

TIPPECANOE COUNTY SURVEYOR
TIPPECANOE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
20 NORTH 3RD STREET
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BEUTLER GOSMA
REGULATED DRAIN #95
RECONSTRUCTION REPORT
APRIL 17, 2020

A Petition to Reconstruct the Beutler Gosma Regulated Drain #95 was accepted by the Tippecanoe County Drainage Board and referred to the County Surveyor for a reconstruction report on April 4, 2018.

The current Beutler Gosma Drain and its watershed consist of 5915.77 acres and is located in Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17 and 18 of Township 24 North, Range 5 West and Section 1 and 12 of Township 24 North, Range 6 West in the political township of Shelby in Tippecanoe County, Indiana and Sections 33 and 34 of Township 25 North, Range 5 West in the political township of Round Grove and Perry, respectively, in White County, Indiana.

After reviewing the historical information, it is apparent that the Beutler Gosma drain was previously known as the Herman Beutler drain and the A.P. Gosma drain. The Herman Beutler drain was formed out of at least two smaller drains called the Hiram Taylor and the Robert N. Taylor drains in approximately 1911. The A.P. Gosma drain appears to have been originally constructed as a tile drain. The exact dates were not found, but the available data points to early 1900's.

In 1971 landowners in the Herman Beutler watershed petitioned the Tippecanoe County Drainage Board to establish a maintenance fund and a rate of \$1.00 per acre was established. Starting in 1980 landowners requested that the A.P. Gosma be reconstructed. The result was the construction of an open ditch to relieve pressure off the tile. This was also when the Herman Beutler drain was combined with the A.P. Gosma drain to form what is now known as the Beutler Gosma Drain.

Additionally, the Joint Drainage Board meeting minutes indicate the reason for joining the two drains together was to create one maintenance fund. However, after reviewing the reconstruction assessments for the most recently constructed Gosma open ditch (excavated in 1987), it appears that only the landowners in the historical A.P. Gosma watershed were assessed for the cost of the new open ditch construction.

What does this mean today? Previous landowners felt there should be one maintenance fund and that construction or reconstruction should be paid for by the landowners within the benefitted watershed/sub-basin, which is demonstrated by the historical actions and the last action taken by landowners and the Joint Drainage Board in 1982.

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After two years of research, field investigation and multiple informal meetings with landowners, the Tippecanoe County Surveyor recommends to the Joint Drainage Board for the purposes of this hearing and to be as equitable as possible; that the Beutler Gosma drain be divided into seven (7) sub-basins. They are as follows: One (1) Gosma West, Two (2) Gosma East, Three (3) Kuhns Branch, Four (4) Beutler Main, Five (5) Williamson Branch, Six (6) Martin Branch, and Seven (7) the remaining watershed acres that drain directly into the open ditch and would pay only the maintenance assessment.

Proposed work by Sub-Basin:

- (1) Gosma West- No reconstruction is recommended at this time.
- (2) Gosma East- The Surveyor recommends this branch tile be vacated at this time. After construction of the Gosma open ditch, landowners now have a direct access and the tile is no longer needed.
- (3) Kuhns Branch- The Surveyor recommends a partial reconstruction. Landowners west of US231 report significant drainage issues. A new eighteen (18) inch tile is recommended to be extended from the most recent twenty-four (24) inch tile installation to the west of US231. Total cost equals \$110 per acre.
- (4) Beutler Main- The Surveyor recommends a partial reconstruction. The tile east of US231 is in bad physical condition. Cracking and quartering are present and poor drainage is reported by landowners west of US231. The Surveyor recommends a thirty (30) inch tile to be installed from headwall to approximately 3640 feet west of US231, at this point an eighteen (18) inch tile shall be installed to the north side of CR 900N and a twenty-four (24) inch tile shall be installed to the west side of CR 750W, all installations will generally follow the old tile. Total cost equals \$300 per acre.
- (5) Williamson Branch- The Surveyor recommends a partial reconstruction. Landowners west of US231 report slow drainage. The capacity of the existing tile appears to be the issue. The Surveyor recommends new twenty-four (24) inch and eighteen (18) inch tile to be installed from headwall to the west side of US231. Total Cost equals \$325 per acre.

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(6) Martin Branch- The Surveyor recommends full reconstruction. Based on drainage concerns in the sub-basin, it is recommended to replace the main, east and west tile branches.

Total cost equals \$400 per acre.

However, some landowners have expressed concern of cost, therefore an alternative partial reconstruction of the system would be to reconstruct the main and east tile branches.


Total cost equals \$270 per acre.

(7) Remaining watershed acres- The Surveyor recommends those landowners would pay only the maintenance assessment rate.

Please note that all reconstruction work within the US231 road Right of Way will be paid 100% by Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) per Indiana Drainage Code.

Lastly, regardless of the reconstruction process and outcome it is recommended by the Tippecanoe County Surveyor that a maintenance assessment rate be set at \$5.50 per acre with a \$20.00 minimum over and eight (8) year collection total be approved by the Bi-County Drainage Board to ensure sufficient funds are collected for the needed open ditch dredging, clearing and maintenance work of this drainage system.

Respectfully Submitted by:


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Tippecanoe County Surveyor

Cc: file
White County Surveyor

ZEB:bjg