

May 4, 2026

The Wabash County Drainage Board convened at 10:00 a.m. for a regularly scheduled meeting. Board Chairman Jeff Dawes; Board Members Cheryl Ross and Tyler Niccum were present. 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 April 20, 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.

#### Staver Eckman Drain

The Surveyor reported that she and the assistant surveyor met this past week with the Highway Superintendent and a representative from Regis concerning the round culvert pipe that was incorrectly ordered by the Highway Department last fall on the Staver Eckman Drain. Randy Niccum leveled and seeded the road side because it had started to erode along the bank and road edge. We will reimburse him for the cost of the seed. Mr. Smith stated that it was determined the culvert pipe that was already delivered was sent back to Regis (company where tile was purchased) and they were going to try and compress the (round) tile to fit the existing oval tile. He has not heard back from the company since he talked with them last week.

#### Homer Kester - 2026 spray cycle

Mrs. Slee stated that Troy Miller contacted the office and asked that the ditch not be sprayed from his property side because he claimed there was damage to his property the last time it was sprayed. He asked if the spraying could be done from the other (field) side of the ditch. The field side of the drain has not been cleared so it would be difficult to get spray equipment in and out. She & Mr. See explained that since his property is in the middle of the area to be sprayed, it would cause more damage on neighboring properties to turn around and be more costly. She presented a letter drafted denying Mr. Miller's request and asked the Board to sign the letter if they approve the request. The letter also addresses the burn pile along the edge of the bank which is not allowed and asked him to remove it from the ROW. After discussion, Mr. Niccum motioned to approve sending the letter to Mr. Miller and continue forward with the spray as planned through Mr. Miller's property. Mrs. Ross second. Motion passed 3-0.

#### Heeter-Blickenstaff-Heeter

The Surveyor explained that Shawn Davison contacted the office to let her know he purchased the seeding for the bank that was cleared through his property. The total of the seeding was \$332.50. The Board originally approved a limit of \$300.00 and Mr. Davison wanted to know if the Board would cover the total of the seeding cost. Mr. Niccum motioned to approve the invoice to Shawn Davison in the amount of \$332.50. Mrs. Ross second. Motion passed 3-0.

#### J.H. Elliott Drain

The Surveyor explained that Matt Whitesel has asked to tap into the J.H. Elliott drain. An overview of where he was tapping into the drain was presented to the Board for review. The contractors for the project will be Eads & Son (Tadd Eads). She stated that Mr. Hoover has a private line coming into the main from the west. She will contact Mr. Eads to ensure the private line is not disturbed. Mr. Niccum motioned to allow Mr. Whitesel (Eads & Son) to tap an 8" private line into the J.H. Elliott Drain. Mrs. Ross second. Motion passed 3-0.

#### William Stouffer Drain

Mrs. Slee explained that Tadd Eads contacted the office and wants to run a 6" private line from the north Stouffer Farm property line south to the William Stouffer drain. Mr. Eads thought the drain was in the waterway but records indicate that it actually runs to the west onto the Shepler property. The outlet is not in the best shape so drainage won't be optimal until the main is replaced. Mr. Niccum motioned to allow Eads & Son tap a 6" line into the William Stouffer Drain. Mrs. Ross second. Motion passed 3-0.

#### Henry Bowman Drain

Matthew Bowman – encroachment permit

Matthew Bowman has previously been given permission to place a driveway over the Henry Bowman Drain explained Mrs. Slee. He is now wanting to run utilities under the drain and we have received his application for regulated drain encroachment permit. It was noted that he will need follow the guidelines for installing utilities through a county regulated drain which indicates the lines are to be buried at least three feet under the drain. Board Members approved and signed the regulated drain encroachment permit for Matthew Bowman with the condition that the lines are installed at least three feet under the Henry Bowman Drian.

#### Grossnickle Drain

The Surveyor stated that Jeff Bosler would like to build a 24' x 40' shed within the Grossnickle Drain ROW. Maintenance could be completed from the opposite side of the drain. The drain (which is new) runs west and north of this house. She referred to Indiana code and suggested not to allow the building closer than 35'. Mr. Niccum asked Mr. Bosler (per Zoom) if 35' would give him enough distance for the shed. Mr. Bosler said the distance was measured on GIS when he came in to the office and shed would be approximately 58' (west) and 50' (north) from the drain. Mrs. Slee added that he would be responsible for any damage to the shed if there was a need to work within the (75') ROW. A private drain is located between the Grossnickle Drain and the new shed location. Mr. Bosler would be liable for any damage to the drain with the construction of the shed.

She also said that Mr. See would mark the ditch before construction began. Mr. Niccum motioned to allow Mr. Bosler to build his shed no closer than 35 feet of the Grossnickle Drain. Mrs. Ross second. Motion passed 3-0.

Present: Jeff Bosler via zoom

#### Sharp Creek Drain

Chris Oswalt, Northfield High School Athletic Director, addressed the Board and explained that erosion has created a problem along the left side of their baseball field. There is pipe that drains into the Sharp (open) Drain which has deteriorated and caused erosion which is a problem because the fence is on the top edge of the ditch. Since outlet pipe's are the responsibility of the landowner, they should contact a contractor for repairs. This issue has been addressed in the past but was never fixed. Baseball season is over in June and something needs to be done as soon as possible. There is no vegetation around the fence and bank because maintenance practices in the past have probably led to the erosion that exists along the drain.

Mrs. Slee said that it appears weed killer has been used in the past to control the vegetation/grass along the ditch bank and that is what is needed for erosion control. It was questioned if anything will grow in the area after years of it being sprayed. There are other drain pipes coming into the ditch with over grown vegetation. Mrs. Slee stated that the drain is sprayed for brush every other year but does not kill the grass. Mrs. Slee asked if anything was done that has contributed to more run off at the drain? Mr. Oswalt replied no.

Mr. Oswalt questioned if rip rap should be installed along the ditch. Mrs. Slee stated that depending on how much rip rap was installed, permitting might be required from DNR. She also questioned if there was enough slope area for rip rap with the ball diamond fence so close to the bank. After discussion, Mr. Niccum suggested the first thing to do is address the pipe and get that repaired. Mr. Oswalt said he would call Kevin Brainard so he can get the repair scheduled. Mrs. Slee said she would also contact Kevin Brainard to discuss the issue.

Present: Chris Oswalt and Todd Eltzroth

#### Wilson Hendry Drain

##### Duke Energy

The Surveyor presented maps she received from Duke Energy for a project this summer to upgrade existing transmission lines (poles) which begins in Miami County and continues through several properties in Wabash County. They would like permission to work within the ROW of the (Wilson Hendry) regulated drain involved in the project. She has requested more information regarding the project but has received no response from her requests. It's unsure if they have a ROW agreement with the original landowner. There is also a question if the project is to start this summer, are they reimbursing farmers for crop damage. There could be a lot of private tile affected also. Mr. Niccum stated that he would contact Scott Greiner from Duke Energy for more information. Board Members agreed to have the Surveyor send Duke Energy a regulated drain encroachment permit and also ask for their ROW agreement.

#### Transfer of funds – Auditor

Mrs. Slee presented a claim for repayment of loan/transfer total of \$1,220.00 from #1158 General Drian Improvement to:

#2600 Drain Reconstruction Fund; \$1,220.00

#2700 Drain Maintenance Fund; \$0.00

Mr. Niccum motioned to approve the transfer of \$1,220.00 from General Drain Improvement fund #1158 to #2600 in the amount of \$1,220.00. Mrs. Ross second. Motion passed 3-0.

#### Speicherville - Brian Searing

Mrs. Slee reported that Brian Searing in Speicherville reported standing water on the south side of Washington Street. He questioned if a culvert could be plugged. There are no county regulated drains involved. The Highway Superintendent stated he would investigate.

#### Miscellaneous Drainage business

##### 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; Doug & Marissa Huston, 85-11-35-101-003.000-004, 2 sheds; Jerry Bowman & Tina King, 85-19-27-403-033.000-006, carport; Kevin & Michelle Harrold, 85-20-32-100-021.000-005, shed; Carlos Stinifer, 85-06-30-200-004.000-010, pole barn; Belinda Tackett, 85-05-36-303-002.000-011, shed; John & Melissa Conner, 85-13-11-400-019.000-007, pole barn; Jacob & Megan Eakright, 85-19-07-400-014.000-005, pole barn; Coccojo's Zoomer RV Resort, 85-16-29-100-002.000-003, RV carport; Coccojo's Zoomer RV Resort, 85-16-29-100-002.000-003, gazebo; Steve & Cathy Kirtlan, 85-09-24-400-32.000-007, pole barn; John Fearnow, 85-09-01-101-002.000-001, home addition; Strauss Provini LLC/Brian & Nicole Hoffman, 85-12-29-400-049.000-003, bardominium; Coccojo's A Zoomer RV Resort' 85-16-29-100-002.000-003, carport; Gregory & Jennifer Coyne, 85-12-30-100-030.000-003, new residence structure; Tyler & Alysia Olson, 85-16-31-300-008.000-003, in ground pool & patio; Kathy Presi, 85-03-21-100-038.000-001, new home; Josiah Whites, 85-15-31-300-001.000-007, 2 duplexes; Chandler Birchfield, 85-09-01-101-148.000-11, above ground pool; Robert Beck Trust, 85-11-08-100-012.000-003, shipping container; 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, \$10,891.25 to Banning Engineering; Mr. Niccum motioned to accept the claims as presented. Mrs. Ross seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

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

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Jeff Dawes, Chairman

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Cheryl Ross, Vice-Chairman

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Tyler Niccum, Member