The Vanderburgh County Drainage Board met in session this 19th day of July, 2016 at 5:25 p.m. in Room 301 of the Civic Center Complex with President Stephen Melcher presiding.

**Call to Order**

President Melcher: Is everybody ready? We’ll go ahead and stand for the Drainage Board meeting for July 19, 2016 for the Pledge.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

(The Pledge of Allegiance was given.)

**Approval of the July 5, 2016 Drainage Board Meeting Minutes**

President Melcher: I need a motion for the approval of the previous minutes.

Commissioner Ungethiem: So moved.

Commissioner Kiefer: Second.

President Melcher: All in favor say aye.

All Commissioners: Aye.

President Melcher: Thank you.

(Motion approved 3-0)

**Aiken Drain**

President Melcher: Aiken Drain.

Jeff Mueller: Okay, if you can see on your slides, just to kind of remind you, Aiken Drain is located on the southeast side. It begins at a point near the intersection of Pollack Avenue and Seasons Ridge, right there. It then heads to the west to near Pollack and Hoosier Avenue, and then goes and makes an abrupt turn and heads to the southeast. Approximately 3,100 feet of this drain is nothing more than a road ditch for Pollack Avenue. I'm going to show you that here in just a second, this is again the same piece I'm going to talk about. This is Aiken Ditch right here, and like I said you can kind of just see it's just a, it's a road ditch on that particular area. I'm going to tell you why I'm going to bring this up here in just a second. The photos that you can see shows you that it needs to be cleaned out. Here's some of the culverts. Here's another culvert underneath the road, and another one that's partially blocked. Aiken Ditch does carry water from some of the subdivisions to the north, so it's important that it is going. My suggestion would be, on this particular ditch though, for that 3,100 feet to utilize the County Highway for this work. I'm going to give you the reasons why; first of all they have a Gradall, which would be the best piece of equipment for this work; second, since there’s many obstacles, such as guardrail, they would be able to work around those obstacles and they would be able to do any repair that they might feel necessary while they're cleaning the ditch out; and, third, they have some of the necessary other resources. I've talked with Scot Wichser with the County Garage, and we made a little trip out there last week, and he would like to do the work, he wanted to do the work, but my recommendation would be that even
though it would be a ditch that a county road we would be cleaning, and since it is a regulated fund, so, thinking out of the box here, why not use the County Highway, but we transfer some of the money from the Aiken Ditch Fund to pay them for the work they would be doing? The issues would be, first of all, how much would they be reimbursed? I can tell you for similar work where we have dug and cleaned out shallow ditches and hauled the material off, we’ve been looking at about $2.50 to $2.85 per linear foot. On this project you would be looking at about $7,750 to $8,800. That’s based upon work that was done in 2014 in Cloverlawn Subdivision on Sonntag Stevens by a private contractor, and in Audubon Subdivision in 2015 on Kolb Ditch, again by a private contractor. The second issue is whether we can actually transfer monies from a ditch account to the County Highway Fund. I posed this question to our County Auditor, Brian Gerth, today, and he had Sam give me a call back and he said as long as the County Highway invoiced us, that is something that they could do. So, like I said, I’m just kind of thinking out of the box, but this kind of just seems like a good situation. It’s not a high priority, so I wouldn’t want, you know, I would want the County Highway to work on other projects, but then they could put it on their list, and then, you know, it’s something that we could do. Like I said, we would be, I think we would be utilizing good resources for this particular project. So, I just kind of wanted to bring this up, see how you all felt about it. Am I totally crazy? Or is it something that you kind of like?

President Melcher: No, I think it’s a great idea you’ve got there. So, we should have been doing this sooner.

Jeff Mueller: Okay. Just always to let you know, Aiken Ditch has a balance of $37,000. So, we do have the money there to pay it.

Joe Harrison, Jr.: I don’t see any problem with it. Whenever it’s time to pay the claim though, it will have to come to the Board.

Jeff Mueller: Right. We would handle it just like any other claim.

Joe Harrison, Jr.: Yeah.

President Melcher: Uh-huh.

Jeff Mueller: Okay.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Is there any requirement to bid, and what level? I mean, if it’s under $10,000 you don’t need to bid it?

Joe Harrison, Jr.: No, it’s county doing county work. You’re just reimbursing them for their work.

Commissioner Ungethiem: I’m just asking is there a legal requirement to bid it?

Joe Harrison, Jr.: No.

Jeff Mueller: I don’t know.

Joe Harrison, Jr.: (Inaudible) county to do their own work.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Yeah, I don’t have a problem with it.

Jeff Mueller: Okay.

Joe Harrison, Jr.: In fact, the county used to do some work for the city. I don’t know if they still do.

Jeff Mueller: I know they do some stuff, they’ve got some reciprocal agreements—

Joe Harrison, Jr.: Yeah.

Jeff Mueller: -- on, you know, like the bridges that are on the city, on who does what and things like that.

Joe Harrison, Jr.: Cemetery areas and things like that I think they used to do at Oak Hill.
Jeff Mueller: So, okay. Do you have any number in mind as far as what we would want to pay them?

Joe Harrison, Jr.: Well, not to exceed ten?

Jeff Mueller: Well, I would just, like I said, I had $2.50 to $2.85 a linear foot, which is $7,750 to $8,800. I would just as soon that we just say why don’t we shoot a number out and that’s the number.

Joe Harrison, Jr.: Well, what do you think, eight?

Jeff Mueller: Well, do you want to split the difference, yeah, let’s just say eight? Would that be? I think Scot would be tickled to get reimbursed for anything.

Joe Harrison, Jr.: If that’s your recommendation to pay them $8,000, maybe the Board can act upon that recommendation then.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Well, I would make a motion that we approach the County Garage about performing this work, and offer them $8,000 to do that, and see if they would accept it.

Commissioner Kiefer: I’ll second that motion.

President Melcher: Then they’re going to give us an invoice for that?

Jeff Mueller: Yes, when the work would be done.

President Melcher: Okay.

Jeff Mueller: And we would also have to notify the landowners, like we would on any regulated drain. My office would take care of that.

President Melcher: Good.

Jeff Mueller: It’s part of our duties.

President Melcher: All in favor say aye.

All Commissioners: Aye.

President Melcher: So be it.

(Motion passes 3-0)

**Ditch Maintenance Claims**

Jeff Mueller: The only other thing I have is ditch maintenance claims. You have before you a summary sheet. There’s 18 claims for a total of $12,697.97. These are just for some of our normal maintenance routines. I would like to note that some of the contractors are running behind, due to weather, particularly on the mowing. That’s no, you know, it’s nothing that doesn’t surprise me. I’ve had a hard time keeping my grass mowed this summer. Anyway, the only other thing I want to point out is that on one of the claims for Kolb Ditch we had to add an additional 1,000 feet of mowing. The original bid on that did not include a stretch of Kolb that runs through Price Park, which is a requirement for us to mow. I think this has kind of fallen through the cracks in the past, but it’s something we need to do and we’ve received a couple, at least one complaint from a neighbor in the area. So, we’ve got that resolved. We know that we’re supposed to mow it. So, like I said, there’s an extra, a little bit of extra footage on that, but I would recommend that the 18 invoices be paid.

Commissioner Ungethiem: I make a motion that we pay the ditch maintenance claims.

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1 Should be 17 claims for $12,081.70.
Commissioner Kiefer: I'll second it.

President Melcher: All in favor say aye.

All Commissioners: Aye.

President Melcher: That passes also.

(Motion approved 3-0)

**Other Business**

Jeff Mueller: I don’t have anything else tonight. We’re going to have a bunch coming in. We’re getting some drainage plans in, but they’re not ready to be brought up yet.

Commissioner Ungethiem: How did we do with the recent rains that we’ve had, the large volumes of water that came through, did we have any issues?

Jeff Mueller: You know, on our regulated drains, no. I do know that, talking to Scot, that I know the area out on the west side, that there was some problems again out there. Remember the area, Bruce, out there off of Woods Lane? I think they’re still having problems, but nothing, there’s been nothing in regulated drains beyond, you know, normal. I mean, just a lot of rain. One thing that’s held up is that we’ve been trying to work with the State Highway on getting some work done underneath I-64, up at Pond Flat, trying to get it into their budget for next year. It’s been raining so much I haven’t been able to get up there with the State Highway people, because every time we decide to have a meeting, Pond Flat is running full and you can’t see what’s going on.

Commissioner Ungethiem: I understand they had another event up there yesterday.

Jeff Mueller: Yeah.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Had another flood.

Jeff Mueller: So, anyway, and we’re still, as far as the other Pond Flat work, we’re still waiting on the Construction in Floodway permit to come back, you know, it’s going through the system. That’s about it. I think, Commissioner Melcher, you received an e-mail that showed, you know, where it was at. So, because your name was on the permit. It’s just going through it’s normal system right now.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Kiefer: I make a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Second.

President Melcher: All in favor say aye.

All Commissioners: Aye.

President Melcher: We’re adjourned.

(The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.)

**Those in Attendance:**

Stephen Melcher  Joe Kiefer  Bruce Ungethiem  
Jeff Mueller  Joe Harrison, Jr.  Madelyn Grayson  
Others Unidentified  Members of Media