

DRAINAGE BOARD MINUTES

July 28, 2025

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

Please note: The meeting minutes below were drafted with the assistance of an AI tool.

Motion to approve minutes from 7/14/25 made by Nathan Runnebohm, 2nd David Lawson, approved 2/0. Jason Abel abstained.

Jeff Powell, County Surveyor, reports that last week he received the invoice for the ditch spraying and plans to bring the revised invoice to the Board at the next meeting. Nathan Runnebohm states he has received a contact for the drone, Jeff Powell states he is interested in having a conversation with that contact, especially for the areas in which access is questionable.

Smithland Tile: Jeff Powell states that Contractor, James Ramsey, is present with resident Steve Stevenson, of 4372 South Smithland Road. Jeff Powell states repairs were made last week, but findings were not as desired. For a section of the north side of Freedom Street, James Ramsey states they re-installed approximately 100 feet of tile that was completely plugged with roots, which was the cause of there not being flow from Smithland Road and downstream. Jeff Powell states the tile had been installed in 2003, aerial photos from that time show very few trees along that tiled area, but since then landowners have planted trees within 15-20 feet of the tile, resulting in multiple areas with roots. Jeff Powell states that James Ramsey believes the only solution to prevent roots continuing to get into the tile, which is currently a 12-inch, dual-wall, perforated tile, is to replace it with a solid tile. David Lawson asks if Jeff Powell cameraed it, Jeff Powell says they attempted, James Ramsey got into one of the structures just north of 450 S, and found there is a root ball now growing out into the structure. Jeff Powell states they will need to investigate how to gain access, they will probably have to dig into it; he has spoken with Joe Blackman who installed it in 2003. They discuss possible options to remedy the problem. David Lawson asks how many feet are of concern, James Ramsey and Jeff Powell agree there are approximately 300 feet of 12-inch tile that needs to be looked at for possible issues. Jeff Powell states this tile was not assessed in the past year, Amy Glackman states there is currently \$8,700 in the account. Steve Stevenson shows the Drainage Board photos of the water being retained from the clogged drains, adding it can take two weeks at times for the water to clear. David Lawson asks if this matter is one which needs to be put out for bids, Powell responds he believes so due to the prospective costs, he asks James Ramsey for an idea of cost, he believes it would be \$10,000 or less. David Lawson expresses his concern regarding spending money that exceeds the current funds in an account, James Ramsey estimates the tile is one-third to one-half full. David Lawson asks if it would be possible to dig up a couple of areas to try to determine whether the entire 300 feet needs to be replaced. James Ramsey responds they had discussed that option; they have staked where they stopped locating, so he is confident they are clear to that point and states they would possibly only need to replace 150 feet of tile. Jason Abel states we need to get bids to get the tile replaced. David Lawson asks confirmation of his understanding that if solid tile is put in, the trees could co-exist. Jeff Powell responds that the solid tile will get rid of the surface water and will be a conduit to allow the water to flow through, as there would be stone bedding. James Ramsey states he suggested to Jeff Powell that the area where trees are actively growing along the tile, do a double-wrapped joint -- which is taking another piece of pipe, split it, and wrap it around the pipe again, causing a harder joint for tree roots to have to penetrate. David Lawson states he agrees with Jason Abel regarding acquiring bids to replace the entire amount, as well as a bid to dig up a couple of places and camera it, in order to see what it costs, in case there are areas that don't need replacement so they can be prudent with funds. David Lawson states we need to look at a possible ordinance to tag onto the county drain regarding not being able to plant trees along tiles. James Ramsey states such exists in the state drainage code, that you cannot plant anything without county approval; David Lawson questions how that can be enforced, and how to determine who planted what. David Lawson mentions that many homeowners do not realize how planting trees affects other such matters. David Lawson asks if there are other comments on this matter, Steve Stevenson mentioned a past prospect of a secondary tile which has not occurred, Jeff Powell says he spoke with Taylor Summerford this morning, and while that may be considered as a prospective project, the first priority is to get the current tile functional. Jeff Powell states he will get bids together for excavation, and will get back to the Board regarding this matter.

Speedway Solar: At the request of David Lawson, Danny Norris (present by Zoom) identifies himself as project manager with Speedway Solar, then says he has a drain contractor on site today to handle the drain tile scope owed to the county who will be there seven to ten days. They need to tie into their substation, which requires an outage with Duke, and they are working to coordinate that. Danny Norris states he and Jeff Powell have walked the project, there are parts of the Carmony Drain they are going to correct problems on, and as spoken about previously, it is impossible to identify all drainage issues, as some will become apparent next spring or a couple years from now. Jeff Powell states he and Danny Norris have received a few additional notifications which will be investigated. Jeff Powell asks Danny Norris if the drain contractors will be on site to handle all issues; Danny Norris confirms. David Lawson asks whether this is the second round of repairs, Danny Norris responds they have been out on site for a while, are completing the repairs list, and will be on site for approximately two weeks. David Lawson asks if Danny Norris believes the identified complaints will be handled in these two weeks. Danny Norris confirms, and states future issues will be fixed, and the on-site head count will continually decrease. Nathan Runnebohm asks Ben Taylor, Highway Superintendent, if he has been involved, he responds he has been in contact with a third-party company Danny Norris has been involved with. Ben Taylor states they are reviewing the pre-construction survey and at the end of this week will be doing another road survey to compare previous roadways to current, and determine what construction work needs to be done, and contracting out to a third-party to complete reconstruction of those roadways. David Lawson states that resident Mike Gosnell had said some of the driveway entrances may have a culvert pipe that is too high, and the addition of stone made it higher, he asks Danny Norris if this matter has been addressed. Danny Norris says they are going back and re-shooting the elevation on all the low-water crossings and culvert pipes, he does not know if that has been fixed, but it is on their contractor's punch list and will be completed before they demobilize. Jeff Powell states he knows there are culvert pipes under the road intersections, such as 700 N/700 E, believes the culvert is full of riprap that got crushed down. He believes there are culvert pipes/roadside ditches that need to be addressed at the same time as when re-surfacing of roads is addressed, with possible need for extensions of culvert pipes, Ben Taylor agrees. David Lawson states he believes it is obvious the intersections were inadvertently widened by the trucks dragging the trailer around the corner, and those intersections should be widened as needed, which will be better not only for farmers with semis/farm equipment, but also for construction crews which may need to return in the future.

Jeff Powell says he wants to mention a matter unrelated to drainage. There is a lot of section corner monumentation that will need some perpetuation as we consider potentially redoing intersections of roads, so he has made a request to Danny Norris regarding a land title survey that has been done that would be helpful/possibly necessary in order to reestablish section corner monumentation, so Jeff Powell states he is now publicly making the statement he is going to want to request that as part of the reconstruction of those roads. Danny Norris responds his takeaway from previous comments is two-fold. First, since Speedway Solar will not rebuild the roads themselves, he and Ben Taylor will agree on the scope, then hire a Shelby County-preferred contractor to do the work and ensure they preserve the monumentations. Second, regarding David Lawson's comments regarding re-working the intersections, Danny Norris states he has made it clear to USI Consultants that the same should be part of the scope of its work.

Nathan Runnebohm asks how long it should take to remove all the equipment when the solar farms are done. Danny Norris states it will take a couple of months. Nathan Runnebohm asks Danny Norris if he has been involved with that part of a project, he responds he has not ever been involved with decommissioning such a project. David Lawson asks Danny Norris if his company has ever decommissioned a project. Danny Norris states Speedway Solar has never decommissioned a project, as they have never reached the 30-year end of life, but they do have the decommissioning bond in place, the process is relatively straightforward. Danny Norris states the panels are sent to a recycler that separates them back into raw material, the posts are pulled out of the ground, and those can be recycled as well. David Lawson asks whether that process is the responsibility of the landowner or of Speedway Solar, Danny Norris responds it is entirely on the company to remediate. David Lawson asks if anyone else has a question for Danny Norris; no response, David Lawson thanks Danny Norris for his involvement, as does Jeff Powell.

Country Club Heights Drain: Nathan Runnebohm asks what has been decided regarding Country Club Heights. Jeff Powell states that James Ramsey and he will get out there to complete the work. James Ramsey comes forward and says the rainy weather has been a hindrance, and he plans to handle it very soon.

Reinhart Drain: James Ramsey asks about this drain, David Lawson says he thinks it needs to be taken out, as well as the one south of it. David Lawson says he and Jeff Powell will discuss and let James Ramsey know.

David Lawson asks if anyone has other comments or questions; no one responds. Jason Abel moves to adjourn, Nathan Runnebohm seconds the motion, David Lawson states the meeting is adjourned.

DRAINAGE BOARD

SHELBY COUNTY, INDIANA

David Lawson, President

Jason Abel, Vice President

Nathan Runnebohm, Member