

**March 11, 2025**  
**Minutes of the Elkhart County Drainage Board Meeting**  
**Elkhart County Public Services Building**  
**4230 Elkhart Road, Room A**  
**Goshen, Indiana 46526**  
**At 9:30 A.M**

**I. Call to Order**

The Elkhart County Drainage Board held its March 11, 2025, Meeting in Room “A” of the Public Service Building, located at 4230 Elkhart Road, Goshen, Indiana 46526. Board Chairman Lynn Loucks called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. The following Drainage Board Members were in attendance: Chairman Lynn Loucks, Vice Chairman Ed Pippenger, Matt Morehouse, Commissioner Bob Barnes and Barry Kauffman. Others attending were Steve Olsen County Attorney, Philip Barker County Surveyor, Steve Schweisberger Deputy Surveyor, Carl Gilbert Drainage Supervisor/Drone Program Coordinator, Tadd Troxell Drainage Technician and Ian Henderson Survey Party Chief.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Loucks opened the floor for discussion on the Drainage Board Meeting minutes from February 11, 2025, hearing none, called for a motion.

**A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Morehouse) to approve the Drainage Board Meeting Minutes from February 11, 2025. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**

**II. CDF Report**

Expenditures – thru 3/6/2025	\$29,825.05
Cash Ending Balance	\$2,793,007.84
Funds Appropriated for Ditch Projects	\$382,034.25
Funds Available to Appropriate for Future Projects	\$2,410,973.59

Request for Additional Appropriations of \$50,000 for Obstruction Removal.

**A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Barnes) for additional appropriations of \$50,000.00 for Obstruction Removal Projects. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**

**III. Drainage Items**

**A. Public Notice / Project Review/ Bid Openings**

**1. Baugo Creek (South Fork Property) Obstruction Removal Project #25-010 – Bid Opening**

Tadd Troxell reported the project is in Section 22 of Baugo Twp. on the west side of CR 1 north of CR 24 and south of CR 22. The project consists of removing the indicated obstructions in the channel and disposing of the debris by burning in the

**A. Public Notice / Project Review/ Bid Openings (continued)**

**1. Baugo Creek (South Fork Property) Obstruction Removal Project #25-010 – Bid Opening (continued)**

designated area. This work is to be completed no later than May 8, 2025. The estimated cost of the project is \$10,000.00.

Carl Gilbert noted that this was called to our attention when removing a log jam last fall. It has doubled in size since last fall when discovered. It is catching everything.

Sealed bids were opened and read aloud by Barry Kauffman.

A1 Backhoe Service	\$7,400.00
SAR Excavating	\$4,440.00
Koleski	\$7,850.00

Bids were reviewed prior to awarding the project to the low bid.

**A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Morehouse) to award Baugo Creek (South Fork property) Obstruction Removal Project #25-010 to SAR Excavating for \$4,400.00. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**

**2. Fetters-Pletcher Sediment Pit Maintenance Project #25-011 – Bid Opening**

Tadd Troxell reported the project area is in Section 17 of Harrison Twp., south of CR 32 and west of CR 9. The scope of the project is limited to the sediment pit located at the outlet of the drainage tile coming in from the south, and the spoil spreading to the northeast. The project is to be completed by April 7, 2025. The estimated cost of the project is \$2,000.00.

Sealed bids were opened and read aloud by Barry Kauffman.

A1 Backhoe Service	\$1,500.00
Borkholder Excavating	\$2,000.00
SAR Excavating	\$1,000.00
Kolesiak Excavating	\$4,850.00

Bids were reviewed prior to awarding the project to the low bid.

**A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Branes) to award Fetters-Pletcher Sediment Pit Maintenance Project #25-011 to SAR Excavating for \$1,000.00. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted in favor of the motion. (3-0-1)**

**3. Nuisance Brush and Weed Control Project #25-009 – Bid Opening**

Tadd Troxell reported the project is located within Elkhart County. The project consists of spraying of approximately (70,530 L.F.) 13.36 miles of ditch. The following ditches will be included in the project; Berlincourt (12,800 L.F), Christophel-Davidheiser-Doering (9,500 L.F.), Clay (4,300 L.F.), Dausman (11,950 L.F.), Fetters-Pletcher (6,150 L.F.), Fisher-Gordon (14,500 L.F.), Landis (2,000 L.F.), Peters (6,000 L.F.), Walters (1,250 L.F.) and Horn Lat. "K" (2,080 L.F.). The project is to be completed by September 19, 2025. The estimated cost of the project is \$21,159.00.

It was noted that there was an error on the original bid page. All potential bidders were notified of the error and informed of the correct completion date.

**A. Public Notice / Project Review/ Bid Openings (continued)**

**3. Nuisance Brush and Weed Control Project #25-009 – Bid Opening (continued)**

Sealed bids were opened and read aloud by Barry Kauffman.

Davey Tree Expert Company \$20,598.70

\*Mint City Utility Services \$20,110.39 \*(incomplete bid)

Right of Way Management Co. \$19,891.50

Bids were reviewed prior to awarding the contract to the low bid.

\*Total extensions were not filled in on the submitted bid; therefore, the bid was considered incomplete and could not be accepted.

**A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Kauffman) to award Nuisance Brush and Weed Control Project #25-009 to Right of Way Management Co. for \$19,891.50. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**

**B. Petitions, Permits, Variances and Requests**

**1. Coe Meyer-Fisher – Kevin & Jennifer Horoky – Variance Request**

Ian Henderson reported Kevin and Jen Horoky request variance for a new home site located in Section 36 of Osolo Twp., in Wyndcliff Manor lot 4, at 54422 Meadow Bank Ln., Elkhart. The encroachment would affect the south side of Coe Meyer-Fisher Ditch right before it enters the river. This lot is in the flood plain of the ditch and St. Joseph River. The 1993 aerial shows an existing house approximately 60 feet from the water's edge. The petitioners are requesting 40 ft. into the 75 ft from the top of bank to construct an 82 ft wide house. It was decided that this request should be tabled until the landowner secures the necessary permits from State and Federal agencies to build on this site which is in the flood plain per the DNR map.

**A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Barnes) to table the variance request on Coe Meyer-Fisher Ditch from Kevin and Jen Horoky until they secure the necessary permits from State and Federal agencies to build within the flood plain. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**

**2. Coe Meyer-Fisher – Josh Prusinski – Bank Stabilization Request**

Steve Schweisberger reported Josh Prusinski, 5321 Briarwood Dr. Elkhart, contacted the office with concerns about the bank erosion on Coe Meyer-Fisher Ditch. His property is located in Section 35 of Osolo Twp, in Glenwood Park Subdivision lot 16, at 5321 Briarwood Dr., Elkhart. He was looking into a DNR permit and inquiring about possible cost share. This problem was reviewed at the June 14, 2016, Drainage Board meeting. At that time, the Board agreed to enter into a 50/50 cost share for bank stabilization not to exceed a total project cost of \$3,000.00. We are uncertain why the project did not move forward in 2016. The landowner has now requested to move forward with a project at this point. Staff will design a project for the work described and an estimated cost, then contact the landowner to review the scope prior to the next Board meeting.

**B. Petitions, Permits, Variances and Requests (continued)**  
**2. Coe Meyer-Fisher – Josh Prusinski – Bank Stabilization Request (continued)**

**A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Barnes) to have staff design a project for the work described and an estimated cost for the bank stabilization on Coe Meyer-Fisher Ditch requested by Josh Prusinski, 5321 Briarwood Dr., Elkhart. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**

**3. Coe Meyer-Fisher at Homeland Rd. - Frontier Communications – Utility Permission to Cross**

Ian Henderson reported Frontier Communications, 2401 Chicago St., Valparaiso, IN 46383 request Utility Permission to Cross the Coe Meyer-Fisher Ditch in Section 35 of Osolo Twp. at 23255 Circle Ln, Elkhart with a 4" HDPE conduit. The proposed cable will be bored at a minimum of 6 ft depth below the bottom of the ditch. Details are shown on submitted plans for project #2496172 at Homeland Road. It will be noted in the correspondence to Frontier Communications that future maintenance digging projects on this system may involve the removal of up to 2 feet of sediment from the ditch bottom. The proposed depth of the utility should accommodate for this to ensure your minimum depth of cover requirements.

**A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Kauffman) to grant Frontier Communications, 2401 Chicago St., Valparaiso, IN 46383, Utility Permission to Cross Coe Meyer-Fisher ditch with a 4" HDPE conduit at a minimum of 6 ft. below the bottom of the ditch. Details are shown on submitted plans for project #2496172 at Homeland Road. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**

**4. Coe Meyer-Fisher at Streeter Ln & Meadow Bank Ln – Frontier Communications – Utility Permission to Cross**

Ian Henderson reported Frontier Communications, 2401 Chicago St., Valparaiso, IN 46383 request Utility Permission to Cross the Coe Meyer-Fisher Ditch at 22686 Remington Ct., Elkhart with a 4" HDPE conduit. The proposed cable will be bored at a minimum of 6 ft depth below the bottom of the ditch. Details are shown on submitted plans for project #2496167 at Streeter Lane and Meadow Bank Lane. It will be noted in the correspondence to Frontier Communications that future maintenance digging projects on this system may involve the removal of up to 2 feet of sediment from the ditch bottom. The proposed depth of the utility should accommodate for this to ensure your minimum depth of cover requirements.

**B. Petitions, Permits, Variances and Requests (continued)**

**4. Coe Meyer-Fisher at Streeter Ln & Meadow Bank Ln – Frontier Communications – Utility Permission to Cross (continued)**

A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Kauffman) to grant Frontier Communications, 2401 Chicago St., Valparaiso, IN 46383, Utility Permission to Cross Coe Meyer-Fisher ditch with a 4” HDPE conduit at a minimum of 6 ft. below the bottom of the ditch. Details are shown on submitted plans for project #2496167 at Streeter Lane and Meadow Bank Lane. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**5. Swoveland at CR 142 east of CR 17 – Community Fiber – Utility Permission to Cross**

Ian Henderson reported Community Fiber, 19066 Market St., New Paris, request Utility Permission to Cross Swoveland Ditch at CR 142, in Section 06 of Jackson Twp., east of CR 17 with a 2 X 1.25” HDPE ducts. The request is for fiber optic cable to be bored at a minimum of 5 ft. below the bottom of the ditch. The CR 142 Swoveland main line crossing is scheduled to be replaced this year which may involve the removal of up to 2 feet of sediment from the ditch bottom. Therefore, the Board stipulated that the directional bore must be at a minimum of 7 ft. below the bottom of the ditch on the north side of the road for job # NPT25-040. The correspondence letter will inform Community Fiber that their proposed depth of installation should accommodate for this project to ensure minimum depth of cover requirements.

A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Pippenger) to grant Community Fiber, 19066 Market St., New Paris, Utility Permission to Cross Swoveland Ditch at CR 142 with a 2 X 1.25” HDPE ducts at a minimum of 7 feet below the ditch bottom for job # NPT25-040. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**6. Swoveland Lat. “E” at CR 17 north CR 40 – Community Fiber – Utility Permission to Cross**

Ian Henderson reported Community Fiber, 19066 Market St., New Paris, request Utility Permission to Cross Swoveland Ditch Lateral “E” at CR 17, north of CR 40 with a 2 X 1.25” HDPE ducts. The proposed fiber optic cable will be bored at a minimum of 5 ft. below the bottom of the ditch. Details are shown on submitted plans for Job# NPT25-041.

A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Barnes) to grant Community Fiber, 19066 Market St., New Paris, Utility Permission to Cross Swoveland Lateral “E” at CR 17 north of CR 40 with directional bore conduit for fiber optic cable at a minimum of 5 ft. underneath the bottom of the ditch for job # NPT25-041. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**B. Petitions, Permits, Variances and Requests (continued)**

**7. Swoveland Lat. "E" at CR 40 east of CR 17 – Community Fiber – Utility Permission to Cross**

Ian Henderson reported Community Fiber, 19066 Market St., New Paris, request Utility Permission to Cross Swoveland Ditch Lateral "E" at CR 40, east of CR 17 with a 2 X 1.25" HDPE ducts. The proposed fiber optic cable will be bored at a minimum of 5 ft. below the bottom of the ditch. Details are shown on submitted plans for Job# NPT25-038.

**A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Barnes) to grant Community Fiber 19066 Market St., New Paris, Utility Permission to Cross Swoveland Lateral "E" at CR 40 east of CR 17 with directional bore conduit for fiber optic cable at a minimum of 5 ft. underneath the bottom of the ditch for job# NPT25-038. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**

**8. Yellow Creek at CR 36 & CR 11 – NIPSCO – Utility permission to Cross**

Steve Schweisberger reported NIPSCO, 801 E. 86<sup>th</sup> Ave., Merrillville 46410 request Utility Permission to Cross Yellow Creek in Section 16 of Harrison Twp., at CR 36, and CR 11 Bridge 233 project. This will be a replacement of an electric utility pole within the drainage easement and two aerial crossings over Yellow Creek. The utility lines will aerielly cross Yellow Creek, on the north side of CR 36 and on the west side of CR 11 as shown on the submitted drawing for NIPSCO work order #55280-11. It was also understood and approved to allow the placement of the new power pole on the north side of CR 36 within the regulated drain right-of-way on the east side of the ditch to make this aerial crossing.

**A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Kauffman) to approve NIPSCO utility lines to aerielly cross Yellow Creek on the north side of CR 36 and on the west side of CR 11 as shown on the submitted drawing for NIPSCO work order #55280-11. The placement of the new power pole on the north side of CR 36 within the regulated drain right-of-way on the east side of the ditch was also approved. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**

**9. Berkey Lateral to Kieffer Ditch – NIPSCO – Utility Permission to Cross**

Carl Gilbert reported NIPSCO, 801 E. 86<sup>th</sup> Ave., Merrillville 46410 request Utility Permission to Cross Berkey Lateral to Kieffer Ditch, in Section 27 of Jackson Twp. at US 6, approximately 800 ft. east of CR 123. The project will remove existing, and installation of 4 new utility poles and overhead cables as shown on NIPSCO work order #50465-X7L. This project is being conducted in coordination with the INDDOT Project DES 2002263. The entire project will occur within utility and/or roadway easement and/or right-of-way.

**B. Petitions, Permits, Variances and Requests**

**9. Berkey Lateral to Kieffer Ditch – NIPSCO – Utility Permission to Cross (continued)**

**A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Kauffman) to approve NIPSCO, 801 E. 86<sup>th</sup> Ave., Merrillville 46410, Utility Permission to Cross Berkey Lateral to Kieffer Ditch for the removal of existing, and installation of 4 new utility poles and overhead cables as shown on your submitted drawing for NIPSCO work order #50465-X7L. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**

**10. Preston Miles Ditch – NIPSCO – Utility Permission to Cross**

Carl Gilbert reported NIPSCO, 801 E. 86<sup>th</sup> Ave., Merrillville 46410 request Utility Permission to Cross the Preston Miles Ditch, in Section 29 of Jackson Twp. at US 6, approximately 750 ft. west of IN-15. The project will relocate and install new utility poles along the north side of US 6, approximately 750 ft. west of SR-15 with a proposed pole located within the ditch right-of-way as shown on NIPSCO work order #50466-L7L. This project is being conducted in coordination with the INDOT project DES 2002262. The entire Project will occur within utility and/or roadway easement and/or right-of-way.

As a landowner on this ditch, Matthew Morehouse will abstain from voting on this item.

**A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Kauffman) to approve NIPSCO, 801 E. 86<sup>th</sup> Ave., Merrillville 46410, Utility Permission to Cross Preston Miles Ditch to remove existing, and installation of new utility poles and overhead cables as shown on your submitted drawing for NIPSCO work order #50466-X7L. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted in favor of the motion. 4-0-1**

**11. Berlincourt Ditch – City of Nappanee – Tree Down**

Steve Schweisberger reported Nappanee Mayor Jenkins contacted the Surveyor's Office concerning a dead tree that appears to have been cut on south top of bank on Berlincourt Ditch that is in endanger of becoming an obstruction in the Berlincourt Ditch. The tree can be observed from Derksen St., in Section 31 of Union Twp. The tree appears to have been cut, and it is unclear if it is intended to be removed. The City of Nappanee has not contacted the property owner yet. The Board requested staff reach out to the property owner to determine if they are intending on dragging the tree out of the ditch and/or utilizing it for firewood. If the landowner does not remove the tree, the Board will have to deal with the issue before it becomes a major blockage to the flow of the ditch. This site is within the City of Nappanee and would require a cost share. The Board could hire a contractor to pull the tree out of the ditch and then the City could dispose of the tree.

**B. Petitions, Permits, Variances and Requests**

**11. Berlincourt Ditch – City of Nappanee – Tree Down – (Continued)**

**A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Morehouse) to have staff coordinate with the property owner to see if he wants the tree, if not then to proceed forward with a project to remove the obstruction on the Berlincourt Ditch. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**

**12. AP Jones – Kosciusko County Drainage Board – Proposed Assessment Rate Increase**

Steve Schweisberger reported Kosciusko County Drainage Board is proposing an increase in the maintenance assessment rate on the AP Jones system. The watershed acreage within Elkhart County will increase from 282.48 to 381.86. This would be an increase of 99.38 Acres into the watershed. The Boundary was previously reviewed and approved at February 14, 2107, Drainage Board meeting. The Board does want representation regarding the proposed increase in rates that will affect the Elkhart County residents in the watershed.

Steve Schweisberger continued to explain there is a large wetland pond with an old County Tile that drains underneath extending to the east side of CR 35. This enhanced wetland area was created because the tile failed and has been made into a wildlife habitat. Kosciusko County Drainage Board are asking to remove approximately 1500 feet of this described section of tile from the regulated drain description because it will never be able to be replaced. This area would still be part of the watershed which drains into the AP Jones system. Kosciusko County has the main share of the system, so they will take the lead on the public hearing to abandon this section of the tile. The correspondence letter will state that the Board does not take issue with the proposed abandonment of the top end section of the regulated drain extending west to east under CR 35 to a point on the east edge of the large wetland pond. The Board wishes to participate in any public hearing to abandon this section.

**A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Morehouse) to seek additional information necessary for the files to support an appropriate rate increase and the proposed abandonment of the top end of the for the AP Jones system. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**

**B. Petitions, Permits, Variances and Requests (continued)**

**13. Wisler Ditch – Jim Burkey Bridge Investigation**

Steve Schweisberger reported this site is in Section 27, of Olive Twp., west of CR 1, north of CR 40. This is a private bridge on the Jim Burkey property at 65653 CR 1, Wakarusa. Photos of damage caused by logs, debris and erosion to this structure and action taken over the years were reviewed. It was noted that at the July 12, 2011 meeting, the Board stated that they will not assume any liability for the safety of the crossing based on any repairs made to the bridge. The landowner is taking the stance that the Board should share responsibility for the repairs since it is the trees and debris floating down the

**B. Petitions, Permits, Variances and Requests (continued)**

**13. Wisler Ditch – Jim Burkey Bridge Investigation (continued)**

creek that are damaging his bridge. He has agreed to pull the logs off and is requesting assistance with trying to put the pillar back in place and secure it.

Ian Henderson noted that to replace this structure it would probably take side by side 10 ft. X 20 ft. concrete boxes for the volume of water and the size of Wisler Ditch.

Steve Schweisberger noted that the Creek continues to cut a deeper channel because of the flow, and it is under mining the pillars, which is not the landowner's fault. Mr. Burkey has agreed to take the logs off and monitor the situation more closely to make sure that it is free of debris and logs at his expense.

Steve Olsen cautioned about doing any repairs on something the Board does not own; we would not want anyone to say that anything that we did was a consequence or a cause of or contributed towards any negative outcome.

Staff should assist the landowner with the proper procedures for making a request to do work within the County Regulated Drain, so they can complete the tasks necessary with the understanding that no funds are being spent by the Board. If the proper paperwork is submitted by the normal protocols, then we would only be granting them the authority to enter our ditch for them to do the necessary work.

**A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Barnes) to have staff coordinate with Jim Burkey, landowner, to determine if they would like to keep the bridge crossing Wisler Ditch or take some alternative course of action with the understanding that we will not be performing maintenance on the bridge. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**

**14. Shaffer Ditch & Yellow Creek – Dale Shupert – Variance Request**

Ian Henderson reported this is not exactly a variance request. Dale Shupert operates on the triangular piece of land between Shaffer Ditch and Yellow Creek. He is not the current owner; he is leasing the property. He has requested to place livestock exclusion fencing along Shaffer Ditch and part of Yellow Creek. Staff went out to walk the property with him; he has agreed to keep it 40 feet from the top of bank. He is proposing woven wire fencing with t-posts. He has agreed to be physically and financially responsible for its removal if it should be necessary. This is to get it on record, not seeking approval of a variance.

It was noted that we cannot grant anything on private land without the appropriate request from the property owner. Also, this property is not currently zoned for agriculture. It was recommended to table this request to allow the property owner to submit the appropriate request for placement of the fence and to confirm that the zoning is of such nature that the type of material being placed is logical for that land.

**A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Barnes) to table the request to allow the property owner to submit the appropriate request for the placement of the fence and to confirm that the zoning is of such nature the type of material being placed is logical for the land. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**

**C. Drainage Project Update and Project Review**

**1. Yellow Creek Obstruction Removal Project #25-002 – Change Order #1**

Carl Gilbert reported Yellow Creek Obstruction Removal project #25-002 required a change in the access site for the contractor to safely unload/load equipment. This project is in Section 22 of Concord Twp. west of Main Street/US 33 just north of CR 20. Change Order #1 includes the changing of the access point and extra time needed to clear a path and will increase the contract amount by \$350.00. The work is complete.

**A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Kauffman) to approve change order #1 on Yellow Creek Obstruction Removal Project #25-002 for additional work involved with the change of access point for \$350.00. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**

**2. Baugo Creek Obstruction Removal Project #25-004 – Change Order #1**

Carl Gilbert reported Baugo Creek Obstruction Removal Project #25-004 required removal of an additional obstruction, south of CR 130, just upstream of the original location. The Project is in Section 10, of Olive Twp., north and south of CR 130, west of CR 1. Change order #1 will increase the contract amount by \$500.00. The contractor did a fantastic job on this project. This is an obstruction which was not originally anticipated at the time of bidding and that is why it was not included in the original contract.

**A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Pippenger) to approve Change Order #1 on Baugo Creek Obstruction Removal Project #25-004 for an increase of \$500.00 for removal of an additional obstruction that was not originally anticipated at the time of bidding. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**

**3. Feters Pletcher Maintenance Project #24-027 – Time Extension**

Carl Gilbert reported Feters Pletcher Maintenance Project #24-027 was awarded October 8, 2024, with an original completion date of March 7, 2025. The contractor completed the digging and culvert installation prior to the original completion date. He is requesting a time extension until April 15, 2025, while he waits on better soil conditions to level the spoil. Mr. McBride, landowner, had concerns that his tile had been damaged during the project; he also stated that he did not receive notification of the project and therefore did not mark his outlets. This tile was not visible to the contractor due to being buried in the grass. Due to the circumstances, staff recommend sharing the cost of the repairs with the contractor, we will supply the tile, and the contractor will make the repairs.

**A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Barnes) to grant time extension on the Feters Pletcher Maintenance Project #24-027. The new completion date will be April 15, 2025. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**

**C. Drainage Project Update and Project Review (continued)**

**4. Ben Blue Maintenance Project #24-031 – Time Extension**

Carl Gilbert reported Ben Blue Maintenance Project #24-031 was awarded November 10, 2024, with an original completion date of March 7, 2025. The contractor has requested a time extension due to weather conditions in the past couple of months. During January and February 2025, the ground conditions have been frozen and have not been suitable to grade the spoil. The conditions are no longer frozen, but it is too wet to finish the project by the original deadline. The contractor requested an extension until April 30, 2025, to allow conditions to dry before completing the project. The contractor does have more to complete than just the leveling of the spoil. The project included a lot of pivot crossings and utility conflicts with some of the problems being out of his control.

**A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Pippenger) to grant a time extension on Ben Blue Maintenance Project #24-031. The new completion date will be April 1, 2025. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**

**V. Other Business – Additional Staff Items**

None this month

**VI. Adjournment**

**A motion was made and seconded by (Barnes/Morehouse) to adjourn the March 11, 2025, Elkhart County Drainage Board meeting. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**

Respectfully submitted,

Doris Biller, Recording Secretary