

September 2, 2025

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

Drainage Board Minutes

Chairman Tyler Niccum initiated the review of the minutes from the August 18, 2025 Drainage Board meeting. Mr. Dawes moved to approve the minutes as written, and Mrs. Ross seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 Board vote.

Mrs. Slee explained that Joe Miller (replacing Max Kolb), Banning Engineering, was present to update Board Members on the current projects that are underway. Preparations for the bid docs for the Henry Keaffaber and the Staver Eckman are ready and preliminary plans for the Ray Figert Drain Reconstruction.

Mrs. Slee mentioned that Mr. Miller has calculated the additional acreage needed for the relocation of the open drain. She said she would work on acquiring appraisals. Mr. Miller presented bidding options and meeting dates to the Board. After discussion, Board members agreed that the contractor be given the option of either completing the project this fall or next spring depending on the weather with a six-week time frame for completion and to award the project on October 6, 2025. Mr. Miller said he would contact Mrs. Slee in about a week to select a time to open bids.

Mr. Miller asked if the appeal process for the judicial review for the Henry Keaffaber Drain had expired. Mrs. Slee replied that the deadline would be up on September 4, 2025. The landowners would like to have this project done before spring planting. Mr. Miller asked if it was feasible to award bids on the same time table as the Staver-Eckman on October 6, 2025. Board Members agreed to the October 6th date for both projects. Mr. Miller questioned the time frame for completion, noting that the railroad and the open cut through State Rd 13 would need to be considered when deciding on the time frame. Mr. Miller suggested a stipulation to include the starting date for the project after April 15 because of the need for warmer weather to pave the open cut through State Rd. 13, and a completion date for mid – August. He stated he will work on the pre bid and make sure the railroad documents are completed. Since the reconstruction project involves the railroad and SR13, Mr. Miller recommended a pre-bid meeting. Board Members agreed.

Mr. Miller stated that the Ray Figert drain was extended from the branch to CR 550 and the cost estimate has not been completed for this part of the reconstruction project. Mrs. Slee explained that certain landowners requested the extension which will be ready to go if approved. Mr. Miller said he would work on preparing the reconstruction report and estimate to present at the October 6, 2025 Drainage Board meeting. Mrs. Slee stated that the extension from the branch to CR 550 would be considered an alternate option for the reconstruction project. Mr. Miller questioned if the specs should include the county highway to provide stone and asphalt for the highway crossings. Mr. Smith and the Board said they would provide both stone and asphalt for the reconstruction project. Mr. Miller stated he would contact Mrs. Slee regarding the online bidding through Bid Express for Henry Keaffaber and Staver Eckman projects.

Mr. Miller updated the Board regarding over haul of the County Ordinances and stated that there have been a lot of man hours put into it and at this point, it's almost a re-write. Estimated cost for Banning to continue and finish the project would be \$85,000.00 but knowing funding is an issue for the county, we could possibly get it reduced to \$70,000.00. He noted that it's important to get the ordinances correct to fit the county. Mr. Miller stated that he and Mary will be presenting the ordinance changes at the October 2 Plan Commission meeting. Board Members will contact the Auditor and Plan Commission director to discuss funding and how to proceed with the re-write.

Thad Reynolds Drain Reconstruction

The Surveyor reported that Mr. See had taken shots on the project and it was discovered that there were several taps hooked into the main approximately 20 – 40 feet on each side of the newly installed county main tile. There have been a lot of things done on this reconstruction that wasn't on the plans that were presented for the project or approved by the Surveyor and/or Drainage Board. Mr. Dawes questioned if we should put a limit on the amount of taps coming into the main drain. Mrs. Slee had concerns that the tile coming into the Osborne property has not been connected to the new tile. Evan Bowman told her that they did not find the tile that was marked on the map coming into the Osborne property and that he was going to run a new line to the north from their property line. Herself and Mr. See visited the site and noted that they found the 8" tile along the north fence line of the Osborne property near where it shows on the map. Tile was probed and found to continue into the Osborne's pasture. She spoke with the Osbornes, and they have also expressed their concerns. It was questioned if the relief well at the Bassett property line was working as it should. Mrs. Slee stated that there hasn't been enough rain to evaluate it at the time. After discussion, Board Members directed Mrs. Slee to contact the Bowmans to stop tapping directly into the County regulated drain and attend the next Drainage Board meeting.

Miscellaneous Drainage business Timothy Eviston – Pond

Information presented by the Plan Commission for a pond permit for Timothy Eviston (85-15-25-100-002.000-003, PT N ½ NW ¼ 25-27-7, 4.12A) was brought before the Board for their consideration. It was noted there was no involvement with any county regulated drains. After review, Mr. Dawes motioned for a favorable recommendation. Mrs. Ross second. Motion passed 3-0.

(Building Permits)

Building permits meeting the requirements established by the County Drainage Board at the January 17, 2023 meeting to allow the County Surveyor's approval for minor impact construction were presented to the Board for their acknowledgement. The varied requests were for the following; Jeremy & Emily Buzzard, 85-10-16-300-007.000-010, deck &

patio; Ryan & Ashli Pershing, 85-15-24-400-013.000-003, above ground pool; Robert Beck Trust, 85-11-08-100-012.000-003,shed; Kenneth & Antonita Miller, 85-18-14-100-002.000-013, deck & lean to; Adam & Michelle Holbrook, 85-06-16-300-009.000-012, above ground pool; George & Jennifer Unger, 85-14-31-400-029.000-007, pole barn; Proactive Income Fund II, LLC, 85-19-22-300-008.000-005, New manufactured home; Tammy Truman, 85-11-22-400-020.000-003, shed; Tim & Alyson Adams, 85-11-23-300-008.000.003; Corey & Katherine Phillipy, 85-12-20-300-029.000-003, new home; James & Cheryl Barton, 85-15-27-400-018.000-003, pole barn & shed; Troy, Terry & Tony Roser, 85-15-24-300-004.000-003, 2 grain bins; Jack & Darla Lumpkin, 85-11-23-300-011.000-003, gazebo; Brian & Shirley Powell, 85-09-12-200-014.000-010, pole barn; Shawn & Deborah Payne, 85-11-17-200-004.000-003, new home; Timothy Powers, 85-11-31-200-015.000-003; Alan & Emile Cook, 85-03-19-300-014.000-001, mini barn/playhouse; 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 maintenance invoices: There were no claims to review.

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

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| Tyler Niccum, Chairman | Jeff Dawes, Vice-Chairman | Cheryl Ross, Member |