

May 18, 2026

The Wabash County Drainage Board convened at 10:00 a.m. for a regularly scheduled meeting. Board Chairman Jeff Dawes; and Board Member Cheryl Ross was present. Tyler Niccum was absent. 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 May 4, 2026 Drainage Board meeting. Mrs. Ross moved to approve the minutes as written, and Mr. Dawes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 Board vote.

John Maiden Drain

The Surveyor told Board Members that she had a landowner question the watershed regarding the John Maiden Reconstruction project. Pictures of the watershed were presented. She explained that the landowner is on the north end of the watershed and he did not think he would benefit from this reconstruction which is on the southerly branch. In the past the Board determined to keep the drain watersheds as one for the described drain, equally assessed to landowners. It has been suggested breaking a watershed up for extreme situations for reconstruction but keeping it as a whole for maintenance. The total watershed consists of approximately 515 acres and reconstruction cost estimates are \$216.00 per acre. If the watershed was split for reconstruction, it would reduce the acreage to 125 – 150 acres. By breaking up the watershed there would be a significant increase of cost to the remaining landowners benefited.

William Sharp Drain

Mrs. Slee stated that she spoke with Northfield sometime prior regarding the plan of action for the William Sharp Drain. She asked if the Board would like her to contact Kevin Brainard to discuss the possibility of installing rip rap along the bank and at the outlet pipe that is in need of replacement and causing major erosion. If a large quantity of rip rap is required, we will need to apply for permits through DNR. Board Members advised the Surveyor to contact Mr. Brainard for recommendations on repairing the bank with the school's fencing being so close to the bank.

William Stouffer Drain

The Surveyor informed Board Members that she and the Assistant Surveyor inspected a portion of the William Stouffer Drain at Millcreek Pike along the road. There are several holes along the drain and through the woods in the area. In 2019 a project was proposed for repairing the drainage issues with NRCS but the landowner did not want to follow through with the project at that time therefore, leaving several holes in the field.

A map from Galen Miller (Miller & Son Excavating) showing a proposed tap request into the above said drain were presented for Board members to review. The proposed plan for the new drainage tap is to run a 15" private tile from the DeWitt property west along the road and outlet into the open portion of the William Stouffer Drain. While there, they going to repair the holes in the field portion on the Stouffer main.

Mrs. Ross motioned to allow a 15" private tile to tap into the William Stouffer Drain. Mr. Dawes second. Motion passed 3-0.

2026 spray update

Mr. See reported that the spraying company has added a second crew this year. They are beginning at the north and south end of the county noting that one of the crews is using a hummer which leaves less of a footprint. The hummer will be utilized on a ditch that a landowner that had issues with spraying on his property previously. At this time the spray is 25% completed.

Southwood High/Grade School Renovations

The Surveyor stated that she received plans for the Southwood High School / grade school renovations. She and the Assistant Surveyor briefly reviewed the plans and there were a couple of questions but nothing major that deemed necessary to send to our engineers for review at this time.

Michael Bright – Manure Station

Mrs. Slee updated Board Members regarding Micheal Bright's drainage application for a manure storage facility. Amended plans from NRCS show the building was moved south and a swale has been added around the building as requested. Mrs. Ross motioned to approve Micheal Bright's plans for a manure station. Mr. Dawes second. Motion passed 2-0.

Staver Eckman Drain

The Surveyor asked the County Highway Superintendent for an update regarding the drain pipe on the Staver Eckman Drain. Mr. Smith stated that he contacted his pipe company. They did some calculations on the round pipe (incorrect shape) that was purchased earlier for the project. It cannot be retro fitted because once it is flattened the diameter would be too large to match up to the existing pipe in place under the road. Two other vendors were also contacted and are unable to get the pipe in the correct size. He mentioned the alternative plan, that was suggested by the contractor for the open drain (Ingram,) to place pilings down to build up and fill the area with dirt without extending the pipe. Mrs. Slee stated that this project should have been completed by now and time is running out for the seeding. She asked when the round pipe would be moved from the farmer's field. Mr. Smith stated he does not have a way to transport the pipe so he would contact Kevin Brainard to see if he could bring it to the Highway Department yard. Mr. See asked if the pipe can't get moved in a timely manner, could it get moved out of the field and into the drain right of way. Mr. Smith replied that he would move the pipe to the right of way if Mr. Brainard was unable to move the pipe.

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; Tart & 7 Trust; 85-10-18-300-005.000-010; Mrs. Ross motioned to approve the building permits as presented. Mr. Dawes second. Roll call vote, motion carried 2-0.

Claims

The Board reviewed drainage invoices: Maintenance; Samual Miller #606, \$869.00 & \$1,825.00 to Hunter Hauling & Excavating; Heeter, Blickenstaff & Creager #571, \$529.00 to Hunter Hauling & Excavating; William Sharp #636, \$3469.00, to Tart Wildlife Solutions; Marshall Coomler #529, \$1,164.70; Eva Pressler #616, \$1,108.85; Fred Pullen #614, \$2,337.00 to Troy Eads Excavating; Revere Speicher #640B, \$1,460.50 to Eads & Son Bulldozing; Garber Bechtold #558, \$8,055.75 to Bolinger Agricultural Drainage; DC Lavengood #594, \$2,460.00 to Earthworks; \$5,274.25, Jerome Scott #633, Roy Wertenberger #662, \$3,180.50; Rebecca Groninger #563, \$300.00 to Troy Eads Excavating; John Maiden #600, \$285.00 & Ray Figert #552, \$823.75 to Banning Engineering; Joseph Hall #567, \$1,562.19 to Shankster Bros; Mrs. Ross motioned to accept the claims as presented. Mr. Dawes second. Motion passed 2-0.

There being no further business Mrs. Ross made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Dawes seconded the motion. Roll call vote, motion carried 2-0.

Jeff Dawes, Chairman

Cheryl Ross, Vice-Chairman

Tyler Niccum, Member