The Vanderburgh County Drainage Board met in session this 1st day of March, 2016 at 4:37 p.m. in Room 301 of the Civic Center Complex with President Stephen Melcher presiding.

Call to Order

President Melcher: We'll go ahead and call to order the Vanderburgh County Drainage Board. It's March 1, 2016.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Melcher: If we could rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

(The Pledge of Allegiance was given.)

Approval of the February 16, 2016 Drainage Board Meeting Minutes

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

Acknowledgement of Passing of Dan Hartman

President Melcher: Move on now.

Jeff Mueller: Okay, right before we jump into the agenda, I just wanted to note, in case you didn’t read it in the paper this morning, that Dan Hartman, who was a former Bridge Engineer for Vanderburgh County died. Dan used to work down in the Surveyor's Office when the offices were combined. A unique person, a fun person to be around and a good engineer who did a lot of the bridge work for this county. I would be remiss if I didn’t mention his passing. He was a good guy, like I said, he was a very interesting person.

Encroachment Agreement: Crawford Brandeis: METS Bus Shelters

Jeff Mueller: With that I want to move on to the encroachment agreements. First of all on Crawford Brandeis, the METS bus shelters. You have before you a request from METS for the installation of two bus shelters. These are on the new sidewalk that is out there by Walmart, in that area. The copies of both of these encroachments are included in your package. They are, like I said, to be installed on those new, large sidewalks. I don’t have any issues with them and I would recommend approval.

President Melcher: Are they gonna...a lot of these shelters they put on grass and on hills.
Jeff Mueller: They are going to be on, they actually expanded the concrete a little bit right there and have a foundation.

President Melcher: Well, that's what I was saying, we need to make sure that happens, because there's no way you could sit down on some of these benches.

Jeff Mueller: Right, or when they have them in the grass and they don't get mowed and somebody's got weeds underneath them, but, no, they're on concrete.

President Melcher: Okay.

Jeff Mueller: The concrete is already there.

President Melcher: Do you need a motion? Do you need a motion for that?

Joe Harrison, Jr.: Yeah, to accept them.

Commissioner Ungethiem: So moved.

Commissioner Kiefer: Second.

President Melcher: All in favor.

All Commissioners: Aye.

(Motion approved 3-0)

President Melcher: Thank you.

Request to Connect Legal Drain: 4300 Hitch Peters -Sonntag Stevens

Jeff Mueller: Next on the agenda is a request to connect to the legal drain at 4300 Hitch Peters Road, Sonntag Stevens. This is a request from C. Rust Properties to install a down drain that captures the drainage from the roof and surrounding area of a proposed new building. You have in your package the application. The application also, that you don't have, includes two drawings. One drawing is dated February 17, 2016, and the other drawing is drawing number one which is dated February 25th. You will note on the application it states an eight inch pipe, and you will also notice where I've changed that, and they changed it on their drawing, to a 12 inch pipe. The reason for this is that we require 12 inches, and that will also slow down the velocity of the water as it's coming in the ditch. So, they will be installing a 12 inch pipe over the 30 foot right-of-entry area. Otherwise their drains themselves will be eight inches. So, I don't have any problems with this request.

President Melcher: Any questions? I need a motion then.

Commissioner Ungethiem: I make a motion to approve.

Commissioner Kiefer: Second.

President Melcher: Roll call please on this one.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Ungethiem?

Commissioner Ungethiem: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Kiefer?

Commissioner Kiefer: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: President Melcher?

President Melcher: Yes.

(Motion approved 3-0)
Jeff Mueller: Next is for Cambridge Village II, the final drainage plan. That’s the picture you see up there. These are the road plans. This is the same area for the road plans that John brought you in the Commissioners meeting. This submittal is for the approval of the final drainage plan for a proposed 63 lot subdivision located within Cambridge Golf Course Complex, and located in the area around the intersection of Volkmann and Old State Roads. The subdivision will utilize existing lakes that were constructed as part of the golf course, but were also envisioned to be utilized as part of the overall stormwater drainage system. The preliminary drainage plan for this phase of the subdivision was approved by the Drainage Board on August 11, 2015. The proposed plan will allow 1.62 acres of undeveloped area to leave the site undetained towards Old State Road. The current watershed of this same area is 8.2 acres. Between the preliminary plan approval and what you have tonight the developer made modifications which consist of additional storm sewers to capture most of the drainage and will divert it into Lake Seven in the golf course. You have in your package a memo from James Morley that addresses this issue. The final drainage plan was submitted on November 24, 2015, with additional submittals on January 4, 2016; February 23, 2016 and February 25, 2016. The plan that is requested to be approved consists of the submitted document dated February 25, 2016, responses from Morley dated February 25, 2016, a memo dated February 26, 2016, along with drawings that consist of the following: drawings G-100, C-102 and C-103, C-500, C-501 and C-504. Also included with the submitted drainage plans for reference were copies of the sanitary sewer utility plans, water utility plans and road plans. The sanitary sewer utility plans, water utility plans and road plans are not to be considered part of the formal drainage plan approval. I have provided you a copy of the review of the submitted drainage plan and request that the review document be also made part of the approved final drainage plan. The drainage plan was reviewed by the County Surveyor and found to be in compliance with Vanderburgh County’s drainage code, with two exceptions, and therefore is being submitted to the Drainage Board for approval under section 13.04.090. The two exceptions are first the undetained drainage that I previously discussed. Second, Lake Seven on the golf course, and a portion of the emergency spillway for this lake are not in on the proposed plat and currently are not part of an offsite drainage easement. These facilities will need to be put in an offsite easement, which I understand is currently in the works. I would suggest that as a condition of approval of the drainage plan, that any approval of the secondary plat by the Surveyor be withheld until such time as the offsite easements are recorded and evidence of the recording be supplied to the Surveyor’s Office. We do have a representative here from Morley’s office if you’ve got questions, or I can address what questions you have too, depending on what they are.

President Melcher: Any questions? I guess not.

Jeff Mueller: Okay.

President Melcher: Do we need a motion for that one?

Jeff Mueller: Yes.

Commissioner Kiefer: So moved.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Second.

President Melcher: Roll call please.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Ungethiem?

Commissioner Ungethiem: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Kiefer?

Commissioner Kiefer: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: President Melcher?

President Melcher: Yes.
Baseline & Korff Roads and Fenway Park Subdivision Drainage Issues

Jeff Mueller: Next on the agenda, and I’m going to ask John to come up too, is we have drainage issues on Baseline Road, Korff Road and the Fenway Park Subdivision. As you may recall, several folks stayed after the County Commissioners meeting on February 2, 2016 to address drainage complaints in this area. John Stoll and I made an inspection of the area on February 24th, and from that inspection we have a short presentation that addresses what I believe were three separate drainage complaints that were in this area. So, we’ll kind of go over these a little bit. I do think we’ve got some folks, like I said, here that probably would also like to talk about them. There were three issues that were brought to the Board’s attention, as I understood it. First were along Baseline Road themselves; second in an east-west ditch that is north of Baseline Road; and third was issues with backyard drainage from Fenway Park Subdivision. This map kind of shows the three issues. Right in here, this area along in here, and this area right up in here. First is along Baseline Road, John and I went out there, like I said, I think it was on the 24th, you can see we did hit it when it was raining. I know these are some of the…this is looking on the south side. I think there might be some folks here that…I’m going to let them talk about that, but we’re going to show some pictures and then go from there. Okay? There’s some water standing on the south side of Baseline Road. There is a drain right here, as you can see though, there’s quite a bit of ponding, and that ponded water is not getting there or getting there very slowly. You see that their drain really is not working to capacity. We had some fairly good rain when we were out there, and it’s not really getting in there very well. On the north side of the road you can see quite a bit of water standing in the ditch. You can also look up the road a little bit, if you’ll notice that pipe, kind of a standard problem that we see in a lot of places where we’ve got, you know, dirt half way up the pipe, you know, we’ve got ditches that aren’t functioning fully. John, do you want to talk about the drainage plans along Baseline Road and what’s going on out there?

John Stoll: So far we just have a draft set of plans. This is very preliminary, but the way the design is it will be a three lane road with curb, gutter and storm sewer. The current design, as you can see from the diagram there, on the south side of the road they’ve got a series of pipes and open ditches. The green lines are open ditches, and the red lines are either short runs of storm sewer pipe or driveway culverts. These would pick up, these ditches would, are intended to pick up the areas where the standing water was along the area drains and the roadside areas along Baseline Road. Over at the Korff and Baseline intersection, they are proposing to put a new box culvert in underneath Baseline, just east of Korff, that would drain into the ditch that runs north along the eastside of Korff and then goes underneath the culvert that’s been an issue, where issues have been raised here recently. Like I said, this is a six foot by five foot box culvert, and you can’t really see it very well, but down there on the bottom left of the drawing, that shows where the ditch along the new Baseline Road drains up to the box culvert and then it all drains north from there. Again, these are just preliminary plans. There’s plenty of opportunity still for changes, but this is the east limit of the project. They are proposing to put a sidewalk along the south side of it, and, like I said, it would be marked as three lanes, similar to what we have on Millersburg between Hedden and Green River.

Commissioner Ungethiem: John, what’s the timing on this?

John Stoll: We don’t, excuse me, we don’t have an exact schedule as of yet, since we haven’t even started purchasing the right-of-way, but my guess is, at the very earliest late this year, and possibly early next year would be the start date. There are still permitting issues, if the design was modified to change the culvert and replace the culvert underneath Korff immediately north of here, expand the project limits to pick that up, that could introduce more permitting issues. So, there’s a number of things that have to be resolved before we could really pinpoint a schedule at this time.
Commissioner Ungethiem: Is there anything that can be done in the interim before this is finalized and installed to alleviate any of the water problems that we saw in the pictures? I mean, can we dredge the ditches? Can we move—

John Stoll: I would have to talk to Scot at the Highway Department to see what he might be able to do relative to try to get those areas to drain. I’m not sure how much—

Commissioner Ungethiem: It looks like we’ve got a lot of ponding of water here.

John Stoll: Right.

Commissioner Ungethiem: I’m wondering if there’s any way we can…and it may be the county’s job to do that, it may be the private owner’s job to do that, depending upon where it is ponding.

John Stoll: We can take a look at that and try and figure out whether or not there is anything the Highway Department crews could do. The, like that picture shows, I’m not sure if that could be forced to get to that drain there. I just don’t know how low it is relative to the rim elevation of that drain.

Commissioner Ungethiem: It looks relatively flat.

John Stoll: We did see some of the yards, when Jeff and I were out there last week, some of the yards the water wasn’t even getting up to the roadside areas, because the yards were flat as well, and we don’t have any ability to make any changes that would affect that.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Right, yeah, we can’t go on to private property.

John Stoll: But, again, we can make changes to the Baseline plans, and I can talk to Scot relative to Highway Department work and see what we can do. If there’s any changes that need to be implemented in the Baseline Road plans, we could talk to the consultant about that.

Commissioner Ungethiem: In that picture right there, if we dig down a foot it’s not going to get to the drain anyway.

John Stoll: Right.

Commissioner Ungethiem: We’ll be below the drain. So, that’s not going to solve the problem.

John Stoll: I don’t know if that rim of that drain could be adjusted down to try and make that area drain or not, but that’s the kind of stuff that we would have to take a look at.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Okay.

President Melcher: Any other questions?

Jeff Mueller: We’ve got two other things, but do we want to let folks that, I think we’ve got some folks that are right here on Baseline that, kind of let them talk about that, so we kind of keep the conversation about each area?

Commissioner Ungethiem: Okay.

Jeff Mueller: We’ve got some folks that want to—

Greg Hill: I’m Greg Hill. I live 1045 East Baseline Road. This is my front yard. Yes, there is a culvert underneath this water. This little bit of drainage here will disappear pretty quick. I think the drainage we’re talking about is coming from the ditch which is further to the east coming off the subdivision by Scott School, it comes down and floods Baseline Road. Your picture doesn’t do justice. I mean, at Korff and Baseline Road I’ve seen it over a foot deep, and the guy on the north that was here last time or the time
before, and the ditch has washed the property out behind his house on Korff and Baseline Road.

Jeff Mueller: We’re going to show some pictures on that.

Greg Hill: Okay, I mean, we’re talking, you’re talking surface water. I’m not worried about this.

Jeff Mueller: And, I think what John’s…let me get to the mic so Madelyn can pick this up.

Greg Hill: Okay.

Jeff Mueller: One of the things is, is like what you said, going all the way from Scott Fire Department, that ditch, it’s almost…it looks weird, because when you’re out there dry you would swear that it drains to the east, but it actually drains to the west and goes into that pipe. That’s one of the things that John is talking about is a larger pipe going underneath Baseline Road. Then the point, the question is, is what do you do up where it crosses Korff Road at? I mean, and it’s, if a bigger pipe is going to be there and he’s going to have all of these drains, it’s going to get it off of Baseline and off of there, but then it’s also going to take the water up to the north. The question is that John just asked is, do we look at a bigger bridge on Korff or not? Where do you move the problem to, I guess, is the question?

Greg Hill: The problem is, when it comes to Korff, it turns and it goes behind that property down Korff.

Jeff Mueller: Right.

Greg Hill: The culvert across Korff is angled from the west toward the northeast.

Jeff Mueller: It’s actually almost a small bridge and it’s about half blocked.

Greg Hill: We talked to your engineers once before, a couple of times when they were out there, and they were talking about that one and putting another one in angled the other way, because the one is angled to the guy’s property and it’s washing it out when it floods it.

Jeff Mueller: I’m going to let John answer what they’re talking about doing.

John Stoll: On Korff?

Jeff Mueller: Well, at Baseline and Korff.

Greg Hill: I seen, they said they were going to put a box culvert in or a square one in across it.

John Stoll: Yeah, that one will be perpendicular to the road. Then, it depends on whether or not the scope of the project would be altered to do anything up at Korff to change that culvert out.

Greg Hill: Well, right now the problem is the water is coming down, and my property is 1045, what you seen in there is nothing. I mean, in my driveway there, the water is this deep over the driveway. I mean, you can’t get a car in. You can get my four wheel drive truck, because it’s flooded my whole yard all the way up the driveway to my house. I mean, every yard out there is a foot deep in it. Its’ not just a little bit of drainage, it’s to where it’s coming down and can’t get away from us. It pushes it back out of those drains you see and bubbles it up in our yard and fills it up. Some of these people live further to the east, I mean, it’s up under their foundations, under the floors of their house. I mean, it’s ungodly. I mean, we could bring you pictures, we didn’t think we would need them, of the ocean when it’s flooded out there. It’s not just a little bit of drainage, it’s everything. As far as the, my yard, I mean, it drains out pretty quick right there just no more than it is, I mean, I could dig a trench down there with a shovel if you want it down deeper. I mean, there’s low enough to get it down to that drain, but, or I’ve got dirt I can pack it up and fill it up in the front yard, but it’s still not going to help. There’s a culvert on the other side of that that it runs into, and that’s just what’s running off the hill behind us, because it’s all hill behind our houses. It comes down, runs around our houses out
to the front till it gets to where it's got to go. But, the drainage we're talking about is what's coming off from down at Scott, down the highway. You can't drive down Baseline Road, busses shouldn't be going through it. I've seen cars washed off the road, they've had to rescue people that's in the ditch, and that's what we're complaining about. It's getting a foot deep at Korff and Baseline, and putting a bigger box culvert there is not going to do any good if you can't get the water away from it north of it to get it down that big ditch to go under the Pond Flats.

Jeff Mueller: There's another picture that we're going to show in a minute of Korff Road.

Greg Hill: Okay.

Jeff Mueller: Okay.

John Stoll: And that was one of the things that I had contacted the design consultant about this project, if changes were made, whether or not, what their design calculation showed so far as what kind of, what size culvert would be needed under Korff, and whether or not that would also, whether that would necessitate re-grading and expanding the ditch along the east side of Korff, between Baseline and a possible new culvert. So, if all of that is done, yes, we would have more capacity from this point on up. Then is the Pond Flat Ditch then the restriction? So, like Jeff said, we don't want to just transfer the problem trying to figure out a way to address it, but, unfortunately, once it gets to Pond Flat, on the downstream end of the culvert under Korff, that's no longer maintained by the county. I shouldn't say no longer, that's not maintained by the county. That's off the county right-of-way, and it's not a regulated drain. So, there's a number of issues we've got to deal with here.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Mr. Hill, do you actually live on the south side of Baseline?

Greg Hill: Yes.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Okay.

Jeff Mueller: So, here's Baseline, you can see the pole power line here. So, Baseline is running here, and then there’s a big farm ditch right here. This is on the east side of Korff Road. So, you've got the drainage coming down Baseline, you've got the drainage coming from Baseline from these folks' house, and it comes up Korff Road and it comes in with this water right here. It goes underneath Korff Road at this pipe, and I think this will probably highlight as well as anything, you can see the farm waste material there. So, it's obviously that the water has went over Korff Road here. So, probably it's not only going over Baseline Road, but it's going over Korff Road. So, we have, we probably have an inadequate pipe right here at Korff. Then you get into the issue of the ditch, and we had the one neighbor, the gentleman that was here before complaining about this, and we've got material that has been dumped in the ditch here, and it's actually kind of shooting the water over into this direction. So, in attempts to stop erosion, I'm not sure that we, I'm not sure where that's solved the problem.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Is this ditch we're looking at here on private property?

Jeff Mueller: Yes.

Commissioner Ungethiem: So, we don't have jurisdiction there? We have jurisdiction, what, ten feet off the road?

Jeff Mueller: Right.

Greg Hill: I have a question. This pipe you're looking at there, is it not angled back towards his property a little bit? It's not exactly straight. Actually there's a field coming down from the east side of Korff, and the big part and actually catches the drainage off of it and helps shoot it across the road.

Jeff Mueller: It could be, but there's an awful lot of material that's been dumped right here. If you look over here you can see the fast water.

Greg Hill: That's, the material has not been dumped there—

Jeff Mueller: I know, it was just—
Greg Hill: -- it was washed out from his yard, all them rocks and everything, that’s where the water has swept it to.

Jeff Mueller: Yeah, but this all was just dumped in with the last, within the last few weeks.

Greg Hill: Okay, I don’t know about that.

Jeff Mueller: This has all been dumped in within the last two weeks. It was, as a matter of fact, they were still in the process of dumping it, or were they done when we were out there?

John Stoll: We were out there when there was a pile in the field.

Jeff Mueller: Yeah.

John Stoll: Then when we were out there again, it was gone.

Jeff Mueller: Yeah, so it’s been dumped in there within the last few weeks, all of this material here.

Greg Hill: Since I’ve been here, this ditch has had big trees in it and everything. I think Jim Schmitt was the one that owns the field, they went in there and dug all of that ditch out. I mean, it had trees that were 12 inches big in the middle of it. You can see they opened it up. It’s a pretty good size ditch now.

Jeff Mueller: There you can see where, this is the other person that was in here, the erosion that he was talking about against his property line. Now, the other issue that was brought up was Fenway Park, and the drainage that’s coming along the backs of these houses and getting in to this farm field, instead of proceeding down to the basin, which is down here. You can see one area where there’s not a whole lot of water right now. John has his umbrella out, where the water should be going here, but it’s actually cutting across. If you look closely down here, where the swale should be, the material has actually been graded out so that there’s not a swale there at all anymore. By county ordinance, the minimum swale is one feet deep, one foot wide with 3:1 side slopes. So, that’s the very minimum no matter what water is being carried. So, that doesn’t exist back here anywhere along these lots. This is a 2005 photo showing when the subdivision was built. These are the lots that I was showing you, including Lot 12 where I said it was pushed across. You can see from the 2005 photo, there was a swale there in existence, it came on down into this area right here. This is 2014, there’s that 2005 shot again in 2014 where you can see that it’s actually been blocked and shoed over. So, that’s the problem. That was the third issue that was brought up and what we found on it.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Is that a developer issue? Or is that a property owner issue?

Jeff Mueller: It is the developer…I’m going to let, John’s people inspected it. Go ahead.

John Stoll: Back, as Jeff’s photos show, the swale was there, that’s why the letter of credit was released. I couldn’t tell you when, but the letter of credit for the subdivision was released some time ago. Once that letter of credit was released for that swale, then that was basically letting the developer off the hook. He had completed his work, we signed off on it, released the letter of credit and he was done. Don’t know exactly what happened here, but routinely when the individual homes are constructed, if there’s any surplus dirt, it ends up who knows where; fill the ditch on the backsie, just spreading the surplus dirt can cause this kind of thing. So, whether that led to this ditch being filled or not, I don’t know, but based on the ordinance I would say it’s probably a property owner issue now that the developer is not part of the mix on this one, simply because the letter of credit was released because the swale was built.

Commissioner Kiefer: John, did that look like, when you guys were out there, did it look like it was done with equipment? Or did it just happen through erosion that the ground, the dirt moved down there?

John Stoll: You mean as far as the way it’s filled now?
Commissioner Kiefer: Yeah. I mean, like did it just happen because they had a pile of dirt and it just, that's how it eroded down into the low spot? Or was it, did it look like it was more done with a dozer or something, or a piece of equipment?

John Stoll: I didn't look at it in that much detail when we were out there. Just looking at the aerials, I would say the dirt had been spread out there.

Commissioner Kiefer: Okay.

John Stoll: But, again—

Commissioner Kiefer: Typically it is some human being screwing things up.

John Stoll: I just don't have enough information to tell you. So, I'm not 100 percent sure.

Commissioner Kiefer: Okay.

Greg Hill: I've got a question for him.

Jeff Mueller: You need to come to the microphone.

Greg Hill: I'm sorry.

President Melcher: That's how we keep the record.

Greg Hill: This is down further away from me, it doesn't really, this is what they're talking about Farney and the subdivision and where it was going to go. I think in your 2005 photo, that dark area was actually woods.

Jeff Mueller: Yes, it was.

Greg Hill: It was all trees. They've dug all those up and changed the grade by when they dug all the roots out and everything else and moved the trees. They dropped that grade, that dirt down. So, water flows downhill, so, I think that's part of it too.

Jeff Mueller: Yeah, but like the 2005 photos, there actually was a swale there at one time.

Greg Hill: Yeah, well, like I say, it was awful higher before with the woods in there.

Jeff Mueller: The woods was taken out in 2013, I believe.

Greg Hill: Yeah.

Commissioner Ungethiem: So, this issue is a private landowner issue between the landowners that own that subdivision area and the landowner that owns the property next to it? Is that my understanding?

Jeff Mueller: No.

President Melcher: I guess you knew that question was coming?

Commissioner Ungethiem: I'm a great straight man, right?

Jeff Mueller: Yeah. That's out of our drainage code.

Commissioner Kiefer: It looks like a good recommendation to me. I read the highlighted area.

Jeff Mueller: Yeah.

President Melcher: You read faster than I do.

Jeff Mueller: You took that Evelyn Woodhead's course, right?

Commissioner Kiefer: Yeah.

Commissioner Ungethiem: So, what is the plan of action for this particular section here?
Jeff Mueller: If you guys want to send a letter out, it could be sent out to the homeowners saying that they have to address it, according to the code.

Joe Harrison, Jr.: It's probably not a bad idea to send out a letter, and if they have any questions to contact your office. If the matter can't be resolved in a timely fashion, then the county may have to take action and they may be billed.

Jeff Mueller: Do you want me and Mr. Harrison to draft a letter for you all to look at?

Joe Harrison, Jr.: They may want to come to a meeting and discuss it or something, who knows.

Jeff Mueller: That's what I'm saying, before, we would draft a letter for the Drainage Board to look at before it got sent out.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Do we have the original specifications from the drainage plan on that swale for that subdivision?

Joe Harrison, Jr.: From '05?

John Stoll: We have the original plans.

Commissioner Ungethiem: We could supply the property owner with that information, and then basically a letter saying you need to put it back like this? Okay.

Joe Harrison, Jr.: But it would probably be good to communicate with your office before, if they want to do anything, before they do anything, wouldn't you think?

Jeff Mueller: Yeah, I mean, they could, yeah.

President Melcher: Well, I think they would have to.

Joe Harrison, Jr.: Yeah.

President Melcher: Because they'll start, they'll have nine different people out there working on it. So, somehow we've got to be involved in that. I don't think they should call the Commissioner's Office, because the women in the office won't know how to answer their questions.

Jeff Mueller: No, I understand that.

President Melcher: They're going to have to either call you or John's office.

Jeff Mueller: Right.

President Melcher: That's what the letter ought to say.

Joe Harrison, Jr.: But the Board will have to sign off on the letter, whatever the letter is.

President Melcher: No, I understand that, but I just don't want people calling when they're not going to get an answer. That would make me mad.

Jeff Mueller: No, no, no, right.

President Melcher: You give me a number and I call—

Jeff Mueller: Call John and I as technical advisors to the Board.

President Melcher: That's right.

Jeff Mueller: Right.

President Melcher: Because that way they're going straight to the person that will be able to help them.

Jeff Mueller: Well, and the other thing is, most of those houses were built fairly recently by one homeowner, or one home builder. So, they may all get together and go back to the home builder and say, you know, you need to address it. I mean, that's between the
people and the homeowners, or the home builder as far as I’m concerned, but it’s up to them.

Joe Harrison, Jr.: So, do you want to get a letter together for the next meeting, maybe the plans?

Jeff Mueller: Yeah.

Joe Harrison, Jr.: Then we can consider it then.

President Melcher: Well, if we’re going to do it for the next meeting, maybe we could, if they’ve got any questions to come to the meeting.

Joe Harrison, Jr.: The only thing is, they may want to get the plans together so they can attach it with the letter, I mean, I just don’t know. Maybe we can get a letter out.

Jeff Mueller: I know next week I’m going to be pretty tied up, so, but we might be able to get one out this week, get a draft out for you all to look at.

President Melcher: Yeah, I’m not going to be here next week neither.

Jeff Mueller: Are you out too next week?

Joe Harrison, Jr.: But, I would like it to go through our—

President Melcher: Yeah, the same place you are.

Jeff Mueller: Yeah, that’s what I thought.

Joe Harrison, Jr.: But, I would like for the letter to go through a meeting so it’s approved during a meeting, whatever it says. Then they’re on notice to get it done and to get a hold of—

Jeff Mueller: Well, they’re not going to be able to do anything in the next few weeks anyway with the weather being the way it is.

Joe Harrison, Jr.: Yeah, okay.

President Melcher: So, we just have the letter ready for our next meeting.

Jeff Mueller: Okay.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Okay.

Jeff Mueller: So, I think we’re back to John’s question about, you know, what do you want to do about having the consultant look at Korff Road and other things, I guess, to help these folks out?

John Stoll: I had, I’ve been playing phone tag and e-mail tag with the consultant trying to get some details on this, but I can find out from them how undersized the culvert under Korff is, what kind of culvert we might need to replace, what size culvert we need to replace that existing corrugated metal pipe with, and whether or not the ditch on the east side of Korff between the Baseline pipe and the Korff culvert all needs to be upgraded and expanded. That’s the one thing that hasn’t been addressed at all as of yet, but I can get answers from the consultant on that as far as sizes, approximate ditch dimensions, what kind of design fees we’re looking at, and just try and get a rundown of—

President Melcher: Could you have that ready by our next meeting three weeks from now?

John Stoll: I would think so with three weeks. I’ve left them some voicemails and they had some e-mails, so they know what we’re looking for. I’ll have it for you in three weeks, let’s put it that way.

President Melcher: I just think if people are going to be here we’ve got to have something to really show them.
John Stoll: Right.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Another thought that I had is, I drove out there this morning when it was raining to kind of watch the flow and try to understand how the water runs. It runs east on Baseline Road, north on Korff Road and then turns around and runs back west against the backdrop of those houses. I was wondering if we could short circuit that water if we had easement right capability through one of those properties to run a drain through one of the properties to that back ditch, so that the water didn’t have to run east, north and back west. It could run due north into the ditch.

John Stoll: I could ask the consultant that too.

Commissioner Ungethiem: I don’t know if that’s possible or not, but as we’re looking at that, if there’s a way to short circuit that water to get it into that drainage ditch behind the property instead of going up to Korff Road, north on Korff Road and back to the west.

President Melcher: So, it would run in between the houses?

Commissioner Ungethiem: We would have to get easement rights on one of those properties to cut it.

President Melcher: And, probably that should be piped, so, it wouldn’t be a ditch.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Yeah, it would be piped.

President Melcher: We would want it piped, because we’ve got open ones now in some subdivisions.

Commissioner Ungethiem: I didn’t know, I don’t know, you know, the engineers have to take a look at it to see how they would relieve some of that water at Korff and Baseline.

President Melcher: Just have him look at that too.

John Stoll: Correct, yep.

Jeff Mueller: One other suggestion is we might want to have them look at Baseline from Korff to the east, just expanding that ditch out, you know, would give us some area for that water to store, and it might also slow that water coming down a little bit, because you’ve got a, you’ll have bigger draw coming through there. That’s something that we might be able to—

Commissioner Ungethiem: On the north side of Baseline?

Jeff Mueller: No, on the south side.

Commissioner Ungethiem: On the south side?

Jeff Mueller: Going from Korff all the way down to the fire station, just opening that ditch up and getting that water where it could slow down by having a, you know, giving it some area to store. That might be something else to look at. I don’t know that it would be a definite thing, but it might be something to put on their plate also.

John Stoll: That is part of a future phase. There wasn’t enough funding to pursue everything to Old State at this time, so that’s why the project limits were set up at Korff, but that is the long term plan.

Joe Harrison, Jr.: That’s the next phase?

John Stoll: Correct.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Yeah.

John Stoll: But I can at least have them take a look at it and make sure that anything that’s done now doesn’t prevent us from doing more improvements later. I don’t want to put a pipe in now and have to turn around and take it out for the next phase of the project.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Right. Okay.
Greg Hill: Just one other question.

President Melcher: Just so we keep it straight, give your name again.

Greg Hill: Greg Hill. Can you go back to the drawing of the widening of Baseline?

Jeff Mueller: That one?

Greg Hill: That one there.

Jeff Mueller: You’ll have to ask John, this is his.

Greg Hill: Okay. Is this a draft, or can a normal person get a copy of this?

John Stoll: I can get you a copy.

Greg Hill: Okay.

John Stoll: I’ll just drop it in the mail.

Greg Hill: Okay, I appreciate it. I mean, you’re talking about sidewalks, widening it, an easement and nobody knows what you’re talking about. I mean, the water drains this way and we’ve been there long enough to know that it’s the subdivisions by Scott School where this water is coming down. There’s a small culvert across, I would say the properties east of us before the farm field, and it can’t get through it to get to the other side, and that’s the reason it floods, and then it just backs up everything.

John Stoll: I can get you a set.

Greg Hill: Okay, thank you, appreciate it.

John Stoll: For anybody that is along this stretch of the road, the reason we haven’t circulated any plans as of yet, since they are still a draft we weren’t in a position to where the plans were complete enough to start letting everybody see the plans, but anybody that wants a set, I will be glad to share what we have right now.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Okay.

President Melcher: As long as its got “draft” on it.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Yeah, stamp it “preliminary”.

Jeff Mueller: Madelyn, do you have the sign in sheet?

Linda Freeman: It’s right here.

Jeff Mueller: Did they all sign in?

Linda Freeman: I got them. I walked around and got them.

Jeff Mueller: E-mails okay?

President Melcher: Did you get e-mails?

Linda Freeman: Phone numbers.

Jeff Mueller: Yeah, if we can get an e-mail he can electronically send them.

President Melcher: Is there any other questions?

Jeff Mueller: Questions or comments about this? Come on up, sir.

Bud Hall: Bud Hall, 1065 East Baseline Road. I’m on the south side. The picture of my house was the first one shown tonight. Of course, right now we’re not really having any water problem as such. The thing that’s hard for most people to understand is, that if you go out there now and you look at it and you say, hey, they can’t have that big a problem, you know, it don’t look that bad. Right now, it don’t, you know, but, my God, I can launch a john boat off my front step, you know, when we get water. When you see that picture that we looked at and you see where the road is, Baseline Road, they raised that like four inches a few years ago, the water goes over that road. It gets deep. We're
out there in hip boots, the railroad ties that I have up and down my driveway, I have to go and retrieve, you know, with a four wheeler and a chain and drag them all back out of people’s yards, and even some of them are down, you know, chained down and everything. The pressure, where it turns on Korff going up Korff, the water is so strong there sometimes you wouldn’t drive a four wheel drive truck around that. You would not try. It’s like the White River coming through there. That’s not an exaggeration. The people that lived there before the fella that’s there now, they’ve laid in bed at night and listened to the water run under their house. It’s just amazing how it changes from just a normal, like it is now, you know, with a little water standing in our yards, to a virtual river. I mean, a dangerous river, you know, that corner just turns crazy. You know, the Sheriff’s Department can tell you, they’re out there all the time, you know, having to put up the barricades and everything. It really is, can be a very dangerous situation. Not every rain, but when we get like, what was it a year and a half ago or two years ago we had that seven inch rain? I was out in my den all night till six in the morning trying to keep ahead of the water coming in. Even today the water was up, you know, against my house, and we only had like a ¾ inch rain today. That’s what I contend with every rain, just about. I keep on hand bags of towels and paraphernalia that I use every time we get what we would call a “toad strangler”, you know. It’s just that bad. That water just is so powerful around there, it’s amazing. Unless a person wades out to Baseline Road and just sees it, you know, it’s amazing. You can look out across, I’ve been out there at midnight and look out across those fields out there, and, I mean, way to the east and it’s water as far as you can see. I mean, it’s just like looking at an ocean. I was in the Navy and that’s what it looked like, you know. It’s just, you look at it today and you would think, aww, can’t be as bad as they’re saying it is, but it is, you know, it is. It gets that way. I think the presentation this man had tonight was excellent on it. He’s got some good info, and you can tell where it’s coming across the river, or, across the river, across the road at Korff there. That, what is that a four foot—

Jeff Mueller:  If I was guessing, yeah.

Bud Hall:  --it’s that high, you know, and you would look at that and say, my God, you know, there can’t be an amount of water that can’t get through that, you know, but holy cow we have seen it wash the road away there. They’ve had to repair that road, and you can see the debris on the road. We’ve talked about this for years, you know, we think it would take at least two of those out there to handle that, you know, or start to handle it. It’s amazing how it changes. It’s a nightmare sometimes. It’s just you can’t, of course, water is crazy stuff anyway, but that’s, it’s a little deceiving if you just go out there today and see what it is under just a small rain, because  with a real “toad strangler” we’re in trouble out there. Me in particular, I sit lower than anybody, and I’ve got water, I’ve had water run under my house, just like those folks have. I can hear it running under my house, and that’s not good. That’s not good. I’ve been lucky enough it hasn’t got up into our living quarters, as such. It has on the lower part of our house that sits on the ground, basically, but it’s close, I mean, it’s that far from being in my bedroom, and I don’t want to sleep in it. So, thanks a lot.

Commissioner Ungethiem:  Okay, thank you.

President Melcher:  Thank you.

Bud Hall:  I think he had a really excellent presentation tonight.

Greg Hill:  I’ve got one more comment and then I’ll be done. Greg Hill. You were talking about some kind of way of getting the water from Baseline Road to cross the ditch. There’s a modular across the street, when they put that in they had to grade low. I went over and talked to the guy, I said, you’re going to have to raise it, because that all flooded. I also said something about the water being out there, and they cut two swales on each side of that there’s swales where the water used to go across. When I moved out there 18-19 years ago, the water got over the end of my driveway. The county raised the road, the engineers said this years ago when they raised it they caused the problem because it was an automatic dam. It holds the water back on our side because they raised the blacktop. It used to cross right in front of our house and go down those swales. There’s a pond in behind those houses where the drainage goes into the ditch. So, it naturally does what you’re asking for them to look at, but since they brought the blacktop up, it holds all of the water back on the south side. So, until they get it to where
they can get it down Korff and under Korff and out to Baseline, it’s not going to do any good. So, thank you.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Okay.

President Melcher: Anybody else have any, I don’t want to miss anybody. Okay, go ahead. You’re on.

Jeff Mueller: Okay, well, I think it’s always good when folks come in here and tell us things and give us information that we can’t get. Like I said, I would have probably not, would have questioned them until we saw the corn stalks on the road. So, you know, what they’re telling us, yeah, there is a problem out there. We’ve got an opportunity to work with people, John does, to work with folks to try and solve some of these problems. So, and I appreciate everybody, when they came and gave the comments and they did it in a civil manner too. So, I know you guys do too.

Commissioner Kiefer: Jeff, is there anything we need to do tonight? Are we supposed to—

Jeff Mueller: I think John is going to come back to you with some numbers for some additional engineering work.

President Melcher: John is going to come back.

Commissioner Kiefer: Okay, great. Okay, thanks.

President Melcher: That’s what we have to have.

Commissioner Kiefer: Right.

President Melcher: So, we know how to move forward.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Should we give direction to the County Highway Department to go out there and start cleaning those ditches out?

Jeff Mueller: You know, I mean, the problem is, and you’ve seen these before, we have ditches and we have culverts and we’re not sure if folks put in the culverts in their front yards, or if the county did it and how the system even works. There’s probably a little bit of work that could be done, but not a whole lot before we’re going to start tearing into some of the culverts. I do think there’s a few swales that could probably be, you know, maybe cleaned out and would help a little bit, but I don’t think it’s going to solve their problem by any means. I don’t think it would hurt to see if Scot could take a look at it and maybe bring a Gradall out and do a little work, but that’s only going to be a temporary measure. I mean, don’t you folks agree?

Greg Hill: Yeah, I don’t think there’s much that they can clean out that’s really going to help anything.

Jeff Mueller: That’s what I’m thinking too.

Greg Hill: On the north side, but we don’t really have a problem with the drainage on the north side there.

Jeff Mueller: Yeah.

Greg Hill: It’s staying on the south side.

President Melcher: Well, if it’s not going to help significantly, why don’t we just wait until we have the plan.

Commissioner Ungethiem: Okay.

Jeff Mueller: Okay.

Greg Hill: Is the 21st your next meeting?

Commissioner Ungethiem: The 22nd.
VANDERBURGH COUNTY
DRAINAGE BOARD
MARCH 1, 2016

Greg Hill: The 22nd?
Jeff Mueller: Okay. Are we ready to move on?
Commissioner Ungethiem: Yep.

### Bid Specifications for 2016 Maintenance of Regulated Drains & Permission to Advertise Notice to Bidders

Jeff Mueller: Alright, the last thing is bid specifications for 2016 maintenance of regulated drains. Linda has put together a set of bid specifications for the annual maintenance of regulated drains. That's that book that you have on your thing, plus there's some special items that, you know, we always wish to address on the drains. This is pretty much the work spec that was in the annual drainage report that was given to you at the previous meeting. There are some additional, there are some items that aren't in this bid package, like, for example, we had suggested to clear obstructions in the Stockwell Woods area, but we can't do that until we get DNR's permission. Some work on Crawford Brandeis Extension that we need to also get some issues cleared through. The other things are in there. With that in mind, the goal is to run the ads, is it still, Madelyn, on March the 4th and March the 11th?

Madelyn Grayson: Yes.

Jeff Mueller: With bids due at the next meeting on March the 22nd, where they would be opened and, as usual, taken under advisement, with the awarding of them in the first meeting of April. There's, Linda is here, if you've got any questions. I also like for her to be here because she's the one that did the work on this. So, give her credit where it's due, and, just like I said, if you've got any questions on that, it would be best to ask her about them.

Madelyn Grayson: We just need a motion for permission to advertise that notice to bidders.

Commissioner Kiefer: I make a motion for, to advertise.
Commissioner Ungethiem: I'll second.
President Melcher: All in favor say aye.
All Commissioners: Aye.
President Melcher: It passes.

(Motion approved 3-0)

### Ditch Maintenance Claims

Jeff Mueller: I have no blue claims, no claims this week, or this meeting. So, I have nothing else unless the Board has anything else.

President Melcher: Not me. Joe, do you got anything?

### Adjournment

President Melcher: Is that done? We'll stand adjourned. Thank you.

(The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.)
**Those in Attendance:**

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<tr>
<th>Stephen Melcher</th>
<th>Joe Kiefer</th>
<th>Bruce Ungethiem</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Mueller</td>
<td>Joe Harrison, Jr.</td>
<td>Madelyn Grayson</td>
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<td>Greg Hill</td>
<td>John Stoll</td>
<td>Bud Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linda Freeman</td>
<td>Others Unidentified</td>
<td>Members of Media</td>
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**VANDERBURGH COUNTY**

**DRAINAGE BOARD**

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**Stephen Melcher, President**

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**Joe Kiefer, Vice President**

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**Bruce Ungethiem, Member**

(Recorded and transcribed by Madelyn Grayson.)