

# INDIANA LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of Meeting of Board of Directors

Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The First Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indiana Land Improvement Contractors Association was held at The Beef House in Covington, IN on Saturday, March 16, 2024. The meeting was called to order by President, Joe Stull at 10:33 AM EST.

Introductions were made.

Minutes: The minutes from the January 2024 meeting had been emailed to the board members. Bryan Noggle made a motion to approve the minutes. James Ramsey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Smidler read the written report. Total assets= \$205,398.43. Nanci explained that she has left the Alliance Bank Money market open at this time just to continue to gain a bit of interest on the excess funds that would have been moved into the main account for 2024 operating expenses. James Ramsey made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Keith Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President's Report/National Report: Joe Stull reported on the recent National Winter Convention in Virginia Beach. He then read a report submitted by Tony Cain that touched on the June Drainage Water Management Forum.

Area Director's Report: Rob Wood(SW) commented that they have been very busy. Todd Gross and Guil Wehr (NE) commented the same. There were no other updates.

Executive Directors Report: Nanci Gutwein presented a written report detailing her activities which have been mostly focused on finalizing the proposals for future convention at the Renaissance Marriott in Carmel, developing a plan for the NACADE show/Convention, and searching out good options for banners and trade show materials.

Technical Advisor's Report: Mike Cox stated that the Ag Dept. along with a few others are fully funded through the end of the year. There was a 2-3% reduction in funding across the board, but it shouldn't affect equip. There will however be some juggling of funds to pay salaries. The pricing survey was discussed at length. Currently only 9, 2024 surveys have been turned in. Nanci will send out the link to contractors again. Mike stated he would try to work with SWCD's to get more responses. It was decided to leave the survey open through June in hopes that we could get more surveys filled out at the Drainage Forum.

Legislative Advisor's Report: James discussed several bills that are currently in the "works". The log jam bill did pass, however it shouldn't affect anything. A current bill studying the economic effects on loss of farm ground. Kendall Culp is looking into this. House Bill # 1183 which impacts the renting or selling of Indiana farmland to adversarial countries recently passed. It was noted that it was one of the only bills to pass with no opposition. Another bill discussed, but has no real effect on us, was that there will now

be a Bobcat season, and there will be a tag for them. James noted that there are some Federal items ongoing, but didn't have enough information to be able to report on them.

Education Advisor Report: Jane Frankenberger started her report by commenting on Leep (Lebanon project). She stated she has been spending much of her time speaking with other groups about this project. This project has raised many issues in Indiana that they've not dealt with before and there needs to be a strategy. She will be speaking with Farm Bureau on Tuesday regarding some of these issues. Jane also spoke about some of the education being offered at the upcoming Drainage Forum in June. She plans to speak about sizing on drainage designs and Conservation Drainage. Jane stated that Vinayak (OH) will be speaking on Drainage Design, and Scott Wagner (NRCS) will be speaking about working with the NRCS. She also noted that Assan Gahne (MI) and Ben Reinhart will be speaking as well. Jane has continued to be busy with Conservation Drainage meetings. She spoke about some of the Indiana Equip practices that are considered High Priority for 2024. Chris Smidler commented that it would be interesting to have current data/results from the Bio Reactor/2 stage ditch project that had been done in the past. Jane said she would do some investigating and see if there were any recently complied results. It was brought up that INLICA is interested in doing another Field Day with Purdue. Jane mentioned a phosphorous removal structure that is an upcoming project and she would look into this for us. Jane also stated that Purdue Extension is struggling with lack of funding. They have put together a task force to try to come up with a plan.

Old Business: Nanci gave a brief discussion about the proposal she has been working on with the Renaissance Marriott Carmel. We will garner the best deal if we sign on through 2027. This will afford us no increase in meal pricing for next year and no more than a 5% increase in future years. It was decided to move forth with the Renaissance Marriott Carmel location for 2025, 2026 and 2027. Todd Gross made the motion to sign the contract with Renaissance Marriott Carmel through 2027. Chris Smidler seconded the motion. The motion passed. More discussion ensued about the Drainage Forum. Some discussion was regarding who the target audience was, what advertising National is doing other than social media, what the schedule looks like, is there a flyer prepared that can be taken to local high schools as it will be free for students to attend. It was also discussed that we need to revamp our banner, as well as have handouts for the table. These are needed not only for June but also the NACADE show. A motion was made by James Ramsey to give Nanci a budget of \$1,500 to purchase needed materials. Keith Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Business: The last item of discussion was to donate toward a "thank you for your service" gift to Eileen Levy in the National office. She will be retiring after MANY years as the National LICA ED. Chris Smidler made the motion to donate \$100 to this effort. Bryan Noggle seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Being that there was no more business to discuss, Keith Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brayn Noggle seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Nanci Gutwein Executive Director

Attendees:

President –	Joe Stull
Vice-President –	Keith Miller
Treasurer –	Chris Smider
Executive Director –	Nanci Gutwein
Technical Advisor –	Mike Cox
Educational Advisor –	Jane Frankenberger
NE Director –	Todd Gross
	Guil Wehr
NE Director –	Sam Baker
	Nate Miller
SW Director –	Rob Wood
SE Director –	James Ramsey
	John Pickering
At Large –	Bryan Noggle
Associates –	Steve Holtzleiter
	Brendan Noggle
INLICA Lady –	Sally Smidler