**LaGrange County Drainage Board Minutes**

 **Commissioner’s Room – 1st Floor County Office Building**

A regular session of the LaGrange County Drainage Board was called to order by Todd Perkins at 8:30 A.M. on Wednesday, July 9th, 2025.

**Those Present Were:**

Todd Perkins, Vice Chair; Kevin Myers, Member; Member; Zachary Young, Member; Zach Holsinger, County Surveyor; Samantha Yoder, Secretary; Cory Stewart, Deputy Surveyor; Tony Manns, County Attorney; Robbie Miller, Planning/Zoning; Tharon Morgan, County Engineer; Matt Meersman, St. Joe River City Basin; Todd Wallace, Rep. for James Swift/NIPSCO; Donald Booster, Rep. for Lumen; Roger Barton, Rep. for Frontier; Lanae Woods, Rep. for Justin Johnson/NIPSCO

**Agenda:**

Myers moved to accept the agenda with flexibility. Young seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes:**

Myers motioned to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. Young seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**New Business:**

Holsinger presented an application to encroach in the right-of-way for Justin Johnson/NIPSCO. Holsinger stated that they are looking to replace an existing line and he didn’t see an issue with it. Representative was present for questions. The Board discussed. Young made a motion to approve the right-of-way application. Myers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Holsinger presented an application to encroach in the right-of-way for Justin Johnson/NIPSCO. Holsinger presented an aerial of the location and stated that they are looking to extend a gas line and he doesn’t have an issue as long as our office is notified when they start digging. Young made a motion to approve the application as presented with the stipulation that they notify the Surveyor’s Office when they start digging. Myers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Holsinger presented an application to encroach in the right-of-way for Dylan Banning/Frontier. Holsinger presented an aerial of the location and stated he doesn’t have an issue with this project. The Board discussed. Young made a motion to approve the application to encroach. Myers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Holsinger presented an application to encroach in the right-of-way for Donald Booster/Lumen. Holsinger presented an aerial of the location, explained it was for a new underground fiber line and he doesn’t have an issue with it. The Board discussed. Myers made a motion to approve the application as presented. Young seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Holsinger presented an application to encroach in the right-of-way for James Swift/NIPSCO. Holsinger presented an aerial of the location and stated that he doesn’t have an issue with the overhead line and pole, but he would like to see the underground electric service running along the driveway. The Board discussed. Young made a motion to approve the application with the stipulation that the underground electric line run along the driveway. Myers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Holsinger proposed the idea of doing a countywide ditch and asked the Board if this is something that he should look into further and also have the attorney look into for us. Holsinger stated that switching to this would save a lot of time/work in our office because it would cut down on public hearings. Holsinger stated that if we go this route we would shut down all the current assessments that are being collected because everyone would pay a “ditch tax” and then that money would be used for whatever project needed to be done. The Board asked what happens with the money in the individual funds from the assessments and Holsinger stated that if a project was being done on a system that had assessment money, that money would be used first and then once it was used up funds from the cumulative drainage fund would be used. Perkins wanted to know how many parcels there are in the county versus how many parcels are currently paying assessments. Mann said that he can definitely look into things with Zach if that is what the Board would like. The Board discussed and told Zach that they would like him and Mann to look into this possibility and bring more information back to the next meeting as they think this is an option worth looking into.

Holsinger presented an aerial of a pond that is located on one of our systems and has been clogged 3 times since a new section of tile was put in. Holsinger stated that the last time the contractor was out to fix the clog he asked the landowners if they ever lift the lid and the landowners stated that they do lift the lid to let debris go through. The contractor said this is what is causing the clogs. Holsinger asked the Board what they would like him to do in this case. Myers made a motion for the attorney to send a letter to the landowner letting them know that the bill is being paid this time, but that if this occurs in the future the landowners will be responsible to pay to have the clog removed. Young seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business:**

**Other Business:**

Next meeting date is Wednesday, August 6th at 8:30 AM.

**Adjourn:**

Myers motioned to close the drainage board meeting for Wednesday, July 9th, 2025, at 9:22 A.M. Young seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Benjamin Taylor, Chair

Todd Perkins, Vice Chair

Kevin Myers, Member

Vacant Seat, Member

Zachary Young, Member