

**St. Joseph County Drainage Board Meeting
May 3, 2021 – Room 732 County-City Building**

St. Joseph County Drainage Board Meeting

The St. Joseph County Drainage Board Meeting was called to order by Mr. Thomas Schlarb at 8:30 a.m., with the following members present:

**Thomas Schlarb
Randall Matthys
John Summers
John Linn**

**Brandie Ecker, Attorney
Derek D. Dieter, Commissioner
John R. McNamara, Ex-Officio Member
Karisa Buckwheat, Administrative Assistant**

APPROVAL OF April 12, 2021 MINUTES

Mr. Thomas Schlarb asked for approval of the April 12, 2021 minutes. Mr. Randall Matthys made a motion to approve the minutes being seconded by Commissioner Dieter and the motion carried.

PROPOSALS

There were no proposals for consideration.

SURVEYORS REPORT

A. Payment to Contractor

Mr. John Summers made a motion to pay the contractors being seconded by Commissioner Dieter and the motion carried.

B. Change of Assessments

Mr. John McNamara let the Board know that this most often was just combining or splitting some properties. Mr. John Linn made a motion to approve the Change of Assessments being seconded by Commissioner Dieter and the motion carried.

C. Pittman Ditch Vacation

Mr. John McNamara spoke to the Board about the Pittman Ditch Vacation. He let the Board know that Marshall County has already appointed a representative and Elkhart County will be appointing a representative in a week. Mr. John McNamara asked the Board if anyone would like to be the representative for St. Joseph County, Mr. Thomas Schlarb volunteered. Mr. John McNamara also let the Board know that once all three representatives were selected, we would schedule a meeting to set a date for the public hearing.

Mr. Randall Matthys made a motion to appoint Mr. Thomas Schlarb as the representative for St. Joseph County being seconded by Commissioner Dieter and the motion carried.

PRIVELEGE OF THE FLOOR

Commissioner Dieter spoke to the Board about the work that is being done at Portage Manor. Commissioner Dieter asked the Board if they were aware of the origin of the creek that runs from Portage Manor down to Pin Hook. Mr. John McNamara stated that the creek has never had a name nor has it ever been petitioned to make it a regulated drain for the Drainage Board to work on it. He stated that it is a natural gully down through there. Commissioner Dieter let the Board know a little bit about the scope of work that is being done in the area. Mr. Randall Matthys suggested to Commissioner Dieter that it may be beneficial to contact Albert Litchenbarger as he may know the origin of the ditch. Attorney Ecker also suggested speaking to Matt Meersman, the Executive Director of the St. Joe River Basin Commission, as he may be able to find some information on the origin of the ditch as well.

(Video Position 5:13)

Mr. John Linn asked Mr. John McNamara and Mr. John Law about the new wetlands regulations that the Governor just signed. Mr. John Linn asked if it would give the Drainage Board a reason to try and advance some projects that we haven't in the past due to the complications with the wetlands and the core and IDEM. Mr. John Law stated that it wouldn't as the legislation was put in place to reduce some of the power of IDEM as they were overstepping their bounds as far as some of the rules for wetlands, he believes the rule was set to try to pull them back a little bit. Mr. John Law stated that we didn't have any projects in which we are waiting for approval from IDEM, so it doesn't affect the Drainage Board much.

(Video Position 8:59)

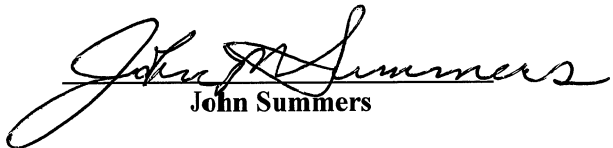
ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Randall Matthys made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 a.m. being seconded by Commissioner Dieter and the motion carried.

St. Joseph County Drainage Board



Tom Schlarb, President



John Summers



Randall Matthys

Derek D. Dieter, County Commissioner

John Linn

Dated this 7 day of June 2021.