

August 3, 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 and Deputy Surveyor Tonya Blair and County Highway Supervisor Ryan Smith.

Drainage Board Minutes

Chairman Jeff Dawes initiated the review of the minutes from the July 20, 2026 Drainage Board meeting. Mrs. Ross moved to approve the minutes as written, and Mr. Niccum seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 Board vote.

Staver Eckman / Kennedy Hamilton Drain
MCC encroachment application

The Surveyor presented maps showing of proposed locations that MCC Network Services plan to install underground fiber optics within the above said drain ROW's. She suggested that the Assistant Surveyor should be present when they are working within the ROW. The application specifies that MCC Network Services are responsible for locating the drains and liable for any damages at their expense. Board Members discussed adding a fee to permit applications for regulated drains and it was decided that the County Attorney should be contacted on how to proceed. Discussion was also held regarding the sub-contractors that utility companies hire are possibly not aware of the depth requirements for the buried cable.

Mr. Niccum motioned to approve the encroachment permit application for MCC Network Services. Mrs. Ross second. Motion passed 3-0. Board Members signed the permit application with restriction added that Mr. See is present when any work is done within the ROW.

Transfer of funds – Auditor

Mrs. Slee presented a claim for repayment of loan/transfer total of \$23,344.18 from #1158 General Drian Improvement to:
#2600 Drain Reconstruction Fund; \$12,041.06
#2700 Drain Maintenance Fund; \$11,303.12

Mr. Niccum motioned to approve the transfer of \$23,344.18 from General Drain Improvement fund #1158 to #2600 in the amount of \$12,041.06 and to #2700 in the amount of \$11,303.12. Mrs. Ross second. Motion passed 3-0.

Revere Speicher Drain

The Surveyor stated that the Revere Speicher loan was recently paid off and we received a check back from the bank for over payment in the amount of \$0.79. Board Members signed the Auditor's form acknowledging the receipt of the \$0.79 which will be put back into the Revere Speicher drain maintenance fund.

Lester Stuber Drain

Mrs. Slee explained that she sent Army Corp, DNR and IDEM information regarding Bowman's request for bottom dipping and clearing of the Lester Stuber and John Rudicel / J.M. Hoover Drains. DNR and IDEM have approved the submitted plans for the work on the two drains. We are still waiting to hear from Army Corps. A section of the drain will have to be done through the Drainage Board with supervision which involves the one step method with trees cut and treated. If Bowman's prefer to pay for the project and do the work themselves, they would have to re-apply for a permit on their own. We will wait to see what Army Corp says regarding the issue.

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; James & Jody Olinger, 85-09-01-101-051.000-011, deck; Vicki Pizur, 85-14-36-400-016.000-007, screened porch/ all season room; Mrs. Ross motioned to approve the building permits as presented. Mr. Dawes second. Roll call vote, motion carried 3-0.

Claims

The Board reviewed drainage invoices: Reconstruction: John Maiden #600, \$19.23 to Paxton Media Group; Henry Keaffaber #584, \$3,515.66 & JH Elliott #543, \$18,336.46 to Crossroads Bank (loan payments)

Mrs. Ross motioned to accept the claims as presented. Mr. Niccum second. 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

Homer Miller Drain Hearing

The Wabash County Drainage Board convened at 11:00 a.m. for the Homer Miller Hearing. Board Chairman Jeff Dawes; Board Members Cheryl Ross and Tyler Niccum were present. Others in attendance included: Surveyor Cheri Slee, Assistant Surveyor Braden See and Deputy Surveyor Tonya Blair.

Others present: Max Meyer, Tony Krom and John Myers

Chairman Dawes opened the meeting and turned it over to the Surveyor who explained the purpose of the meeting was to establish a one year higher maintenance establish an annual maintenance for the Homer Miller Drain. After an informal meeting with landowners and after investigation it was determined that there is a need for repair work on the drain. The report prepared on June 22, 2026 determined the maintenance project estimate to be \$56,005.00.

She described the scope of the project which consists of approximately 1,200 feet of 18” tile and a 60” manhole. Tile investigation is needed to determine the extent of the repairs. Included in the quote was lateral connections and restoration for the waterway. There will be some adjustments but we won’t know those until the contractor is out there. The estimate per acre is \$96.45 / acre and \$50.00 minimum.

Mr. Dawes opened up the floor to questions from the audience.

Max Meyer asked how many acres are in the watershed how it the price per acre is determined. Mrs. Slee replied that there is 579.742 acres in the watershed and explained how the price per acre was calculated.

Max Meyer expressed his concerns about starting the project in the middle of the tile and the cost of the project, especially with property taxes added in. He thought it might take a couple of years to re coop however, the repairs are needed and did not see another way to do it. Max mentioned that the information sent to landowners should have an explanation as to why the project is necessary. Mrs. Slee explained that notices were sent to landowner regarding the informal meeting and today’s hearing so they can express questions or concerns they might have on the project. She further stated that the board could consider giving landowners two years to pay for the project, basically cutting the proposed assessment in half and be considered a two year higher maintenance. There would be the additional expense of the annual maintenance for the second year due to the maintenance assessment.

Mr. Myers asked if there was more expense for the manhole would there be less tile footage needed. Mrs. Slee stated that in that case it would be brought before the Drainage Board on how to proceed.

Mr. Niccum added that it depends on how much more funding is needed, if it’s a small amount we will try to figure it out. We hope to get the project completed within the proposed estimate without shortening the footage.

Mrs. Slee said we do have the option of going over 10% of the project cost (around \$5000.00).

Mr. Krom thought the proposed project would take care of a big part of the problem and take care of the holes on his property.

Mrs. Slee stated that the Drainage Board did receive an objection to the Homer Miller maintenance project from John Myers which Mr. Dawes read. The letter addressed his concern that the name brand of the tile was not specified on the supplemental quote form. Fratco tile which consists of 5/16” hole sizes compared to Springfield tile that has 1/8” holes. Fratco tile would be better suited for the project because of the larger hole size which would provide better drainage.

Mrs. Slee asked if there were the same amount of holes on both brands of tile. Mr. Myers stated yes, same amount of holes and rows per foot.

Mrs. Slee said that three contractors were contacted to quote the project. Eads & Son did not submit a quote. The quotes are listed below (does not include lateral taps) :

1. Earthworks - \$51,097.00
2. Troy Eads Excavating - \$57,200.00

She added that Mr. Bostwick based his quote off of Springfield tile because it was considerably lower than Fratco, but he did not specify an exact amount on the difference in pricing.

Mr. Myers asked how it could be done to get Mr. Bostick to use Fratco tile.

Mr. Niccum stated that if it’s a significant increase, everyone’s cost will increase.

Mrs. Slee mentioned that per Indiana Code, if a landowner wants something specific that changes the cost of the project then the landowner can be responsible to pay the difference.

Mr. Krom thought that either tile would provide good drainage as long as the tile was bedded in stone. This would eliminate the holes in his field and give Mr. Myers adequate drainage.

Mr. Niccum noted that they are both good products and did not see justification for using Fratco since this would be an increase in cost to landowners.

Mr. Myers objected to the brand of tile because of the size of the holes.

Max Meyer indicated that dividing the payments over two years would be beneficial to him.

Mr. Myers and Mr. Krom did not have any preference regarding the one or two year higher.

After discussion, Mr. Niccum motioned to approve a two year higher maintenance (amending the proposed project) to move forward with the project. Mrs. Ross second. Motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Niccum motioned to accept Earthwork’s bid (\$51,097.00) as presented. Mrs. Ross second. Motion passed 3-0.

Mrs. Slee explained that Indiana code requires that a maintenance is set up on drains. The proposed amounts are \$10.00 / acre, \$20.00 minimum which totals \$5,869.91. The four year balance is \$23,479.64. There is more work that is needed on the drain and this fund would be used for that purpose.

Mr. Niccum motioned to accept the new maintenance of \$10.00/acre and \$20.00 minimum (Total \$5839.91) as presented.

Mrs. Ross second. Motion passed 3-0.

Chairman Dawes stated that with no further business asked for a motion to close the hearing.

Mr. Niccum motioned to close the hearing. Mrs. Ross second. Motion passed 3-0.

