

March 2, 2026

The Wabash County Drainage Board convened at 10:00 a.m. for a regularly scheduled meeting. Board Chairman Jeff Dawes; Board Members Tyler Niccum and Cheryl Ross were in attendance and a quorum was present for the meeting. Others in attendance included: Surveyor, Cheri Slee; Assistant Surveyor, Braden See; Highway Superintendent Ryan Smith and Deputy Surveyor Tonya Blair.

Drainage Board Minutes

Chairman Jeff Dawes initiated the review of the minutes from the February 16, 2026 Drainage Board meeting. Mr. Niccum moved to approve the minutes as written, and Mrs. Ross seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 Board vote.

Heeter-Blickenstaff-Creager Drain

Mrs. Slee updated the Board concerning the ditch bank clearing on the Shawn Davidson property. The Drainage Board had previously agreed to cover 25% of the total cost for clearing with maintenance funds. Pictures of the cleared bank were presented for Board Members to review. Approximate 120' X 800' area of the bank was cleared. Mr. Davidson asked if the county would cover a portion of the seeding costs which was not included in the cost of the clearing. After discussion, Mr. Niccum motioned to cover the cost of seeding not to exceed \$300. Mrs. Ross seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Kennedy Hamilton Drain

The Surveyor stated that Jared Garber has applied for an encroachment permit to place a fence along the top edge of the bank of the Kennedy Hamilton Drain for his sheep. He would like to place the fence as close to the bank as allowed to reduce the amount of mowing. We normally maintain the ditch from the opposite side but he needs to understand that he could be asked to drop the fence upon request of the Drainage Board if work is needed within the ROW on that side. She also suggested that the fence be placed away from the bank so there is enough room maintain the ditch and mow if needed. There was no specification on the type of fence that should be used. After discussion, Mr. Niccum motioned to allow Mr. Garber to place a fence along the Kennedy Hamilton Drain no closer than 30 feet from the top of the bank. Mrs. Ross second. Motion passed, 3-0.

Garber Bechtold Drain

Bolinger Agricultural Drainage recently completed the work on a branch of the Garber Bechtold Drain which runs through Greg Michel's property the Surveyor reported. The new tile was replaced to CR 800 N and it was discovered that the tile through the road was broken down and in need of repair. There is a danger of the road collapsing if the tile is not replaced. She spoke with Ryan Smith, Highway Superintendent, regarding the situation and Mr. Smith said he would provide the backfill and the asphalt for the tile replacement through the road. Andy Bolinger is working on a quote for the road project which will consist of smooth core plastic. Board Members were in agreement to have Bolinger Agricultural Drainage proceed with tile replacement under the road at 800 N.

Micheal Bright – Manure Station

Mrs. Slee presented drainage plans that were drawn up by NRCS in regard to Micheal Bright's drainage application for manure storage facilities. The plans call for a 6" perimeter drain around the buildings that daylight into ravines (watercourses), and show an existing culvert that is located just to the north of the proposed duck manure facility. She is concerned if the culvert was ever plugged or overloaded during a large rain event that there would be standing water around the building. She suggested to Adam Jones, NRCS, adding an overflow swale around the buildings to prevent any standing water. Mr. Jones was going to discuss it with their engineer and see if it could be added to the plans. The Drainage Board agreed they would approve the plans once updated, including a swale, and the watershed area shown and accounted for.

Busick White Drain

The Plan Commission brought it to our attention that a tenant (David Cavins) for parcel 85-09-23-400-027.000-007 had placed a 6" tile across his property and outlet to the Busick White open drain stated Mrs. Slee. Mr. Cavins was contacted and told he needed to talk with the Surveyor's Office regarding the tile installation. Pictures of the property showing there was a reduction of surface water since the tile was installed were presented. There is evidence that the extra water from the new tile out letting into the drain has caused bank erosion and Mrs. Slee suggested an outlet pipe should be installed to get the water farther away from the bank to prevent further bank erosion. There is also a chicken coop placed along the edge of the bank which is not a concern since we normally work on the other side of the ditch; however, Mr. Cavins is aware that the coop would

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need to be removed if we need maintain the drain from that side. She asked Mr. Smith, Highway Superintendent, to inspect the road culvert to make sure there are no blockages from the 6" tile being installed. Mr. See said it appears the culvert is a 2 x 6 bedded in concrete and unsure if the inlet for the 6" tile is in or up to the culvert. It was agreed upon by Board Members for Mr. Cavins to install an outlet pipe at the bank for erosion control and agrees that the chicken coop will need to be removed upon request by the Drainage Board any work along the ditch bank.

Miscellaneous Drainage business

Transfer of funds – Auditor

Mrs. Slee presented a claim for repayment of loan/transfer total of \$52,018.65 to #1158 General Drian Improvement from:

#2600 Drain Reconstruction Fund; \$41,950.08

#2700 Drain Maintenance Fund; \$10,068.57

Mr. Niccum motioned to approve the transfer of \$52,018.65 to General Drain Improvement fund #1158. Mrs. Ross second. Motion passed 3-0.

Building Permits

The Drainage Board agreed at the January 17, 2023 meeting to allow the county surveyor approval to allow for minor impact construction permits meeting the requirements established. The varied requests were for the following: Sherry Swinger, 85-15-36-202-011.000-003, shed; Mason Lloyd, 85-19-27-404-043.000-006, shed; Alysha Whisman, 85-03-22-302-068.000-001, pole barn garage; Todd & Sarah Chamberlain, 85-11-08-400-011.000-003, deck; Steven & Amelia Siders, 85-11-27-200-037.000-003, in ground pool & patio; Tom & Melissa Rice, 85-11-21-200-002.000-003, pole barn addition; Brad & Carmen Fleck, 85-11-08-300-013.000-003, pool and decking; Timothy & Martha Babb, 85-14-31-200-023.000-007, pole barn w/ 2 porches; Jeremiah Doctor, 85-12-08-400-006.000-003; Mr. Niccum motioned to approve the building permits as presented. Mrs. Ross second. Roll call vote, motion carried 3-0.

Claims

The Board reviewed drainage invoices: Reconstruction: John Maiden #600, \$5250.00 to Banning Engineering; Maintenance: L.I. Excavating, \$5133.75 to Heeter-Blickenstaff-Creager #571, \$5133.75 to L.I. Excavating; Mr. Niccum motioned to accept the claims as presented. Mrs. Ross seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

There being no further business Mr. Niccum made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Ross seconded the motion. Roll call vote, motion carried 3-0.

Jeff Dawes, Chairman

Cheryl Ross, Vice-Chairman

Tyler Niccum, Member