

DRAINAGE BOARD MINUTES

June 8, 2026

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

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

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the 5/26/2026 meeting. Member, Nathan Runnebohm, moved to approve the minutes as presented, Vice President, Jason Abel, provided a second, and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

Woodyard Ditch - President, David Lawson, introduced a clearing project on the Woodyard Ditch that served as a pilot program for alternative clearing methods instead of spraying. County Surveyor, Jeff Powell, reported that approximately 1,200 feet of the ditch west of 625 East, behind the northwest section of the solar field, was cleared, and shredded by Contractor, David Norris. The ditch was previously inaccessible. During the work, multiple trees and an obstructing culvert pipe were removed from the flow line, including a tree with a 36 to 48 inch diameter root ball blocking a structure. Jeff Powell inspected the ditch on the morning of June 8th and noted it is now wide open and accessible. The total cost came to about \$5.00 per lineal foot, combining the clearing and debris removal. Jeff Powell noted that the landowner was very cooperative and even hired David Norris to do more cleanup on their own dollar. The board is looking at using this method of clearing in the future on other drains that have significant overgrowth and are inaccessible. They plan to use this to gain access and make it an area that is more easily maintainable. The board also discussed the fact that it is a more expensive option but with most of these places having been unkept for so long that is where things are at this point. Jeff Powell said that with the work that Deputy Surveyor, Harley Ayers, is doing on the website, he wants to add some general requests from landowners and suggestions on what they can do to help maintain the ditches and their banks to help alleviate the burden of cost on the drain accounts. Jeff Powell plans to share video of the work and hopes to use this method on other overgrown county drains. David Lawson noted that the board needs to get an estimate from David Norris to clear out brush behind the sheriff's shooting range as well, as it is contributing to problems there. Member, Nathan Runnebohm, moved to approve the clearing invoice for \$6,462.50, Vice President, Jason Abel, provided a second, and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

Clendenning Drain - The board opened sealed bids for the reconstruction of the Clendenning Drain. Two bids were received for the itemized project. Smooth Stone Excavating and Ramsay Farms AG Enterprises submitted bids.

Smooth Stone- \$59,652.00, with an additional charge of \$250.00 for each existing field tile hookup crossed.

Ramsay Farms- 42,542.25, with an additional charge of \$150.00 for each individual tile hookup.

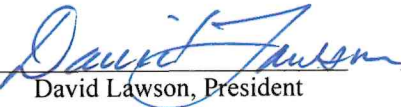
County Auditor, Amy, noted that the bids were legally advertised on May 22nd and May 29th. County Surveyor, Jeff Powell, reported that primary landowners are on board to start the project right away. The path follows an existing waterway for a large majority to keep crop damage down. Jeff Powell will work with Contractor, James Ramsey, to get equipment moving immediately. Jeff Powell and President, David Lawson, discussed a single road crossing at 750 West that will involve an open road cut for a 15-inch tile. This crossing will require a permit, and the project will be added to the county GIS system to notify the public. Jeff Powell said that this work will bring the tile up to the south edge of the State Road 44 right-of-way. Discussions with the State of Indiana are ongoing regarding boring under State Road 44. The state indicated they would cover the financial costs but suggested the drainage board pays for the work upfront and invoice them later to avoid years of scheduling delays. Jeff Powell and David Lawson will follow up with state officials over the next two weeks to confirm the final plan. Member, Nathan Runnebohm, moved to accept the low bid from Ramsey Farms for \$42,542.25, Vice President, Jason Abel, provided a second, and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

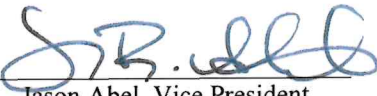
Public Comment - Landowner, Austin Farmer, and his wife, Danielle Farmer, of 5962 East 600 North Shelbyville, Indiana raised concerns about drainage problems at the solar farm near 600 North and 600 East. Austin Farmer explained that since the solar panels went in, water has been diverted onto their three acre property, leaving close to a foot of standing water in the back of their property. They acknowledge while there has always been a water issue in the front yard, the problem they are having in the back of their property is new. They believe it is caused by the solar farm development. Water is coming up through their barn floors, pooling around gates and fence posts, and creating a massive mosquito issue from the stagnant water. The heavy water flow has also completely washed away the soft road shoulder and the gravel near corner, carrying the debris onto their property and into the field drains. They were unable to plant a garden this year because of the constant flooding. County Surveyor, Jeff Powell, said they are meeting at the site immediately after the board meeting to inspect the issues and the Farmers were invited to join. Danny Norris noted that Speedway Solar is fixing problems as they are found and expects to provide relief within weeks. Jeff Powell noted that Contractor, Ben Kuhn, has been doing repairs. Recently finishing work to get Landowner, Debbie Seaton's, property draining properly. Ben Kuhn is now working on the Nolley property, addressing their issues. He is then moving next to 700 North and 700 East before tackling the intersection at 600 North and 600 East. Jeff Powell and Highway Superintendent, Ben Taylor, discussed drainage options for the 600 North and 600 East intersection, noting they want to avoid cutting the new pavement. They are considering boring a polyethylene or corrugated metal pipe under the road to move surface water from the northeast quadrant, which requires at least 12 inches of cover separation between the pipe and asphalt, Ben Taylor added that if the culvert was going to be polymer that there would need to be more cover than previously stated but did not specify exactly the depth of coverage required. At a minimum, a depression with a surface drain will be put in to help alleviate the ponding and the water flowing across the road. Jeff Powell invited Ben Taylor to meet with him and the Speedway Solar Representatives at the Farm's property to discuss solutions to their issues. Citizen, Blake Newkirk, called in on Zoom to note that Speedway Solar had to prove to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) that adjacent properties would not be adversely affected to get their variance, and asked what recourse the county has if that claim is false. Speedway Solar Representative, Peyton Jones, stepped in to state that the company fully understands landowners have a right to use their property without interference and is ready to

discuss crop damage and drainage fixes with each affected person. President, David Lawson, thanked the residents for coming in and emphasized that the board must know about these issues to fix them.

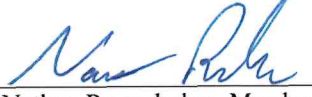
Adjourn

DRAINAGE BOARD


David Lawson, President


Jason Abel, Vice President

SHELBY COUNTY, INDIANA


Nathan Runnebohm, Member