

August 4, 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 and were present. Others in attendance included: County Surveyor, Cheri Slee; Assistant Surveyor, Braden See; Wabash County Highway, Cole Wyatt and Assistant Tonya Blair

Drainage Board Minutes

Chairman Tyler Niccum initiated the review of the minutes from the July 21, 2025 Drainage Board meeting. Mrs. Ross moved to approve the minutes as written, and Mr. Dawes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 Board vote.

Long Lake Private drainage issue

Chairman Niccum opened the floor to David Terflinger to speak regarding a drainage issue with his neighbor on Long Lake. Mr. Terflinger was requesting that the permit issued for his neighbor's gazebo be rescinded because it has created a drainage issue on his property. The neighbor installed a gazebo and boulders that according to Mr. Terflinger, has raised the elevation of the property and because of the fill is causing the water to drain on his property. Mr. Wyatt explained that the Drainage Board does not issue the building permits. Drainage approval is just a step in the permit process and their decision is based on the drainage of the structure and impact to a county regulated drain. It was expressed to Mr. Terflinger that the Drainage Board would not be able to rescind a permit given by the Plan Commission. The obstruction removal law was then discussed. After further discussion, it was suggested that Mr. Terflinger contact IDEM and Board Members agreed that his request concerning the permit would need to be addressed by the Plan Commission Board.

Ray Figert Drain Proposed Reconstruction

The Surveyor presented her report on the proposed Ray Figert Reconstruction (joint drain w/Miami Co) and increased maintenance which included a reconstruction project location map. She explained that the total reconstruction cost estimate of \$217,842.75 included a 15% contingency (\$23,457.75), additional expenses of engineering, and an estimated interest amount for a bank loan. A proposed schedule of assessments and the revised watershed map were also presented. Mrs. Ross questioned the tile repair that was recently completed on the upper end by landowners without workorder approval. Mrs. Slee said those repairs were completed on the very upper end of the drain at a cost to the landowners of approximately \$6000.00 which could have been paid from the maintenance fund had a work order been completed. Mrs. Slee explained that the proposed reconstruction project would begin at the outlet on the north corner of Riverdale Farms (800 W and State Rd 16), south and ending south of the property line on the Kirtlan farm where the branch intersects with the main. Todd Kirtlan has expressed interest in extending the project through his property to CR 550 N. Mrs. Slee stated that she has asked the engineer to work on a preliminary plan for the additional expansion (alternate reconstruction) through the Kirtlan property. This is not included in the projected cost estimates, but the plan will be completed and ready for the hearing if they choose to expand the project. The Surveyor explained that the reconstruction assessments were calculated at the same per acre rate of \$236.20, with a \$125.00/minimum. She had suggested a rate per acre charge since it was assessed that way in the past and the watershed is Ag zoned. After discussion, Mr. Dawes motioned to accept the Surveyor's report for the proposed reconstruction, including the reconstruction schedule of assessments on the Ray Figert Drain. Mrs. Ross second. Motion passed 3-0.

Mrs. Slee suggested an increased maintenance for the above said drain of \$6.00/acre, \$25.00/minimum with a four year balance of \$23,472.92. The last time there was an increase on maintenance was 1980. After discussion, Mrs. Ross motioned to accept the increased maintenance of \$6.00/acre, \$25.00/minimum. Mr. Dawes second. Motion passed 3-0.

Frank Truss Drain Reconstruction

The Surveyor stated that she calculated the contract and expenses for the Frank Truss Reconstruction and determined that a loan in the amount of \$80,900.00 will need to be obtained to reconstruct the lower portion of the above said drain. There is a 10% contingency included in the loan amount. Mrs. Ross motioned to accept the bank loan in the amount of \$80,900.00 for the Frank Truss drain reconstruction. Mr. Dawes second. Motion passed 3-0.

Board Members signed Resolution #2025-85-06 requesting the Wabash County Council to obtain a loan to finance reconstruction of the Frank Truss Drain.

Thad Reynolds Drain

Mrs. Slee stated she spoke with Evan White from IDEM regarding the 368 review that is required before work can begin on the open portion of the above said drain project. Mr. See spoke with Evan Bowman who informed him that completed the field review was given a verbal consent from IDEM in favor of their proposed project (tiling a portion of the open county drain). Nothing has been confirmed in writing.

Mrs. Slee has not been able to reach Mr. White to verify. A map was presented showing the tile replacement that has been completed on the project. They have installed the 36" line parallel to the open drain (approximately 60 feet away), but the open has not been filled in at this time. Mr. See has been onsite every day to map the project and noted it should be completed soon. Mr. Niccum asked that the Drainage Board be contacted when there is word from IDEM.

Bertha Trickle Drain

The Surveyor explained the above said drain had been replaced using AARPA funds within the last few years and a sink hole has developed in county road close to the area where the new drain was installed. This has been filled in once and needs attention due to the significant size of the hole. Kevin Brainard (Brainard Excavating) was the contractor for the project and it was suggested that he look at it to determine if there was an issue from the installation or something else. There is no funding for this drain since it's not a certified county drain so we will have to find funding for the repairs if needed. Mrs. Slee stated that she would contact Mr. Brainard to have him investigate. Mr. Wyatt stated that he did not feel the hole was patched correctly the first time and he would have the highway to do a more permanent repair.

Rebecca Groninger Open Drain

Maintenance Spraying

Mrs. Slee stated that she received a call from Matt Kennedy who complained that a tire from the spraying equipment damaged a walnut tree along the open ditch on his property. It was noted that it was necessary to get that close to the tree to keep the equipment from rolling into the ditch. Mr. Kennedy requested that he would like to spray the ditch that portion of the open drain on his property from now on. The Surveyor had told Mr. Kennedy that she would send him the paper work to complete exempting his property from the maintenance program. Board Members agreed that inspections of the site would be needed to ensure spraying was effective and that the landowner would be responsible for reimbursing the County for spraying if it is not sprayed properly.

(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; Seth & Sabrina Cussen, 85-14-07-400-036.000-007, lean to; Mark & Tricia Crull, 85-17-25-400-015.000-013, shed; Robert & Marilyn Wintrode, 85-16-32-200-018.000-013; Kloe Teulker, 85-18-13-300-008.000-003, shed; Daniel & Shelley Swihart, 85-11-29-100-012.000-003, carport. 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: Maintenance: 2025 spray contract to Dalton’s Inc, \$41,795.96. Mr. Dawes motioned to approve payment of the invoice submitted. Mrs. Ross second. Motion passed, 3-0.

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

Tyler Niccum, Chairman

Jeff Dawes, Vice-Chairman

Cheryl Ross, Member