The Vanderburgh County Drainage Board met in session this 2nd day of February, 2016 at 5:12 p.m. in Room 301 of the Civic Center Complex with President Stephen Melcher presiding.

**Call to Order**

President Melcher: Okay, we’re going to go ahead and start the Vanderburgh County Drainage Board. It’s February 2, 2016, and it’s about ten after five, it looks like.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

President Melcher: If we could all rise for the Pledge.

(The Pledge of Allegiance was given.)

President Melcher: Thank you.

**Approval of the January 19, 2016 Drainage Board Meeting Minutes**

President Melcher: We need a motion to approve the previous minutes.

Commissioner Ungethiem: So moved.

President Melcher: Second. All in favor say aye.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Aye.

President Melcher: Aye.

(Motion approved 2-0)

**Other Business**

President Melcher: Other business?

Jeff Mueller: I don’t have anything other than ditch maintenance claims. Other than to, I did want to point out one thing. In our code, when we have an Impacted Drainage Area, that we can lower the standards in that Impacted Drainage Area, not lower the standards, lower the allowable release rate in an Impacted Drainage Area. It’s something that we put in the code here on the last run around. So, I just wanted to make you all aware of that, because that could be coming up again in the future. Because the two Impacted Areas right now are the east side and the Pond Flat drainage area, okay, but, I don’t have any other business.

**Ditch Maintenance Claims**

Jeff Mueller: I do have two ditch maintenance claims.

President Melcher: Yes, that was next.

Jeff Mueller: Yes. One of them is for McCullough Land Improvements for $1,595.87. This is for work that was done on East Side Urban North Half, specifically the Crawford Brandeis Extension out by Peacock Lane. That’s an 85 percent payment. The other is for Pond Flat Main, it’s the 15 percent payment to the Big Creek Drainage Association for work they did, $1,969.50. The total claim is $3,565.37.
Commissioner Ungethiem: I’ll make a motion to pay the ditch claims.

President Melcher: I’ll second it. Roll call.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Ungethiem?

Commissioner Ungethiem: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: President Melcher?

President Melcher: Yes.

(Motion approved 2-0)

Public Comment

President Melcher: Public comment? So, does anybody have anything to say to the Drainage Board? Okay, state your name and address please. We’re short one Commissioner tonight. He’s not here.

Charles Farney: I’m Charles Farney, 16500 Korff Road. I own the property that was just trying to get rezoned. I think they need to check the code off of the drainage off this subdivision. It’s coming across my ground. I mean a lot of water. I don’t think that’s quite legal. You can’t put a subdivision in something and put water on somebody else. I think you’d better check that. I think it needs to be checked.

Ann Farney: Charlie, are they in accordance with the plan?

Charles Farney: In accordance with the plan they had.

Ann Farney: Of the drainage plan they had?

Charles Farney: I have talked last summer to the ones that just finished it, and they said it was alright what they got, but it’s not.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Okay, we understand—

Charles Farney: Anytime I’ve ever did anything, you cannot run water, you make a subdivision or something, you cannot run water on somebody else.

Commissioner Ungethiem: We understand.

Charles Farney: There’s, ten to 15 houses that run down the back of the swale and comes out across my ground.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Right, we understand the issue. What I would like to do is to have Mr. Mueller, who is the Surveyor, and John Stoll, who is the County Engineer, meet with the folks at Jagoe, review the plan and make sure that there is, that they followed the plan, number one. And if they followed the plan and there’s still an issue, then we’ll need to deal with it. We will do that. Jeff, how long do you think it would take to put a meeting together to review that?

Jeff Mueller: It won’t be, we’ve got the drainage rates to, I mean, it’s silly to go out there right now anyway, but we wouldn’t be able to get it in the next two weeks anyway.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Okay.

Jeff Mueller: Because we’ve got to get the drainage rates in. So, it would be right after that.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Okay.

Jeff Mueller: But, we can look at the plans in-house before we go out in the field.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Let’s take a look and make sure that they followed everything that was on the drainage plan, and make sure that if there is an issue out there that we come up with a—
Jeff Mueller: I know there was when they were building some of the houses, because the swale wasn’t put in, and I know Jagoe was concerned about it. We told them there was supposed to be a swale put in, and that was the last conversation we had, you know, that they were going to put one in. Whether it’s adequate or not, I don’t know.

Charles Farney: Well, they put it in, but it’s still lower than what it’s supposed to be.

Jeff Mueller: Well, like I said—

Charles Farney: It comes across my ground.

Jeff Mueller: --I don’t know if it’s adequate or not. All I can tell you is we just had a discussion.

Charles Farney: If I’m going to farm it, I can’t have water coming across it.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Let’s take a look at it and see what we can do.

President Melcher: Have you had any complaints out there from anybody on this? I mean, nobody’s e-mailed me on anything or called me on that.

Jeff Mueller: Well, we haven’t had any complaints on drainage. We’ve had a lot of requests out there, out of that subdivision, because the lake has such a large lake maintenance easement that there’s a lot of people that have built stuff within the lake maintenance, and I know we’ve had a couple of encroachment agreements come through here on that. The only other thing we’ve had is, I know John has been keeping an eye on the building across the street, on trying to make sure that they are staying within their requirements.

President Melcher: Because this is the first I’ve heard of that drainage, what you’re saying tonight. Have you reported it to anybody?

Charles Farney: To Jagoe.

President Melcher: Okay.

Charles Farney: And they come out and worked on it, but—

President Melcher: Well, they definitely haven’t reported it to us then. Okay.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Okay, Charles, we’ll take a look at it, and we’ll let you know, our first meeting of next month we would have an answer?

Jeff Mueller: Hopefully.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Okay.

Joe Harrison, Jr.: March, what is it, March 1st?

Commissioner Ungethiem: March the 1st.

Jeff Mueller: I’ve got to bring drainage rates in to you guys next meeting, and we’ve got to approve all the drainage rates so the tax bills can go out.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Okay.

President Melcher: Okay.

Commissioner Ungethiem: We will take a look at it and we’ll try to get it corrected.

Charles Farney: I mean, that was one of the complaints.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Okay, thank you.

President Melcher: Okay.

Greg Hill: Is it good for this one too?

Joe Harrison, Jr.: No, you’re okay.
President Melcher: No, you don’t have to swear in on this one.

Greg Hill: Alright. This is my first Drainage Board meeting.

Joe Harrison, Jr.: Say your name again.

Greg Hill: Gregory Hill, I live at 1045 East Baseline Road. As an importance to me, yes, he’s talking about a little subdivision flooding him, we’ve got all of them up by Scott School that comes down, runs across Baseline Road, it’s closed, you can’t get down it, you guys know there’s the problem. It’s flooding our properties, there’s three, four or five people, families here that you can’t hardly get out of your house, I mean, when it floods out there. You’re saying, and we’ve met with the engineers, this, that and the other thing, so, my comment is, when are we going to get some response? It’s been eight to ten years. The county raised the road, your Engineer said he caused the problem by holding the water back. They were supposed to put new culverts in on Korff, Baseline, they haven’t done anything. The flooding is still there. So, my question to you guys is, how come nothing’s been done? He’s worried about it flooding a field, you’re flooding our houses, all the way up around our houses, under that gentleman right there’s house, it raises up there. We’re talking 250 feet off the road, and these are all people that, you know, when I bought my house it was one of the first built out there. I can’t take anymore. It’s within six foot of my garage door, another two inches and it will be in my house. So, why haven’t they fixed that problem?

Commissioner Ungethiem: I don’t know that we can answer that question this evening, but we’ll certainly take a look at it. I want to make sure I know the area. You’re between the current subdivision, or the subdivision there and Korff Road?

Greg Hill: I live between Korff and Peck Road.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Between Korff and Peck on which side of the road?


Commissioner Ungethiem: You live on the south side?

Greg Hill: Right. From Korff Road, I would be the third property to the west. The County Commission has known about the flooding, they’ve had engineers out there to talk to us and everything else. As a matter of fact, the Sheriff has to come out every time there’s a big rain and put signs up, the county does, and block the road off. First of all it’s a safety factor, the fire department can’t get to you. They’ve got to go all the way around. If somebody had a heart attack, they’re dead by the time they get there. My question is, is like I said, this has been going on for eight to ten years, and they told us they were going to take care of it, and nobody’s done anything. We’re still waiting, and now everybody else wants everything built up out there, we can’t take any more. This is off the subdivisions up by the school, because they put a retention pond in, the water comes down and that’s where it floods, between us and the fire department. So, I would appreciate an answer. When is somebody going to do something about it sometime?

Commissioner Ungethiem: We will take a look at it. The County Surveyor and the County Engineer and I. I’m also an engineer, so I can speak their language, so to speak. We’ll take a look at it, and all I can tell you is we’ll have an answer for you by the first meeting of next month.

Greg Hill: Okay. Well, like I said, we’ve met with the County Surveyor’s out there, or Engineer’s before. They said they’re going to take and put new culverts under Baseline and they need to put new culverts on Korff Road. None of it’s been done. The flooding is still there. Somebody is going to get hurt. I’ve had to call the fire department more than once because somebody speeded down through there, run off in that water, got washed off in the ditch, or off in the yard. Somebody is going to drown one of these days. So, I would just like an answer, and so would all of the rest of the neighbors that live there that saw the problems when they let them do all this. It caused the problems and it’s never been fixed.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Okay, I understand.

Greg Hill: So, next meeting you’ll have an answer you said?
Commissioner Ungethiem: First meeting in March.

Greg Hill: Okay, thank you.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Thank you.

Joshua Wilson: My name is Joshua Wilson. I live at 1100 East Baseline Road. Basically everything he just said is relevant except I live on the corner of Baseline and Korff Road. The culvert that does most of the draining is directly behind my property. It’s angled in at my side. When you stand on the street and look east to west, the culvert is angled at my property. I moved in in 2007. I witnessed firsthand the drainage problem and the effects of how much water come through. I’ve lost about seven to eight feet of property to property damage. The same thing he just said, engineers have came out, they’ve taken pictures, they’ve looked at it, I’ve lost rip rap alongside of my property off the concrete wall back in 2011. The worst I’ve seen it was in 2009, the summer, and it actually flooded all of Baseline, flooded all of Korff Road, all the way up to my driveway, and I was fighting it off by brushing it out with a broom out of my garage. It flowed over this concrete wall, this guy, this original builder built in, I guess, the late 70’s. It’s the worst I’ve ever seen it. I’ve seen it come close to that a few different times. The same thing he said, these people come out, they’ll put a Band-Aid on what is an enormous problem. When we get the flash flooding it’s at its worst, and the culvert is doing its best. So, anything that would be built up downstream with these existing problems would only ripple effect everything back. So, we have these problems now, it’s like he said, they would only be magnified. The guy I talked to, I think his name was Mike Wathen, I don’t know if he’s still there or not.

Commissioner Ungethiem: He works for the County Engineer’s Department, yes.

Joshua Wilson: Okay, well, this was years ago, and he just managed to get me some rip rap to put back on the wall that everything was washed out. When I say washed out, you know, rip rap, it’s, you know, it could be 50 to 80 pound rock. The water is rushing over the road so fast it takes out some of the road on each side, because the culvert backs up, and it just starts coming over it just as fast as it’s going through it. So, land goes with it. If somebody fell in there, they’re gone, like that. So, it’s the same thing. This has been years, I guess, since I’ve seen it the worst, and not a thing’s been done. They’ll dump some rip rap here and there, call it a day, put down a little bit of asphalt where some of the ground washed out, and that’s it. You hear ideas, but nothing ever happens. So, I mean, we personally have to take charge and try and, I don’t know, reconcile the damage by putting either some dirt in, or some busted concrete, which the farmers that farm the ground on the opposite side of the ditch from me, do whenever they get it, but it still doesn’t fix my problem. Because, if you’re looking straight down at it, here’s the farm ground here on their side, here’s the back side of my property, the culvert is aimed at my side. Now, what sense does that make? It’s been there before I even moved in. So, that’s never changed, so, I just continue to lose property. So, what do I have to do? I have to put more dirt in, and it washes it away. I have to find giant concrete chunks, because anything small, the water comes through there so bad it just pushes it on down.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Okay, we understand. We will take a look at it.

Joshua Wilson: Okay, well, that’s the same thing I’ve been told before. So, I mean, if he gets an answer, I guess, on that, is that how I’m going to get my answer?

Commissioner Ungethiem: Please give us your phone number or your e-mail so that we can contact you.

Joshua Wilson: It’s wrote down on the—

Commissioner Ungethiem: Is it? We got it? Okay. We will contact you.

President Melcher: Any other comments? We thought this meeting would be a little quicker, but that just happens, so, we don’t have a problem with that at all. But we do feel the pain and that, we did vote down the zoning tonight, so, at least we’re not expanding that part for that area. So, any other comments?
President Melcher: I need a motion to adjourn.
Commissioner Ungethiem: Motion to adjourn.
President Melcher: Second. All in favor say aye.
Commissioner Ungethiem: Aye.
President Melcher: Aye.

(Motion approved 2-0)

President Melcher: Thank you.

(The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.)

Those in Attendance:
Stephen Melcher
Joe Harrison, Jr.
Ann Farney
Others Unidentified

Bruce Ungethiem
Madelyn Grayson
Greg Hill
Members of Media

Jeff Mueller
Charles Farney
Joshua Wilson

VANDERBURGH COUNTY
DRAINAGE BOARD

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Stephen Melcher, President

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Bruce Ungethiem, Member

(Recorded and transcribed by Madelyn Grayson.)