

Randolph County Drainage Board

325 South Oak Street * Suite 206 * Winchester, IN 47394 * Phone: (765) 584-0609

Present:

Gary Friend, Chairman
Tom Kerns, Vice Chairman
Missy Williams, Member
Edwin L. Thornburg, Surveyor
Meeks Cockerill, Drainage Board Attorney
Casey Keener, Secretary

Minutes for Monday, April 6, 2026

Gary Friend starts all right we're going to open up the Drainage board meeting for Monday April 6th, 2026. First up, we have the minutes to accept Monday March 2, 2026. Missy Williams makes a Motion to Accept the minutes for Monday March 2, 2026. Tom Kerns seconds, Gary says, all those in favor signify by saying aye. Aye, opposed. Same sign. Motion Passes 3-0.

Gary says, Next up surveyors report, Ed. Ed starts OK, we have the basic repairs that come with spring. Then we have what's in front of you here, a gentleman in Lynn on Church Street. He is lucky enough to own a house that's in a natural surface water course with a county ditch under his basement. He did not build the house he bought this way. He did not know about it until a couple years ago when he was flooding. I have arrangements made to relocate the ditch away from his basement the ditch however we went down Thursday after another event. And the county ditch doesn't seem to be his problem. He has a wash out under the northeast corner of the house facing north. He has an area 3-foot-wide, and a foot deep washed out underneath his footer from surface water. Gary ask, could you draw a circle, I want to make sure I know where we're at. Missy asks is that his house at that blue dash is going through? Ed replies, yes. When we were there, we were there last year when we fixed the tree? Casey replies, yeah. Ed says or was it the year before last. Casey replies, no, I think it was last year. It wasn't very long ago. Ed continues, anyway downstream of his house the dish was plugged up by a tree that had rooted in. We took the roots out it is the ditch and replaced from the corner of his house to the street and by the way it doesn't go under that guy 's garage. Gary asks, is that an alley going down there? Ed replies, It is technically an alley but it is his driveway. Gary asks, is that his property behind it is that another property? Ed replies, that that is his property behind. Gary says, That's the secondary building so that's these houses at a garage. Ed replies, that back there is a garage. Gary asks, so he uses an alley for a driveway has he raised the driveway up and created a swell in there? Ed says, the driveway has been paved if you stand in the driveway the water comes off the street and it will come down from Church Street past the intersection wash comes into his yard anything comes up the street runs right down the driveway and tech and can end up in front of his house. Gary asks the alcove that's in there does it get trapped in there like pond? Ed says, Yeah. The theory was that the ditch was causing this trouble and when you get down into his basement water is poured out of the crawl space into the basement instead of coming up from the drain.

We're going to relocate the ditch across this backyard across that driveway up into the side yard he's in the process of buying the lot next door. This lady is going to split her lot and he's going to buy that. Gary asks the Lender lot. Ed replies, Metzger. Gary says the other way; the blue line goes underneath another structure. Ed replies, the ditch actually lays beside that structure it's not under it. We've added a catch basin. Missy says, so if the if that line where you have the 12-inch clay tile if it comes to. Ed replies, the accurate the best we could the best I can tell it's pretty accurate going under the Jackson house but when it gets to the lender house that actually angles I mean it misses that garage by 2 feet. we've got to catch basin down here. Missy asks, 2 feet on the on the northeast or the from the northwest or the east. Mark it on there. Ed says, OK nothing works really good on these pictures. But this ditch actually runs like this down here there is a catch basin leave it's on this side of the alley. It's not low enough to keep the garage flooding but it's low enough diffuse we're going to add a catch basin over here. In the tiles going to come down making 90 across the backyard. And we're going to video that ditch and probably fill it with flowable unless we find out there's something connected to his house with it. we figured out this week that the main problem isn't us, its sheet flow. The reason the purple area in this picture is the entire watershed for the Calvin Johnson drain. The challenge is this water starts at 27 and basically the truck stop the school and that end of town all comes right through his yard. We're not going to talk about the genius of building in a in a surface water course. That whole into town is a surface water course. Gary says the fact of moving the drain I get that but his problems his homeowner maintenance now. Ed replies, I believe so I'm not without I'm not without sympathy for him. Gary replies, me to but he has to grade up know. Ed responds, Right is his father called me on the Saturday after one of these events what know what was going to do for him. And I said Well I said we're all relocated to ditch I said almost spend 25 grand in your backyard. And then they well what about this other problem we didn't cause the other problem. Gary says, no, you can't touch it. Ed continues, if things were like they should be that which would be larger it'd be newer. This 12-inch clay tile was put in about 1900 this area was cornfields and pasture lots. Gary says, Yeah, I get it so you're going to you're going to move the ditch. Ed replies, we are yeah in fact the guys are moving equipment in should be moving in this week. Tom says, you said you were going to put a catch basin in on that. Ed replies, well we're going to put a catch basin on the other side of the drive. He's going to buy about a 3rd of that lot but we're going to put a catch basin there that's got to make a 90 degree turn. It's better to uses a catch basin to try to use an elbow. Gary asks If you need any action from the Board. Ed replies, this is informational. I mean ditch is going to be 10 or 12 years in debt when we're done. It just what it is. I've not I've not had a lot of luck trying to sell reconstruction down there. The guys the farm guys down there don't want the town 's problem. When you follow this ditch downstream it follows that abandoned rail bed. And a whole bunch of property that all needs cleaned up, it's all wooded. we have a vent on the ditch down but where it goes into the railroad property where it can vent there that's below his basement so it can vent out there get away. It's just one of those places, we've got places like this all over the county. Yeah, I appreciate getting on that but as far as his sheet water coming in there, he's going to have to regrade. Ed says, He can regrade. He sheds off to the West until you get about 3rd of the way into the yard, he can recreate it and deal with that he could put a retaining wall and direct that water. I'm going to suggest they do a like a 3-inch berm of the asphalt where it comes from his driveway onto his porch area. also told him to take his patio block deck out and fix his roofs fix his footer for the slope on away from the house you know the whole the whole thing. Gary says, Relocate the watershed. Ed continues, Like I say is they're all going but somebody has to help us. Gary says, Thanks for getting on that.

I got a call from Laura that alerted me to 2 weeks ago I talked to you. Ed says, Laura alerted you to it because he's going who can help me and I said Well nobody's going to help you. If you want to call the city and see if they got some kind of service, by the way the assistant clerk lives across the street. Her yard with was underwater about foot and a half of the time. So, he goes to the clerk 's office she said well the county has a rainy-day fund and I had to explain to him that the rainy-day fund had nothing to do with weather. Gary says OK, Anything else? Ed says, that's the subtotal of my week.

Gary asks if anyone has anything else? Missy says, I've got something. So, the drainage on the West side of the golf course where the pony 9 it is totally underwater. The farmer South of their 2 of them have called me. I mean it's a mess. Ed says, the last the last time I checked water is coming through the outlet was also running over the top when you get a large rain, which is what it's designed to do. Missy asks, What outlet and over the top of what? Ed continues, well, the golf course outlet comes outlets into that surface string. Missy asks, OK so is this it. Ed replies, No that's the outlet to the pond that's the outlet. Missy adds, everything flows into that pond. Ed continues, everything goes through that pond, that pond is 3 feet below the golf course. When it's running over that when it's running over spill way its 3 feet below the golf course it's not going to flood you? Now it comes out of the golf course runs across the road periodically. Didn't we address that ditch under the road. Ed replies, yeah, I addressed that 2 years ago. Short of putting a structure in on the golf course side and a bigger outlet. And that's on the golf course they came to us before I took office they came to us and got the county to vacate the ditch when they built the golf course and built their drainage. Mister Peterson that owns the farm downstream north had them vacate the ditch across him when he built that lake. Missy said they never should have agreed to that. There is discussion on where the lake is. Ed says, I've got a 2-inch binder on all of that. When was it built, contractor that build it, Mister Peterson said I got the X number of dollars I want to fish. They start digging they got into sugar sand and the only way to get around the sugar stand was to raise the bottom of the pond about 2 and a half feet. So, they did. They built pond it's barely 8 feet deep. Missy adds, it's not anymore. Ed continues, again not something I'm not dealing with. I know I was out there looking at this thing literally the week got actually before I took office is out there at the request of the commissioners at the time. Right after I started, Greg and I had reasonable discussions we weren't buddies but we were Civilized. anyway, the by building it too high they also built the top of that water was 2 and a half feet above the county ditch that they vacated. The contractor story was they vacated the ditch so it doesn't exist. we put that water level 2 and a half feet above. The city came in at the time it was flooding east of the road for the next street there the city spent quite a bit of money putting storm drainage in that outlets right beside the outlets to that outlet. They don't part to fix their end of it the Gordon farm has about an acre of ground to stays wet because of it. I gave him an option how they could bring it fix it and they weren't willing to put their own money in it. It has to go either 1500 feet to the West or 1200 feet to the north. nobody willing to spend that money. It's about an acre of ground they need to outlet it over to sugar Creek that's where it goes that's where it ends up. We went through a hearing over this ditch in 2007 I believe it was we did the whole hearing thing. Attorney at the time insisted made a big deal of it. And here we are. Now there's this property has changed hands and this gentleman that bought it has been good to work with. He did pretty decent job of keeping the overflow cleaned. Gary asks, is this whole problem because of that Peterson pond? Missy replies, I don't know I'm not going to say yes or no because I don't know enough, I can just tell you that Trent Kritch has flooding, he's upset.

Gordon's have flooding they're upset, the houses that they built there just South of where Jill lives. You go on down they have water now that's appearing there's been water staying in the far South side of that. I mean it's not just a little it probably was about 3 or 4 inches. And then on the golf course and then the farmer to the South of there has terrible flooding. And then the new Event Center which never flooded before. Ed says, it always flooded it his retention pond is working like it's supposed too. Missy continues, he has had standing water last year to where I'm not kidding it was a foot high. They had to get the city, they had a wedding that day, so they got the city to come out and try to get ditch it or put some ruts, so they pushed it to get it out of there. This is common and there are corn stalks you know nobody turns there soil anymore, so all those cornstalks get backed up. And then right down the line there's nowhere to go. It doesn't affect us at all we're built high, but that pond is overflowing the other pond near your kids is overflowing but it's a problem it is a major problem for those farmers to get in there. Gary says on 50 there's a nice Creek down there. Is that where it drains into? Ed replies, it does it drains through that goes down hits that pond comes down there at the at Huntsville road where it crosses under the road and goes into a where you got a surface drain under the surface drain is a 30-inch tile where the open drainage stops on the next property down there's a second 30-inch tile. Missy says, Matt says the excess goes to the pond the pond exits the water out of there but it's not going through the large. Ed says, there is a spillways and foot above the top of that tile and it does go over the spillway. Toms says, it was designed to basically do that. Ed replies, it was designed to do that exactly. Gary ask if the ditch is still vacated? Ed replies, it's vacated but we've done bunch of work on it. Did you hear by challenge you vacated ditch in the middle of a watershed? If we have a problem with that vacated section. Now the golf course they've stepped up they spend their own money on them most of the time. The other place down there they're not going to spend their own money. But if I if your outlet is plugged past the end of the outlet I right to fix it. Then I charge the owners which is the people in the rest of the watershed for that. So, I ended up treating it like it's not vacated basically. We vacated it but the golf course does still pay because the water still outlets sugar Creek. The people who designed the golf course originally did not anticipate the amount of water coming through. The golf course itself drains pretty well this pond I won't argue anybody should never be built. But after going through the menagerie hearing, we went through to anybody wants to stop out and read that book about all that's welcome to. This guy bought it in good faith and Mike wanted to make us lower that pond or tear the pond out, are you going to buy the guy 's house. We I don't feel like we have a right to do that and while it keeps everything wet there it was wet there before. Missy says It wasn't it is now I've lived out there for 18 years now maybe 19 and it's gotten a lot worse. Is there is there a large enough tile in there aren't there some 8-inch tile. Ed replies, there there's a 12- or 15-inch outlet if I was building a thing it would have been 24, I didn't build it. The thing is the overflow spillway is functioning like it's supposed to unless it gets backed up with debris. For a long time, it had Peterson put up hog panels across it because he didn't like the fact that fish was washing out and going downstream. Gary asks, a hog panel with a screen on it. Ed replies, at one point which when this when this boy bought it, I helped him tear all those panels out because it was back in watered up because of the problem. I know one of them panels are still there I would think I was going to get him to remove the other one he's been reasonably cooperative through this whole thing he's not he doesn't want but it's still his pond was 3 feet below the golf course pond. Now the rain that happened the last few weeks that flooded everybody, air, it's been like the last 10 years. Gary asks, are those new houses down there are they on craws or basement? Missy replies the two newest ones that have not sold that are South closest to the county farms their basement.

And then the other ones are crawl spaces. Gary asks, are the ones with basements flooding right now. Missy replies, I don't know. Because there's nobody in them and nobody 's looking at them I'm assuming. I don't know if Paul Faddis is going out and checking them or whatever I don't know you're standing water in both those yards.

Ed says, things going on out there and I talked to the developer out there and those all were supposed to drain away from the road. There's no storm drain in front catching that water. The water is running from the middle of the house from the edge of the Front edge of the house forward that's all draining out to the road. I said you understand you're going to cause road fail. Because you're softening the edge of the road. There's no side dish there's no storm drain there. Everything was designed to go to the back there's plenty of pond capacity in the ponds behind. Missy says, The owners and well mark and Eric on those you know together, Mark owns more of the golf course and then Eric does and he understands it all. If you get a chance to go out there and have lunch or something today or if you could talk to the he's and. He probably should be in on Monday. He talked to me twice this week about we'll get something done. He seems to think it's small and I don't know. Its not my expertise. Gary says, Mike brought his concern to the Drainage Board, 2 years ago maybe 3 and we actually. We did put some money out of general drainage fund money. Ed adds, Yeah well we use money out about that ditch to we get it under the road. Gary says, To my understanding we had to finagle a little bit to even make it palpably legal to do that money on that because they vacated and are not paying for any ditch maintenance right. Ed says, No they're still paying but they're paying. For their outlet. Gary says, their outlet that's where you tied it. Ed replies, Yes the thing was they vacated which. But as far as watershed in there they're gone. Well why vacating that dish there's all those people except accepted the responsibility for the water. I don't think they understood what they were doing when they vacated that ditch and guarantee the contractor involved did. He wasn't worried about that because the only guy I've had trouble with ponds construction on only had one guy that's who's ponds cause problems regularly. Gary asks, have they got a quote of their own to get this problem fixed? Missy says, I think yes and no he thinks it's anywhere from 80,000. To hire depending on what needs to be done he knows I mean he knows all he knows all that. My concern is for that. Like I'm not saying this just because she's a great person but you know Brian and Jill if everything backs up on them and it adds it had standing water over that cart path. The other day which was along the fence line I don't want somebody to come looking at their open house and they can't sell the house it's a great house they just want more room for kids and not just her. Gary says, the other one they've had to pump water out crawl space so and then Brian and Jill had to encapsulate theirs. This development was kind of shoved in there. To the point we the County spent \$100,000.00 to bury power lines that they didn't want they didn't want to help with. And I voted no for that reason that was a development by developers who should have done their homework? And they got a rebate for all the power line money coming back for 3 years. But they showed the development somewhere that's having problems and want taxpayers pay for. There is some more discussion on the golf course and new developments water problems. Gary says, I don't know the answer maybe you can tell us that the next meeting what it would cost us cure the golf course if we so desire to do so. Missy says, I guess I really sympathize with those farmers because they're I mean they're having a large area in there that's getting flooded. Ed says, I put together an outlet that would fix both of them but nobody you know neither one of them are going neither one of them are going to spend 10 times what an acre of ground cost divide to

drain to drain barely an acre of ground that's wet twice a year. Gary says, OK well Missy 's got a concern there I think we at least need to look and see what possibilities exist.

Tom Kerns makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Missy Williams seconds, motion carried, meeting adjourned. Motion passes 3-0.

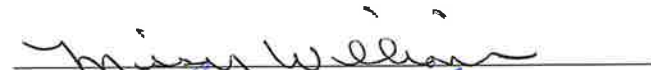
Signed this 4^h day of May, 2026 in the Randolph County Commissioners Room, Winchester Indiana.



Gary Friend



Tom Kerns



Missy Williams



Edwin L. Thornburg, County Surveyor