

December 1, 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 November 17, 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.

Henry Keaffaber Reconstruction

Mrs. Slee updated Board Members on the Henry Keaffaber Drain Reconstruction. She stated that she, Tyler Niccum, Jeff Dawes and the assistant Surveyor met with Tadd Eads, Corbin Dawes and the Rex Grossman, to discuss the portion of the drain along the woods. It was determined that approximately forty feet of the woods needs cleared back from the drain and will be asking for an estimate for the additional expense. The Contractor, Taylor Smith later contacted the office and said he was questioning hooking the new tile into the old main under the road (CR 100E) because it was in poor condition and in need of replacement. At that time, Board Members were contacted and were in agreement that the tile under the road should be replaced. Our legal jurisdiction stops at the west side of road but since this involved the county highway, it was agreed to extend the 18” through the road. Contractor will supply the pipe and the Highway Department will provide the backfill and apply cold patch to the road. Once that is finished, the project is done except for a few connections. Restoration will be completed next spring.

The Surveyor said she has received Smith Excavating’s invoice for INDOT’s portion of the reconstruction project. There was an additional \$25,000.00 (original bid \$66,500.00) added to the cost of the road cut because of old bridge decking in the road and the cost of removing the debris and additional fill and asphalt. The State is to reimburse the County for the entire cost (91,500.00).

Mrs. Ross motioned to approve the change order for the additional \$25,000.00 to Smith Excavating for the Henry Keaffaber Reconstruction. Mr. Dawes second. Motion Carried 3-0.

Staver Eckman Drain #641A Drain Relocation Project

Mr. Smith (Highway Superintendent) reported that Kevin Brainard has removed the sediment around the existing road pipe to determine the size for the pipe extension. Work on the culvert pipe was halted due to the holidays and weather.

The Surveyor mentioned that Randy Niccum had concerns with leveling along the edge of the road for mowing reasons. Mr. Smith said he wasn’t sure at this point what would need to be done to the road edge. Shoulder stone is a possibility but would like to wait and address the issue after the new culvert pipe was installed to determine the best solution to repair it. Tyler Niccum agreed.

Randy Niccum also had concerns that the seeding might not grow due to the weather and soil condition questioned if he could do it himself. Tyler Niccum added that we need to wait till spring to evaluate it. Mrs. Slee said that Kevin Brainard will also have seeding to do then and agreed to address the issue next spring.

J.M. Moyer Drain

Non – certified

Mrs. Slee stated that Rex Grossman purchased land north of CFS in Urbana that he is system draining and has asked for permission to connect four to five laterals into the above said county drain. A hearing was held years ago and the landowners requested that no maintenance be collected on the drain but did not want it vacated. Mr. Grossman said there was a hole in the main drain but since there are no maintenance funds, he was told he would have to repair it himself.

Mr. Dawes motioned to approve Mr. Grossman plan for connecting his (4-5) laterals into the J.M. Moyer Drain. Mrs. Ross second. Motion passed 3-0.

Bachelor Creek Drain – Log jam removal

Mrs. Slee stated that the log jam removal was completed and she presented pictures showing the cleared areas along the creek.

North Ridge Estates Sub-Division – North Manchester

The Surveyor reported that she received an e-mail from the county attorney which stated that the Drainage Board could give approval for the drainage system but according to the City of Manchester’s ordinances, the Town should be the one to enforce it. Ian McFarland (landowner within the sub-division) talked with a couple of Board Members from the Manchester Town Board who requested a letter from the Drainage Board and the County Attorney to verify that the Drainage Board is not required to enforce any drainage system issues. An enforcement authority opinion letter was drafted by County Attorney Mark Frantz and presented to Board Members to review. After review, Board Members signed the letter. Mr. Dawes motioned to approve and send the Enforcement Authority Opinion Letter to the North Manchester Town Board. Mrs. Ross second. Motion carried, 3-0.

Miscellaneous Drainage business

The Surveyor presented a claim for loan/transfer from #1158 general drain improvement fund in the amount of \$28,948.47 for Board Members to review. Totals are as follows:

\$12,653.47 to Drain Reconstruction fund #2600

\$16,295.00 to Drain Maintenance fund #2700

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: Aaron & Lexus Frahm, 85-10-01-300-013.000-010, New home & porches; Erin Jones, 85-18-09-100-004.000-013, pole barn; Roger & Ann Votaw, 85-13-52-100-002.000-007, new home. 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: Maintenance funds; Jerome Scott #633, \$3352.60 & George Ed Wolfe #664, \$1,800.00 to Troy Eads Excavating; South River Road #648, \$450.00 to American Eagle Lawn & Landscaping

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

Tyler Niccum, Chairman

Jeff Dawes, Vice-Chairman

Cheryl Ross, Member