

MORGAN COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

*August 19, 2013
7:30 P.M.*

Drainage Board members present were: Norman Voyles, Don Adams, and Brian Goss. Also present were: Terry Brock, (Surveyor), Deb Verley (Administrative Assistant), and Pete Foley (County Attorney).

Banning Presentation

Joe Miller, Banning Engineering, was present to discuss the Lake Ditch Watershed assessment. Mr. Miller stated that it is a fairly large watershed which contains predominately row crop agriculture. The Town of Eminence is also within the approximately 42 square mile watershed. There are 12 regulated drains within the watershed. The watershed is on the GIS website (it is listed as a drainage district). Mr. Miller stated that in order to keep the benefits of the work that was performed last year by cleaning Lake Ditch, an assessment should be applied. Mr. Miller handed out a Surveyor's Report for Lake Ditch Regulated Drain that includes nearly 1,800 parcels on the assessment roll. Mr. Miller recommended combining the 12 regulated drains that are in the watershed per Section 41 of the Drainage Code. Ninety-nine percent of the drains are open with less than ½ a mile of tile drains. The soils and topography are similar for all 12 of the drains. The total maintenance assessment collected is recommended to be just over \$59,000. They would be dipping out an average of one mile every year at an estimated cost of \$32,000; the spray program is estimated to cost \$15,000 per year; and other recommended services such as tile maintenance, engineering, permitting, bank stabilization, and water quality monitoring are estimated to cost \$12,000 per year. Banning has calculated the rate to be \$2.00 per acre with a \$10 minimum per parcel. Ninety-eight percent of the watershed is within Morgan County. They have had discussions with Hendricks County and they are willing to waive their rights to the watershed. There are three non-parcelized assessments within the watershed, INDOT \$601.00, Hendricks County \$2,924.00, and Morgan County Highway Department \$522.00.

Pete Foley stated that if any of the Commissioners holds a property interest in any of the parcels subject to the assessment, then there would be a conflict of interest and they would not be able to vote on the assessment. It was determined that none of the Commissioners owns property within the watershed.

Discussion continued regarding how often to clean the ditch and how much of it to clean each year. Mr. Miller stated that the amount of the assessment can be raised by 25% one time without having a hearing.

Brenda Adams noted that the parcel numbers in the report are not the correct numbers, they are the old parcel numbers that were used a few years ago. Mr. Miller stated that they must have used the wrong column of numbers and would correct that.

Pete Foley stated that after the public hearing, the Drainage Board will be able to adopt the assessment roll and rate. Brian Goss made a motion to approve the Surveyor's Maintenance Report. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

Brian Goss made a motion to accept the assessment roll. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

There will be an informational meeting in Eminence on August 28th. All landowners will receive a letter inviting them to the meeting.

Brian Goss made a motion to set the public hearing for Monday, October 7, 2013 at 11:00 am in the Lucille Sadler Room of the Morgan County Administration Building. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

Terry Brock noted that a copy of the letter to the landowners and a copy of the letter to Hendricks County was included in the packet of information. The letter to Hendricks County requested that Morgan County be allowed to be the presiding board over the watershed. Dave Gaston, the Hendricks County Surveyor, met with Mr. Brock a few weeks ago and recommended to the Hendricks County Drainage Board that Morgan County be the presiding board. If not, then they would have a joint board. Hendricks County agreed with the recommendation.

The notices will be sent out and anyone having an objection to the assessment must send a letter to the Surveyor's Office by a certain time.

Adjournment

Brian Goss made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

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Norman Voyles, Commissioner


Brian Goss, Commissioner


Don Adams, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Terry Brock, Morgan County Surveyor