

**Drainage Board Meeting
January 5, 2021**

Present: Jim Seiler, Tom Brown, Heather Gries, Surveyor David Faulkenberg, Auditor Melissa L. Bunner

Location: Commissioners Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Courthouse

Meeting was called to order by Auditor Bunner at 1:00 P.M.

President

First order of business was nominations for President of the Drainage Board. Seiler made a motion to nominate Tom Brown as President. Gries seconded the motion. Motion was approved. The meeting was then turned over to President Brown.

Vice-President

Gries made a motion to nominate Jim Seiler as Vice-President. Brown seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Secretary

Gries made a motion to nominate Auditor Melissa Bunner for Secretary. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Attorney

Seiler made a motion to appoint Jeff Lindsey as Attorney as needed. Gries seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Minutes

Seiler made a motion to approve minutes for December 1, 2020. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Surveyors Report

Faulkenberg presented the Surveyor's Year End Report for 2020.

Completed assessments for the three (3) existing watersheds – Huffman, Baker Creek, and Hooppole. 35% of parcel owners were not being assessed within these watersheds. Public hearings were held, notifications were mailed to all parcel owners including all pertinent information and approval was granted.

Extended Lang & Ray Drain to include it in the regulated drain inventory. This was necessary to complete the Muddy Creed Watershed. The extension of Lang & Ray Drain included public hearings and notification of all parcel owners within the drain as well as muddy Creek Watershed included public hearings and notifications to all parcel owners within the watershed. Secured \$50,000.00 from County Council as start-up funding for each watershed that is created.

Created Lake Drain Watershed study with Midwestern Engineers. Held public hearings and sent notifications to all parcel owners within the watershed. The final step will be today, by signatures of the Drainage Board of assessment order. Completed study of JB Chrisney Watershed. All letters are prepared and ready to be sent which will be followed by public hearings.

Created JB Chrisney Watershed. Study completed by Midwestern Engineers.

Completed the following drain projects which includes clearing of trees within the seventy five (75) foot right of way and dredging flow line of ditch to improve drainage.

Robert Hatfield (Baker Creek Watershed)	5,700 ft.
Huffman-Phase 1 (Huffman Watershed)	3,000 ft.
Reo Lateral (Huffman Watershed)	2,797 ft.
Tower Drain (Baker Creek Watershed)	1,000 ft.
Lang & Ray (Muddy Creed Watershed)	7,145 ft.
Hackleman / Caney Creek (Caney Creek Watershed)	2,277 ft.

Total	21,869 ft.
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Removed log jams from Anderson River. Five (5) log jams near St. Meinrad Abby. Six (6) miles and multiple jams near Huffman Bridge. Removed four (4) log jams in Pigeon Creek. Replaced two (2) 48" pipes on Thomas Strassel Drain near AEP.

Continued Cornerstone Perpetuation project. Approximately thirty (30) found and marked by Cash Waggoner.

Sprayed approximately 300,000 feet of ditch with herbicide to prevent re-growth of trees and brush in regulated ditches.

Established proper accounting system for Drainage Department per Indiana Code. SBOA recognizes four (4) accounts in the Drainage ledger. They are as follows:

General Drainage Improvement Fund – Applies to Spencer County

General Drain Maintenance Fund – Applies to Spencer County

Cummulative Drain Fund

Bond Redemption Fund

The General Drain Improvement Fund funds construction projects, unassessed drains and short falls of funds in assessed drains. General Drain Maintenance Funds are the assessed regulated drains which are funds generated by the assessment of watershed. Previously, there were thirteen (13) accounts on the ledger, most of which were out of code. Currently, there are two (2) recognized by SBOA on the ledger – General Drain Improvement Fund and General Drain Maintenance Fund with sub-ledgers of four (4) established watersheds. These sub-ledgers will increase by one (1) each time a new watershed is created. Today, a fifth one will be added and eight (8) total watersheds are likely to be created throughout the county as this process is completed. When this process is completed, all three hundred and nine (309) miles of regulated drains in the county will be assessed.

State Code states that if a regulated drain is not assessed it is to be vacated. Two hundred (200) miles of Spencer County regulated drains have gone unassessed for forty (40) plus years.

Currently, the two (2) recognized account balances are:

General Drainage Improvement Fund \$ 56,206.92

General Drain Maintenance Fund \$134,949.75

Faulkenberg presented his current report.

Lake Drain Watershed public hearing was held December 9, 2020. Five (5) people were present with no objections after the discussion. One (1) landowner, who lives in Florida, Edward Gaesser filed an objection letter. Mr. Gaesser owns 1.29% of the total watershed. An assessment order is prepared and here today to be signed by the Drainage Board members with all pertinent information. Seiler motioned to accept the assessment. Gries seconded the motion. Motion was approved. The Spencer County Drainage Board Lake Drain Assessment Order was signed.

JB Chrisney Watershed information will be mailed this week with a tentative public hearing date set for early February.

Midwestern Engineers is 75% complete with the Caney Creek Watershed. A meeting has been scheduled for January 22, 2021 to review and approve all information provided.

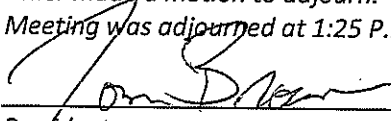
A request will be made to the County Council for \$50,000 start up funding for the Lake Drain Watershed. This request has been made and granted on previous watershed developments. The Council has agreed to provide this amount on all future watersheds at which time each watershed will become self-funded.

The Town of Chrisney has requested installation of a four (4) inch water line across into JB Chrisney lateral #2 regulated drain. All agreements have been signed and all rules and procedures have been agreed upon by signature. Approval has been granted.

Lechner Construction has provided an invoice for continuing maintenance on Anderson River which has allowed the Drainage Department to encumber \$5,077.50 from 2020 Anderson River funding for future maintenance.

Herron Excavating is approximately 75% complete on the Baker Creek project (Robert Hatfield Drain). Seiler made a motion to adjourn. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:25 P.M.



President

Attest:



Auditor, Melissa L. Bunner



Heather Dries