TIPPECANOE COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD
November 6, 2019
Drainage Board Meeting Minutes

Those present were:
Tippecanoe County Drainage Board President Tracy A. Brown, Vice President Thomas P. Murtaugh, member David S. Byers, County Surveyor Zachariah Beasley, Drainage Board Attorney Doug Masson, Engineering Consultant Dave Eichelberger from Christopher B. Burke Engineering LLC and Drainage Board Executive Administrator Brenda Garrison. James Butcher, Surveyor Office Project Manager and Tim Walters, Surveyor’s office GIS Technician were also in attendance. Michelle Watts, Engineering Consultant from Butler Fairman and Seufert was absent.

Approval October 9, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes
Approval October 9, 2019 Clawson/Angstadt Obstruction Hearing Minutes
Thomas Murtaugh made a motion to approve the October 9, 2019 regular meeting minutes and the October 9, 2019 obstruction hearing minutes as written. David Byers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Waples McDill Reconstruction Financial Assistance Loan/Satisfaction of Mortgage
Surveyor Beasley presented a Satisfaction of Mortgage document regarding the Waples McDill Reconstruction Financial Assistance Loan which Greg & Natalie Gilbert held contract with the County Drainage Board. They satisfied their contracted obligation regarding the Waples McDill Reconstruction assessments and paid them in full. David Byers made a motion to approve the Satisfaction of Mortgage document as presented by the Surveyor. Thomas Murtaugh seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Drainage Board Executive Administrator was to record the document and mail the recorded copy to Greg and Natalie Gilbert for their records.

Zach Beasley/Other Business
Cuppy McClure County Regulated Drain Status Update
The Surveyor stated the Cuppy McClure County Regulated Drain was located within the County and portions of the watershed were located within the City of West Lafayette corporate boundary limits. This drain helped to control the water levels of the celery bog around Wal-Mart, Cumberland Avenue and the golf course area of West Lafayette. As an old agricultural drain, the tile no longer had the capacity to serve the area due to increased development. Therefore, this was an Urban Drain Reconstruction and had been in the planning stages for many years, due to negotiations with landowners and businesses. Most of the issues have been resolved at this point. Bid documents and construction plans were being completed to move forward. Landowner agreements have been mailed to affected landowners. He stated he was hopeful to bid the project out the first of December 2019.

Alexander Ross Regulated Drain Status Update
The Surveyor stated the Alexander Ross Regulated Drain project was proceeding as planned. Over the summer, two 42-inch steel pipes were jack and bored under Interstate 65 immediately south of the SR 26 exit ramp as part of this project. Responding to Commissioner Byers, the Surveyor noted the steel pipes bored under the Interstate were currently in use and all the required work outside of the right of way had been completed.

Huffman Weimert Drain/Norfolk Southern R.R. Discussion
The Surveyor informed the Board the Huffman Weimert Regulated Drain construction plans which included a jack and bore under the Norfolk and Southern Railroad, had been sent to the railroad for their review and had been approved by their design team. At this time the drain is obstructed under the railway corridor and is not functioning as intended. He stated, the plans were ready to be sent out the door. However, there was a snag obtaining a contract between the Drainage Board and the Norfolk and Southern Railroad per Indiana Code. The first tier of the contract would be approval for entry into their railway corridor to perform the jack and bore. The second tier would be an agreement of reimbursement for fifty percent (50%) of the construction cost within the Railroad’s right of way. He has reached out to the county attorney for assistance in this matter. Attorney Masson stated there was a hang-up involving the preparation of the mutual contract with the Railroad’s legal department.
He spoke with a local attorney who works with the railroad and familiar with the process. The attorney stated he would review this matter and respond to County Attorney Masson. Attorney Masson stated he thought the process would move forward and hopefully get wrapped up as soon as possible. He would keep the Surveyor informed of his findings.

Mr. Levi Huffman, (tenant farmer of the tract which a portion of the railroad was located on) approached the Board and stated he had lost several bushels an acre through the years due to the tract’s poor drainage. He discussed this tract’s per bushel yield through the years and noted the totals declined drastically due to poor drainage from 2014 on. He stated this tract was very important to his farming operation and emphasized the importance of removing the obstruction under the railroad as soon as possible. The Surveyor stated he had relayed the financial impact this delay was causing to railroad representatives that he has spoken to or emailed. He stated in order to keep Mr. Huffman advised, he has copied him on email correspondence between the Surveyor office, County Attorney and Norfolk and Southern representatives throughout this process. He stated the railroad should understand this project’s delay has a significant financial impact on the landowner. Mr. Huffman stated he appreciated the Surveyor keeping him advised of the situation and thanked him and the Board for their continued work on this issue and noted the importance of the project moving forward as soon as possible. He thanked them for their time.

Public Comment
As there was no public comment, David Byers made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned.

Tracy A. Brown, President

Thomas P. Murtaugh, Vice President

Brenda Garrison, Executive Administrator

David S. Byers, Member

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