

DRAINAGE BOARD MINUTES

July 27, 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- A motion was made to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2026 meeting. Vice President, Jason Abel, moved to approve the minutes as presented, Member, Nathan Runnebohm, provided a second, and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

Clendenning Drain- County Surveyor, Jeff Powell, presented an invoice from Contractor, James Ramsey, of Ramsey Farm Ag Enterprises LLC for materials on site totaling \$27,500.00. Jeff Powell stated that all pipe is on site, though the concrete structure has not arrived yet, and James Ramsey dug up the connection point on the north side of 250 South. James Ramsey reported via Zoom that he is wrapping up a project in Rush County and will widen his machine to handle the 15-inch pipe before moving equipment over. James Ramsey estimated installation will take 5 to 7 days, including half a day for the open cut on 750 West, with a road cut permit to be submitted for next week. Jeff Powell noted that total project material costs are \$36,970.00 out of the initial \$42,542.25 estimate. Jeff Powell also gave an update on conversations with State Highway Road Culvert Engineer, Zachary Brady, regarding the State Road 44 crossing. Jeff Powell outlined options for crossing State Road 44, including having the state do the project in 5 to 6 years, having the county front the cost and get reimbursed in 1 to 2 years, depending on when the state got the project built into their budget or having the state budget the project and wait until they get the line item in their budget and at that point move forward with the project to prevent waiting a year or 2 for reimbursement. Jeff Powell noted discussions with Roger Monroe indicate directional boring may be possible instead of a jack and bore for the 15-inch pipe, which would reduce costs. Member, Nathan Runnebohm, moved to approve the \$27,500.00 material draw for Ramsey Farm Ag Enterprises LLC. Vice President, Jason Abel, provided a second, and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

Glessner Drain- County Surveyor, Jeff Powell, reported receiving inquiries from landowners near the Berwick subdivision concerning trees leaning toward condominiums along the Glessner drain. Jeff Powell clarified that county policy is not to remove trees unless they obstruct water flow or block access for maintenance. Landowner, Steve Runnebohm, hired a tree company after obtaining permission from the neighboring landowner to remove problem trees. Jeff Powell and President, David Lawson, walked the drain and agreed the drain needs to be cleared, but machinery cannot access the residential area. Jeff Powell requested board approval to seek quotes from tree removal companies to clear brush and small grubs by hand while working around larger trees. Auditor, Amy Glackman, reported the fund balance is \$57,950.00 with an annual assessment of \$12,180.00 paid by the city. Jeff Powell noted that Glessner empties into the Woodruff drain, which receives no funds from Glessner, and suggested combining the drains in the future. The board approved having Jeff Powell collect quotes for hand tree clearing.

Flat Rock River- County Surveyor, Jeff Powell, reported speaking with DNR Representative, Bella, with the Indiana DNR Division of Water regarding a presentation on the Flat Rock River and potential Blue River scenarios. Jeff Powell proposed meeting dates of August 24, 2026 or September 14, 2026, and the board selected to have Bella from DNR to pick between the two dates.

Watershed Assessments- County Surveyor, Jeff Powell, reported receiving a proposal from Burke Engineering to create watershed assessments and mapping for all legal drains in the county. Jeff Powell will review the proposal and present details at an upcoming meeting.

Unmarked Survey Crews- County Surveyor, Jeff Powell, reported receiving complaints about survey crews working along Interstate 74. Jeff Powell located the crew from Certified Engineering, who are tying into control points for I-74 reconstruction work. Jeff Powell will contact Certified Engineering to request that crews use marked vehicles, carry contact cards, and notify landowners prior to entering private property.

County Property (400 North)- County Surveyor, Jeff Powell, reported working on the legal description for county property on 400 North acquired around the year 2000. Jeff Powell noted a 9-foot misclosure in the original conveyance deed that is being corrected before passing the documents to Tim.

Legal Drain Guidelines & Checklist- President, David Lawson, and County Surveyor, Jeff Powell, discussed creating a checklist and guidelines for landowners interested in establishing a new legal drain or placing an existing drain on active maintenance. Deputy Surveyor, Harley Ayers, has been drafting guidelines to post on the county website. Jeff Powell noted that statute requires 51% landowner support to move forward, and if 75% of benefited acres object, the board will not proceed. (Note: Indiana Code states that landowners with 10% acreage or 25% of land valuation within the watershed are needed to petition the board and 51% of landowners need to object for the board to dismiss the petition.) David Lawson and Jeff Powell also discussed exploring commercial loans or outside funding so legal drain projects can be completed in a single year rather than multi-year assessments where costs fluctuate.

Legal Drain Count & GDIF Funding- President, David Lawson, and County Surveyor, Jeff Powell, noted the county has approximately 280 miles of regulated drains total. Auditor, Amy Glackman confirmed that the county has 59 drain accounts on maintenance. President, David Lawson, and Auditor, Amy Glackman, discussed reimbursing \$22,000.00 back to the General Ditch Improvement Fund (GDIF) that was used to pay Burke Engineering for MS4 work. Jeff Powell noted a line item for MS4 expenses has been established in the 2027 budget.

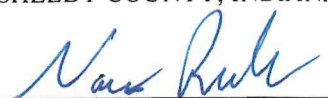
Adjourn

DRAINAGE BOARD

SHELBY COUNTY, INDIANA


David Lawson, President


Jason Abel, Vice President


Nathan Runnebohm, Member