Drainage Board Recording Secretary



Ed Jernas, Vice President



Matt Lawrence, Member



Gwen Rentz, Starke County Surveyor