

DRAINAGE BOARD MINUTES

June 9, 2025

**DAVID LAWSON PRESENT
NATHAN RUNNEBOHM PRESENT
JASON ABEL PRESENT
JEFF POWELL PRESENT**

Motion to approve minutes from 5/27/25 made by Nathan Runnebohm, 2nd David Lawson, Jason Abel abstained, approved 2/0.

Hankins Ditch: Jeff Powell reports Brandon Everhart has completed some of the clearing here, he has about 500' left to go.

Ditch Spraying: Dalton's Spraying has started spraying, they have completed the Woodruff ditch, VanPelt, and the Thompson is down to 350 S, the Rinehart is finished and there is some left to do on the Lee Folt. The weather has been a factor; Mr. Powell is keeping in contact with them.

Smithland Tile: Jeff Powell still has James Ramsey lined up to fix the blockage that was found with the camera. He also revisits his suggestion of trying to get another access point on this tile. \$3,700 was the quote to install a 2'x 2', 6' deep box structure which would allow a secondary inlet and an access point. He feels this would make cleanout easier as the current structures are pretty far apart. Funds are available in the account; he would like to meet with David Lawson on site to look at the area.

Solar Farm: Jeff Powell reports that as of last week the drainage contractor, that is employed by Primoris and the solar company, did make it out to work on some repairs on Mike Gosnell's property, but there are others yet to be done. Mr. Powell states James Ramsey, Jonathan Everhart and himself met on site with the drainage contractor and the site superintendent last week to point out some areas of concern. Mr. Powell encourages all landowners to contact them as the drainage contractor will not do any work without being asked to by Primoris. He states the Carmony Tile has a few places he has physically marked and will email Primoris as well. Jason Abel suggests the Drainage Board meet with them on site next week to look at the problem areas. Mr. Powell states there is a new project manager on the solar company's side. Mike Gosnell, resident, states they have repaired 3 of the 4 problem areas on his property, the last is located inside a fence. Resident Ben Kuhn has contacted Jeff Powell with concern that trees are being planted on top of tiles. Jeff Powell addressed this with the solar company and discussed the solar company's concerns about following landscaping requirements from the Plan Commission. Until recently Jeff Powell did not have information about where the tiles were installed. David Lawson would like to know if Jeff Powell has a copy of the GPS map of the tile; Mr. Powell states he does. Ben Kuhn, 6911 E. Union Rd, Shelbyville, would like to know if the tiles will end up being County jurisdiction. Mr. Powell states that is still to be determined, there would have to be interest by the overall benefited landowners to start with. Mr. Kuhn also touches on the tree issue: he states there are probably 400 trees plotted to be installed directly on top of the tile that was installed 6 months ago along with trees that are already in place. Nathan Runnebohm would like to know how many landowners have issues currently from the solar project, Jeff Powell states 4-6 people that he is aware of. Mr. Runnebohm would like to know when the solar panels are supposed to be up and operational and if they need to have a "green light" from the County to be fully operational. Plan Director, Desiree Calderella, states she emailed the solar company last week to ask when they planned to be operational and did not receive a response. Resident James Ramsey says he believes they are operating currently. Jeff Powell states he is aware they are doing some testing in different sections. Mr. Runnebohm would like to know if we could withhold them from operating until the drainage problems are corrected, and Ms. Calderella states she is unsure how that would be policed. The representative of DE Shaw/ DESRI has changed but Ms. Calderella and Mr. Powell believe they have the new contact information which they will pass on to the Drainage Board and any resident who requests it. David Lawson also spurs discussion about addressing this quickly to get it resolved before the solar company finishes installation and leaves our area as well as the condition of the County roads in the project area. Mr. Powell reiterates the importance of landowners bringing their concerns to the solar company. Blake Newkirk comments on Zoom "if it operational they owe the county and school system some money!!!". Ben Kuhn states he is on the Shelby Eastern School Board and the old representative from DE Shaw/ DESRI, was acknowledging the agreement they had with the school but was not giving a particular timeline of when that payment would come post operation. Mr. Powell states he will pass the lead contact info on to Mr. Kuhn and he can pass that on to the school board. Mr. Kuhn would like to clarify who exactly to contact regarding the drainage issues. Mr. Powell specifies Primoris until they complete construction and leave then it will be DE Shaw/ DESRI, he will get Mr. Kuhn any contact information he has. Mr. Runnebohm asks the County attorney, John DePrez, if there is something the County can do

to keep them from going on the grid until they meet all the obligations there were encouraged to. Mr. DePrez states he was not involved in that aspect with approving the solar farm so he's not familiar with all the details of the document. Desiree Calderela notes there was a bond for the drainage, but it didn't specify any kind of commitment or discussion about when they can be operational. David Lawson suggests starting with a meeting with the solar company to see how receptive they are to the requests. Mike Gosnell, landowner, states the landowner's anniversary date is July 12th. Blake Newkirk, 3319 S 750 W, Franklin, clarifies that they (solar company) agreed to a payment in lieu of taxes in order to get their tax abatement. She states the payment was to include monies to the schools and a lump payment to the County once completely operational. She is concerned they will find a way to get out of making this payment such as never being "fully" operational. Her second point was requesting the Drainage Board to revisit the drainage ordinance. James Ramsey states the drainage issues need to be addressed before the solar company leaves the area and thanks the Drainage Board for being involved with trying to get things resolved. He also states he believes part of the solar farm is up and running as he has seen the panels moving at different times of day following the process they said they would. Mr. Ramsey believes all the perimeter tiles installed outside the fence should be legal drains to ensure the ability to maintain property outside of the project. Ben Kuhn states he would be in favor of making them legal drains. Jeff Powell states if they do become legal drains he feels it would probably need to include behind the fence as well.

Zell Patterson Drain (850 N): Jeff Powell made contact with the gas company and is to meet on site with them to figure out the exact location and elevation of the pipeline to determine how to best navigate the willow tree problem here.

Adjourn.