**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 Ben Taylor at 8:30 A.M. on Wednesday, August 6th, 2025.

**Those Present Were:**

Ben Taylor, Chair; Todd Perkins, Vice Chair; Kevin Myers, Member; Member; Zachary Young, Member; Glen Bontrager, 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, Representative; John Giambone, Representative; Phil Cox, Representative; Noah Gainer, TC Energy; Greeme Heimrick, TC Energy; Scott Zeigler, Hand to the Plow

**Agenda:**

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

**Minutes:**

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

**New Business:**

Holsinger presented an application to encroach in the right-of-way for Surf Internet. Holsinger stated that they are looking to bore a fiber optic line. Representative was present for questions. The Board discussed. Perkins made a motion to approve the right-of-way application with the stipulation that INDOT approval be submitted to the Surveyor’s Office prior to work starting. Young seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Holsinger presented a second application to encroach in the right-of-way for Surf Internet. Holsinger presented an aerial of the location and stated that they are looking to bore a fiber optic line. Perkins made a motion to approve the application as presented with the stipulation that INDOT approval be submitted to the Surveyor’s Office prior to work starting. Young seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Holsinger presented a third application to encroach in the right-of-way for Surf Internet. Holsinger presented an aerial of the location and stated that they are looking to bore a fiber optic line. The Board discussed. Perkins made a motion to approve the application to encroach with the stipulation that INDOT approval be submitted to the Surveyor’s Office prior to work starting. Young seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Holsinger presented an application to encroach in the right-of-way for ANR Pipeline. Holsinger presented an aerial of the location and stated that they are looking to do an inspection/repair/replace as required. A representative was present for questions. 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 NIPSCO. Holsinger presented an aerial of the location and stated that they are looking to replace existing poles. The Board discussed. Perkins 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 MJM Improvements. Holsinger presented an aerial of the location and explained that they are looking to expand their parking area and will be roughly 5 feet from the top of the bank. Holsinger stated that he doesn’t have an issue with this as long as an agreement to maintain that area at the expense of the landowner. The Board discussed. Perkins made a motion to approve the application as presented with the stipulation that the landowner sign an agreement starting that they would be responsible for any additional costs that are incurred from a cleaning. Young seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Holsinger presented an application that was approved previously and stated that they are asking to be able to upsize the tile from what was originally approved. Scott Zeigler was present for questions and spoke to the water volume, elevation and need for the upsized tile. Zeigler stated that they are asking to go from an 8” tile to a 12” because of the amount of fall they have. The Board discussed. Bontrager made a motion to approve the upsize of the tile from 8” to 12”. Perkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Holsinger presented Scott Zeigler to speak about James Shetler’s property and wanting to continue discussing re-routing the existing tile on his property at his expense. Zeigler showed where they are proposing to put the new tile line and retention pond. The Board stated that they are still open to this being done, but they want to see definite plans and have an application before they can vote on anything being done.

**Old Business:**

The Board discussed the possibility of doing a cumulative drainage fund. Tony explained a few things he had found in researching switching over from how we currently do assessments. Manns said that the max rate we could collect is $0.05/$100 of assessed value and that we can’t include the towns and in order for the towns to pay we would have to ask them to participate. Manns said that at the max amount we would collect a little over $1.6 million and if we went middle of the road at $0.03 we’d be around $980,000.00. Also, any projects that were over $25,000.00 would have to be approved by the Council. The Drainage Board is still interested in getting more information on the possibility of doing switching to a cumulative drainage fund.

An update was given in regards to the Borkholder pond on S 200 E. Young stated that he stopped by there, took some pictures and that it looks good right now. Manns asked if the gate is able to be locked like was previously discussed. Young stated that there is no way to lock the gate. Manns stated that the letter has been completed to send to the landowner and will be mailed out today.

**Other Business:**

Next meeting date is Wednesday, September 3rd at 8:30 AM.

**Adjourn:**

Young motioned to close the drainage board meeting for Wednesday, August 6th, 2025, at 9:21 A.M. Myers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Benjamin Taylor, Chair

Todd Perkins, Vice Chair

Kevin Myers, Member

Glen Bontrager, Member

Zachary Young, Member