

FULTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING FOR JULY 8TH 2024

The Fulton County Drainage Board met on Monday July 8th, 2024 in the Conference Room of the Fulton County Office Building at 9:00 A.M. The Following were in attendance: President Dave Sommers, Vice Chairman Rick Ranstead, Commissioner Bryan Lewis, Surveyor Seth White, 1st Deputy Surveyor Chane Baldwin, Attorney Hollie -Pifer Shorter, drainage secretary: Lacey Holloway. Public Attendance: Dairl Sanders, Steven Hammer, Trent O'Dell, Scott Whelstone, Brian Potter, Shaylin Wilcox, Robert Zawacki.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

RE: AKRON SUBSTATION EXPANSION-DRAINAGE PLAN

Existing substation on 225 E. in Akron. Akron is adding onto and this is a simple drainage plan. There will be a retention area and they are using the existing drainage plan. 1.17 acres in this drainage plan. This drainage plan has met all requirements and Surveyor Seth White has approved it. Motion was made by Drainage Board to approve the Akron Drainage plan for the Akron Substation expansion. Passes 3-0.

RE: TOWNE LAKE- ROBERT ZAWACKI

Robert has been in contact with the DNR field biologist. Robert provided copies to the drainage board of the comparisons of the surrounding lakes with algae, nitrogen, chlorophyll etc. He came last year and did a study of Towne Lake itself. He suggested that a sediment retention area for Towne Lake would be very beneficial for the aquatic life. DNR provided to Robert that there is no underwater vegetation. Robert has been a part of the Indiana University Clean Lakes Program for 7 years now and they take analysis and studies of the water. Robert provided that the transparency at Towne Lake is severely low, due to algae, what's producing the algae is nitrogen levels, which is the water that comes from the watershed. Carlson's TPTSI Carlson developed a means of testing actual water quality on a scientific basis. Nothing aquatic can survive in Towne Lake due to this number being at 74.3. which is severely low. Robert would like to get together and somehow put some silt retention in the area of Towne Lake. Robert stated, "There is a lot of area that something like that could be accomplished and easily maintained. Most of this was caused by the last couple years of farming. Each year when the air gets colder, the water at the bottom of the lake is warmer and it brings up the old sediments that have been sitting down at the bottom of the

water and still accumulating. In Roberts six years of being on the Clean Lakes program it has not gotten worse but there has defiantly not been any good change.” Seth responded, “As far as the sediment goes we would like to keep it as close to the lake as possible. The county does have a 75-foot right- a-way on each side. Robert is asking does the county have a right to go in and make a sediment, and can we use the tax dollars from this watershed to put this sediment in. Seth is estimating the cost to be at least \$10,00.00 easily.” Every couple years it is going to have to be dipped. Hollie asked if there was any public access and Robert responded with no, there is no public access. Can the County legally take the money out of the Curtis ditch account to pay for the retention? That is the question that Hollie needs to research.

RE: HEARING #834 JM ROBBINS- LOWER MAINTENANCE RATE FROM \$17.00/ACRE TO \$5.00/ACRE.

Dave Sommers publicly opened the hearing for #834 JM Robbins to lower the maintenance rate from \$17.00/acre to \$5.00/acre. In 2018 when Don Towne was surveyor, this ditch needed major work done to it so at that point Don raised maintenance to \$17.00/acre and the plan was to drop that rate after 5 years and Seth forgot about it. So, at this point Seth would like to drop the price/acre since there is enough money in the account to do any work that still needs to be done. At this point the account should shut off on collections within the next year.

Public comments: Dairl Sander- The only questions he has is with the financial part of it. Since there is money in the fund and it lowers to \$5.00/acre would we get money back? Seth responded and stated that no one would get money back, so if its set at \$5.00/acre and collects for one more year then the account will stop collecting on the 2025 year and on for several years. Dairl Sanders was fine with paying the fall installment for 2024 due to Seth explaining in further detail.

Steve Hammer- Clarifying Dairls question, so when it triggers down the amount per acre will stay at \$5.00. If the price was to raise then we would have to have another hearing to do that. Seth doesn't look for the price per acre to raise for at least the next 20 years or so. That's all Steve wanted to clarify. Anyone in that watershed in the county is paying on this ditch Seth stated.

No objections were made. Commissioners made a motion to lower the maintenance fee from \$17.00/acre to \$5.00/acre. Motion passed 3-0.

Hearing was closed by Dave Sommers.

RE: SPRAYS

Oscar went back and had to spray a lot of ditches again that were not full kill. Oscar asked the surveyors office if the completion date could be moved back to June 30th deadline. There are some farmers that complained about crop damage and that is why it was moved forward to begin with. It is currently set for June 15th deadline and would like it to be set back to June 30th the commissioners have no objection to this. Another question Seth has, on each ditch there is a 5-year cycle but the way the ditches are sprayed, the contractors travel all over each county and its spaced out. Seth would like to spray by county, get one county done and then go to the next county maybe do it in quadrants. Commissioners agree that ditches should be sprayed by county to county so that the contractors are not driving from one side of the county clear over to the other side of the county and they can just stage at one area.

MINUTES:

None

CLAIMS:

Boyne's Critter Control- #521 Landis Ditch Trap Beaver \$460.00

Quill- Office Supplies \$61.65

Quill- Office Supplies \$71.75

Triangle Digital Printing- Ink Supplies \$648.00

Holli shorter-Pifer- Legal Consultant \$833.33

Prairie Marsh Final Sprays:

#569 George Kramer- 40% payment \$541.20

#639 Ambrose Wideman- 40% Payment \$187.22

#519 Steven Bruce- 40% payment \$200.00

#649 Steinke Wilson- 40% payment \$6,982.58

#817 Charles Callahan Open- 40% payment \$4,625.20

#820 Collins Arm #5- 40% payment \$343.20

#806 Reichard Ditch- 40% payment \$1,511.40
#824 S.S. Collins Br1 to arm #4 – 40% payment \$1,515.04
#825 Collins BR 3 to BR 2 Arm #4- 40% payment \$265.52
#812 Lewis Holtz part 1 – 40% payment \$4,149.04
#805 Walsh Willim- 40% payment \$827.64
#813 WF Wilson- 40% payment \$2,111.72
#663 Joe Mathias- 40% payment \$1,821.60
#648 Dan Stuckman- 40% payment \$1,444.48
#571 Krom Open-40% payment \$2,647.92
#637 Theodor J. White- 40% payment \$2,250.40
#806 S.S. Collins- Special Spray \$902.88
#827 Imhoff & Reed- 40% payment \$388.96
#797 Lucenia Smith- 40% payment \$8,846.50
#818 Shriver- 40% payment \$469.20
#690 Allen & Coplen- 40% payment \$230.48
#623 Spohn & Ward Open- 40% payment \$1,112.28
#507 LN Bair- 40% payment \$1,172.16
#711 Dan Kelley Open – 40% payment \$234.00
#510 George Barkman- 40% payment \$816.20
#664 Thompson Wynn Rannels- 40% payment \$3,223.44
#552 Henry Harsh Open- 40% payment \$796.24
#607 Reister Open- 40% payment \$1,019.75
#609 Sausaman Open- 40% payment \$217.56
#707 Harsh & Kesler- 40% payment \$335.40

#734 McCaughey & McKessey Tile & Open- 40% payment \$312.80

#807 Babcock Overmyer- 40% payment \$1,675.52

ADJOURNMENT-

FULTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

Surveyor ATTEST: Lacey Holloway, Drainage Board Secretary (A CD of the meeting is available in the Surveyor's Office)