

November 3, 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

Correction of Minutes

Mrs. Slee stated there was a correction on the Minutes from 10-6-25. The Lexis and Aaron Frahm pond was tabled and approval was not given at the meeting.

Drainage Board Minutes

Chairman Tyler Niccum initiated the review of the minutes from the October 20, 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.

William Talbert Drain

Mr. Niccum welcomed Joe Sutton to the meeting and explained that there were concerns along the William Talbert Drain on his property where dirt bike paths have been installed and small trees have grown that could create drainage issue. Mr. Sutton stated that he has not maintained the area like he used to because they do not use the dirt bike trails since his kids have grown. He said he would clean up the area along the drain and keep it mowed. Mrs. Slee noted that there were small trees that have grown up and could become a problem. We just need to make sure there is an open path along the drain and also mentioned that if any drainage issues arise concerning the drain, that he should report it to the office.

Bachelor Creek Drain – log jam removal

The Surveyor reported that the office sent out post cards to landowners to notify them that contractors will be working to remove log jams along the Bachelor Creek Drain. Written invitations for bids for the project were presented to Board Members for review as followed;

Eads & Son Bulldozing –	\$9,246.25
Hunter Hauling & Excavating -	\$12,700.00
Troy Eads Excavating -	\$13,684.45
Hill's Fencing & Landscaping -	\$8,506.55

One of the landowners on the upper end questioned if he could keep the logs that are removed from his property and if he would be allowed to do the work himself. It was explained to the landowner, Mr. Landis, that written invitations for bids were obtained from contractors who have previously worked for the County. The landowner then came to the office with Jarrod Hill, Hill's Landscaping and Fencing and asked if they could quote the project. It's unclear if Mr. Landis works for Mr. Hill and it was mentioned that Mr. Hill might have a connection and has worked with Eric Bostwick, Earthworks, who has done a lot of work for the County. Mr. See added that this is a larger project and using DNR methods current county contractors are familiar with the scope of the work. After discussion, Board members agreed that although Hill's Fencing was the lowest bid, he needs to begin with smaller county projects until he gets established in working with the County. Mr. Dawes motioned to approve the written invitation bid from Eads & Son of \$9,246.25 for log jam removal on the Bachelor Creek Drain. Mrs. Ross second Motion passed 3-0. Board Members signed the contract awarding the project to Eads and Son Bulldozing.

Staver Eckman Drain #641A Drain Relocation Project

The Surveyor explained that when the contractor discovered bad soil which was spongy – moral along the road side of the ditch. The bad soil was dug out and was replaced with rip rap to ensure that the ditch is stable. Pictures were presented for Board members to review. There was also water standing after the bad soil was dug and a french drain was installed across to the new ditch. The contractor had concerns that since there wasn't much soil around the east side of the ditch bank could possibly fail. Board members agreed that the best option would be is to extend the pipe about 20 feet so more cover, stone and/or dirt could be placed over it to add more berm to the road. It was questioned how the pipe would be funded. Mr. Smith stated that he might have funding available for the expansion pipe. Mr. Niccum, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Slee and Mr. See agreed to meet at the site later in the day to assess the situation. It was questioned if more money should be offered to the land owner for compensation. Board members agreed to the payment of \$6,500.00 for the land acquisition highest appraisal. Mrs. Slee said Mr. Randy Niccum, the landowner, thought the ground for the land acquisition would not be eligible for the CRP program. Susie from NRCS was contacted and she said that the contract has ended but they would be able to renew it next year as a

new contract with the consideration that some farm ground was used for the ditch relocation. The contractor would need to expand the seeding 15 feet.

Henry Keaffaber Drain Reconstruction

The Surveyor explained that Mr. Ringel wanted to pay ahead for his portion of the Henry Keaffaber Reconstruction to avoid bank loan interest, she then presented three options for the Board to review for the bank loan. After review and discussion, Board Members agreed to obtain a bank loan in the amount of \$167,500.00. Mr. Ringel's estimated cost for his portion of the project is \$74,183.83. Mrs. Slee told Mr. Ringel that he would be reimbursed if there was any money that was not used for the project. Funding for INDOT's portion of the project was agreed to come from EDIT funds since that money would be refunded back to the County from the State. The contractor said work could begin on State Rd 13 within the next week and that all structures have been ordered. There was discussion at the pre bid meeting that Eads and Dawes had concerns about the main crossing their 10" lateral. The engineer revised the plans to move the drain approximately 30 feet instead of 50 and this would mean at some point of the trees would need to be cleared back farther from the woods.

Spray quotes 2026

Mrs. Slee stated that she received a response from the county attorney regarding spray contracts. The Indiana code does not reference anything specifically for 3 years. Contracts can be renewed without re-bidding but any change in price would need to be detailed in the original contract per Indiana code. Mr. Frantz recommended that the rate should be noted on the contract.

Lavengood Drain

The Surveyor reported that the outlet to Lavengood drain was plugged with trees and brush. This was discussed at a drainage board meeting earlier this spring and there was no funding available but a decision was made by the Board to move forward with clearing the outlet since it was considered an emergency situation. Pictures of the cleared outlet (2 pipes) were presented. We need to figure out a way to keep the outlet cleared. Since the outlet is working, the farmer can utilize the ground closer to the drain to possibly help keep the area maintained.

Miscellaneous Drainage business

Lexis & Aaron Frahm – Pond

Information provided by the Plan Commission for a pond permit for Lexis & Aaron Frahm (85-10-01-300-013.000-010, PT N1/2 E1/2 SW1/4, 1-28-6) was brought before the Board for their consideration.

Mrs. Slee stated that she reviewed NRCS plans showing tile placement of private tile in the location of the proposed pond. Scott Eads, the contractor, said he plans to hook into existing private tile and if anything changes, he would contact the office. BZA has approved the pond as long as Drainage Board approved the outlet. Mr. Dawes motioned for favorable recommendation on the Lexis and Aaron Frahm pond. Mrs. Ross second. Motion carried 3-0.

Adam & Rachel Hovermale – Pond

Information presented by the Plan Commission for a pond permit for Adam & Rachel Hovermale (85-15-27-300-008.000-003, PT SW ¼, 27-27-7, 2.62 ac) was brought before the Board for their consideration.

Mr. See told Board Members that he did speak to Evan Bowman who said that the perimeter tile has been installed around the Hovermale property. Mr. Bowman stated that he would contact the Hovermale's to inform them they could run a new line and hook up to the new perimeter lines. Mr. See stated that Mr. Bowman told him he would take care of any issues if there were any problems with the perimeter drain. Mrs. Ross suggested that we have a record of where the Hovermale's tile is hooked into the perimeter tile.

McColley- Vigar – Obstruction removal

Mrs. Slee stated that she had previously spoke with the both Mr. McColley and the farmer who farms the land owned by Mr. Vigar (the landowner) regarding an obstruction removal. The farmer agreed to remove the obstruction but it did not get completed. She advised Mr. McColley that per protocol, the next step would be to send the landowner a certified letter asking him to remove the obstruction. A copy of the certified letter prepared by Joe Eddingfield, attorney, was presented for review. Mr. McColley later called into the office and said the obstruction had been removed.

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; Joseph Wright, 85-15-28-100-003.000-007, pole barn; MSD of Wabash County, 85-10-24-400-006.000-007, handhold electric box; Josh & Shanna Prater, 85-11-30-200-016.000-003, lean-to; Nathan & Kristen Mattern, 85-10-15-300-016.000-010, home addition; Jack Smith, 85-15-16-300-057.000-003, new home; Robert Gray, 85-14-36-400-020.000-007, pole barn; 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: Reconstruction: Ray Figert #552, \$4327.50 & \$1780.00 to Banning Engineering; Henry Keaffaber #584, \$288.75 & \$762.50 to Banning Engineering; EDIT funds: Staver Eckman #641A, \$400.00 to Lundquist Appraisals.

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

Tyler Niccum, Chairman

Jeff Dawes, Vice-Chairman

Cheryl Ross, Member