

**SURVEYOR'S MAINTENANCE REPORT
ON THE
BRUSH CREEK REGULATED DRAIN
(Upper Watershed)
September 1, 2022**

BASIS FOR THIS REPORT

With the current projects approved for Brush Creek, the lack of funds available in the Brush Creek maintenance fund, and anticipated future maintenance, consideration should be given to increasing the current assessment rates.

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

A. THOMAS PATRAM DRAIN (upper section of main ditch of present drain)

This regulated drain is an open ditch approximately 10,550 feet in length and was established in 1884.

B. GEORGE ARMUTH DRAIN (upper section of main ditch of present drain)

This regulated drain is mostly an open ditch and partially a tile drain totaling approximately 10,126 feet in length and was established in 1929.

C. HARDIN S. LINKE DRAIN

This regulated drain replaces the Patram Drain and most of the Armuth Drain and adds the Arms to the Main Ditch. This drain is mostly an open ditch and partially a tile drain approximately 55,189 feet in length and was established in 1938.

D. MEREDITH THOMPSON ARM

This open ditch was added to the upper end of the Main Ditch in 1980.

E. SCHEIDT- FISCHER ARM

This open ditch was added to the Main Ditch in 1980.

Maintenance assessments were first collected in 1982, with assessment rates of \$3.00 per acre and \$10.00 per lot, resulting in an annual assessment total of \$15,726.31. Assessments were temporarily terminated in 2012 and reinstated in 2017, with assessment rates of \$1.50 per acre and \$5.00 per lot, resulting in an annual assessment total of \$7,932.65.

MAINTENANCE WORK

Initial major work on the drain by the drainage board was done in 1983 with clearing one side of a portion of the Main Ditch and the Thompson Arm along with excavation and placement of rip rap. Subsequent projects included additional clearing and excavation on the Main Ditch and systematic cleaning of the arms. Also numerous tile repairs and tile replacement projects have occurred. The entire drain has routinely been sprayed to control brush and broadleaf weeds every other year.

After assessments were reinstated in 2017, from 2017 to the end of 2021, \$60,986.32 was expended for tree clearing, rip rap placement, spraying, and general maintenance.

STATUS OF DRAIN FUNDS

As of August 30, 2022 the Brush Creek maintenance fund owes the General Drain Fund \$75,889.47.

Brush Creek projects in progress or under contract at this time total approximately \$65,000.

With an anticipated indebtedness of approximately \$140,000 to the General Drain Fund and an existing annual assessment of \$8,000, the payback will be 17.5 years if no additional work is done on Brush Creek.

INCREASE OF ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS

Whereas the anticipated indebtedness to the General Drain fund will result in a payback of over 17 years and need to perform maintenance of this drain will continue, I hereby recommend that consideration be given to increasing the current assessment rates of \$1.50 per acre and \$10 per lot on the watershed.

ESTIMATED COST OF PERIODIC MAINTENANCE

The estimated cost of periodic maintenance is \$15,000 per year.

AFFECTED AREA

The current watershed contains 253 parcels 3.33 acres or less (lots) and 4,369.45 acres in parcels greater than 3.33 acres.

Attached is an assessment schedule for consideration by the drainage board.

Respectfully submitted this 12th day of September,

E.R. Gray III
Bartholomew County Surveyor

attachments