

September 8, 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 Attorney, Mark Frantz.

Drainage Board Minutes

Chairman Jeff Dawes initiated the review of the minutes from the August 17, 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.

Logan Charles – Huntington Co. Drain

Surveyor reported that she contacted Huntington County Surveyor's Office and it was verified that they have the majority of the watershed. We will move forward to waive Wabash County Drainage Board's rights regarding the maintenance project they have proposed for the Logan Charles Drain.

Obstruction Removal – Findings & Order

Kevin Bowman – private drainage issue

Mrs. Slee explained that Mr. Frantz has reviewed the paperwork that Bowman's provided. There was an official decision on the matter but the findings and order have not been signed.

Mr. Frantz referenced the court case that Evan Bowman had presented at the hearing (August 5, 2026) but stated that our case is different in that it involves the Drainage Board and there was no evidence provided to prove the drain was mutual. Mr. Frantz reminded the Board that Bowman's provided pictures stating a mutual drain exists and the US presented the inspection of the property when they purchased it showing no mutual drain was present. Based on what was presented from the Bowman's, there is no evidence that the drain is a mutual drain. After further discussion, Mr. Niccum motioned to adopt the findings and order prepared by Mr. Frantz. Mrs. Ross second. Motion passed 3-0.

Staver Eckman Drain

The Surveyor presented the estimate for the placement of rip rap on the north side of the Staver Eckman Drain. The area is approximately 600' x 25' and the estimate total is \$28,360.00. The rip rap is about the same cost as a blanket and there is no guarantee that the blanket would work because the existing soils are sand & gravel and not ideal for growing grass (previous seeding and applications have not taken). The matter was discussed with Joe Miller (Banning Engineering) who thought the estimate was a good price for the rip rap. Mrs. Ross motioned to accept the estimate from Troy Eads Excavating for \$28,360.00 for the Staver Eckman Drain. Mr. Niccum second. Motion passed 3-0.

Kennedy Hamilton / J.W. Lines / & Ray Bechtold Drains

Lightpath Encroachment permits

Mrs. Slee previously discussed adding permit fees to our encroachment permits with Mr. Frantz since there are a large number of encroachment permits coming in to the office. There is a lot of work involved with the permits, especially the larger ones. The fees could be a recourse for issues that arise if there are damages from a utility company on one of our ditches. Discussion was held on how much to charge for an application fee and Board Members asked the Surveyor to check with other counties before determining any fees. Mr. Niccum motioned to approve the Lightpath encroachment permits for the Kennedy Hamilton / J.W. Lines / & Ray Bechtold Drains. Mrs. Ross second. Motion passed 3-0.

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; William & Jessica Gallo, 85-18-07-200-002.000-013, wood deck; Sarah Hill, 85-07-27-200-011.000-001, New home; Brandon & Schultheiss, 85-19-05-100-039-000-005, pole barn addition; Carma & Bruce Foster, 85-06-10-402-023.000-012, sun room; Grant Kelley, 85-19-06-100-001.000-005, ag storage; Sean & Victoria Johnson, 85-18-27-402-025.000-013; William & Chane Graf, 85-19-36-200-010.000-005; Star Lutz & Ricardo luz Nava, 85-18-12-400-017.000-013, barn addition/ lean to; Melvin & Bertha Schwartz, 85-15-54-200-006.000-003, new home; Cocojo's A Zoomer RV Resort, 85-16-29-100-002.000-003, canopy/ carport deck & steel carport; Homestead Pork, LLC, Rod Merrick, 85-10-09-400-015.000-010, hog barn; Wes & Kelli Penrod, 85-07-12-100-003.000-001, barn w/2 lean tos; Andrew & Mary Hilty, 85-15-54-200-053.000-003, barn; Mr. Niccum motioned to approve the building permits as presented. Mrs. Ross second. Roll call vote, motion carried 3-0.

Claims

No. 266

The Board reviewed drainage invoices: Maintenance; Chinworth Hoover Heagy Drain #522, \$2181.12 & Paw Paw Drain #612, \$1995.00 to Tart Wildlife Solutions; Mr. Niccum motioned to accept the claims as presented. Mrs. Ross second. 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.

Jeff Dawes, Chairman

Cheryl Ross, Vice-Chairman

Tyler Niccum, Member