

DRAINAGE BOARD MINUTES

February 09, 2026

**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.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by David Lawson to approve the minutes of January 12, 2026, 2nd Nathan Runnebohm, approved 3/0.

Motion made by David Lawson to approve the minutes of January 26, 2026, 2nd Nathan Runnebohm approved 3/0.

2026 Appointments and Reorganization:

Motion made by Jason Abel to appoint Diane Haehl as Drainage Board Secretary and John DePrez as Drainage Board Attorney, 2nd Nathan Runnebohm, approved 3/0.

Zell Patterson Tile- County Surveyor, Jeff Powell, reported that approximately 450 feet of 18-inch tile has been replaced. Field checks indicate the repair is functional, as previously wet surface areas north of the repairs are now dry. Remaining work includes installing a breather on the north property line of the Caldwell property and crushing/removing the old tile. Willow trees have been removed, and John Sparks says the area can be reclaimed farming. The Board discussed removing an unnecessary 4-inch riser breather located in the middle of a field and repairing a sinkhole found approximately 100-200 ft south of 850 N.

2026 Proposed Drain Assessment List:

County Surveyor, Jeff Powell, presented the active maintenance accounts and proposed assessment list for 2026.

Specific drains discussed for assessment include:

- **Alexander Tile-** Requires ongoing maintenance for cleaning and general maintenance in the town of Gwynville.
- **Fisher Tucker-** Assessment resumed to address washouts and maintain the long drain.
- **Gibson-** An open drain requiring regular spraying maintenance.
- **Woodyard-** An open drain needing clearing, specifically at the silted northern end.
- **Zell Patterson-** Assessment resumed to build funds for future work and gas line crossing issues.
- **O M Thompson-** An open drain requiring assessment for ongoing spraying.
- **Hills Branch-** An open drain in need of extensive ash tree removal.
- **Ira Smith/Seifert-** A 14-inch clay tile system; assessment resumed for proactive maintenance.
- **Glessner-** Hand work required for tree removal through residential areas.
- **Hankins-** Maintenance planned for brush cleaning south of I-74.
- **Dwayne Village-** Residential assessment of \$25 per lot maintained.
- **Smithland Tile-** Assessment maintained to replenish funds following recent repairs.
- **Clark William-** Deep drain requiring assessment for spraying.
- **Clendenning Tile-** Final collection for the current phase; future assessments will be needed for Phase 2.

Out-of-county drains requested for assessment:

- Sidney Branch (Bartholomew County)
- Nelson-Plummer (Rush County)
- Columbus-Jackson (Hancock County)
- Thomas Miller (Hancock County)

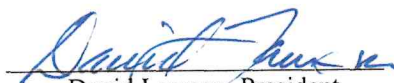
A conversation was had regarding the maintenance of the remainder of the drains not being put on assessment, David Lawson questioned why we can't just add them to our assessment list, for various reasons they cannot be added according to County Surveyor Jeff Powell, one of which is a Indiana Statute that says we cannot collect and keep in the account four times more than the estimated annual maintenance and some of these drains are sitting at that number already. The question was brought up whether the county could use some of its funds to help with the replacement of culverts with the Indiana Code 36-9-27-71 which states the cost of the crossing could fall onto the owner of the public highway with certain exceptions. Ben Taylor, Highway Superintendent, makes note that the highway department pays assessments so he would be paying two times on some of these projects. Jeff continues to say that some of these are not on assessment essentially because we are not familiar with the drains and don't know which really need work and which really don't. Jeff also says we need to get out and look at them to really get a good idea and familiarize ourselves with them before recommending assessment. David Lawson motioned to approve the proposed 2026 drain assessments presented today, Jason Abel provided a second, the motion passed 3/0.

Clendenning Tile- County Surveyor, Jeff Powell, discussed the upcoming phase to extend the drain to State Road 44. Referring to the Indiana Code 36-9-27-71, the Board discussed that highway crossing costs could be the responsibility of the highway owner with certain exceptions. Jeff proposed to do some exploratory digging to verify the location and elevations of the tile. David Lawson mentions that the drain account will still be in the negative after the final years of assessment at the current rate. He further states we need to contact the people currently in the watershed to extend the project into a phase 2 and bring the account to positive and fund the additional phases. David Lawson motioned to approve exploration digging to locate the exact depth and alignment of the tile up to the crossing at State Road 44, Nathan Runnebohm provided a second, the motion passed 3/0.

Public Comment- James Ramsey asks if the board has had any conversation as to turning the perimeter drains of the solar farm into legal drains, David Lawson says if he remembers correctly, it has been addressed and the people involved in the watershed didn't have interest in doing it. James also expressed concerns regarding the drainage impact of a proposed AEP substation and new power lines on his family's property. Blake Newkirk inquired about runoff from neighboring properties and the enforcement of landscaping and drainage standards. If the drainage board would be the board that would be responsible for upholding those things. David Lawson says drainage would be on the Drainage board and the landscaping would fall to the Planning Commission. It was also noted that an update to the storm water drainage ordinance is forthcoming within the near future to provide better control over these issues.

DRAINAGE BOARD

SHELBY COUNTY, INDIANA


David Lawson, President


Jason Abel, Vice President


Nathan Runnebohm, Member