

June 15, 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 (via zoom) were present. Others in attendance included: Surveyor, Cheri Slee; Assistant Surveyor, Braden See and Deputy Surveyor Tonya Blair

Drainage Board Minutes

Chairman Jeff Dawes initiated the review of the minutes from the June 1, 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.

Revere Speicher Drain

The Surveyor reported that Eric Bostwick replaced 450 feet of tile that had several holes throughout it. The landowner (Moss) paid the difference to have solid core (instead of PVC) installed through their property so they could keep some of the trees. It was also determined that the tile through the road was in poor shape so that required a road cut which was an additional expense. The project was originally estimated at \$15,000.00, but with the additional work needed, it will most likely be over that amount. Seeding and leveling will be done at a later date. She stated that at this point it would not make sense to pull the contractor off once they begin a project. Pictures of the additional work needed for project were presented to Board Members for review. Mrs. Slee said there are a few (6-7) willow trees that still need to be removed. We would prefer to clear all the trees forty to fifty feet from the center of the drain which would remove all but two to three of the willows. The landowner was not pleased at this suggestion (especially since they had the additional expense with the tile). Discussion was held on how to remove the trees. Mrs. Ross motioned to have trees cleared 40-50 feet from the center of the top of the bank of the Revere Speicher Drain. Mrs. Niccum second. Motion passed 3-0.

Staver Eckman Drain

Mrs. Slee stated that the project on the Staver Eckman Drain has been completed by Kevin Brainard. It was determined to line the bank around the existing pipe with Class 2 rip rap along with smaller rip rap was lined on the bank since the pipe was not ordered by the for the pipe extension. She expressed her concern that by moving the open ditch and not extending the pipe, that the landowner's field entrance would be minimized for the farm equipment. She had discussed this with the landowner and he thought there would be enough room to make it work. She continued by stating the filter strip on the north and the bank were re-seeded, and with the type of soil that's there, it may be difficult to get grass to grow.

John Maiden Drain

The Surveyor told Board Members that Charlie Enyeart stopped in the office a couple of weeks before the John Maiden Hearing and expressed his concerns with the reconstruction project. Mr. Enyeart called in to the office after the hearing, knowing that his letter of objection was not read at the hearing. He stated the letter had been sent by mail more than a week before the hearing but was not received by the office. He then sent the letter of objection by e-mail. After the hearing, Board Members agreed that If we do receive the letter of objection, we will document it because at this point there is nothing that can be done.

Victor Treska – drainage application

Mrs. Slee presented pictures from Victor Treska of a drainage plan (including TOPO maps) from Victor Treska for a CAFO building. There is already an existing CAFO that was built a few years ago that is to the south of the proposed building. After discussion, Board Members agreed to authorize the drainage application pending IDEM's approval. Once IDEM has approved the application, it will be presented before the Board for final review.

Kennedy Hamilton Drain

The Surveyor reported that Troy Eads is currently working on Rodney Warren's property. There is slow drainage due to trees growing up through an old abandoned railroad. Pictures were presented of the plugged tile for review. There is approximately 600 feet of 18" tile that needs replaced. Taking quotes for the project was discussed or if Troy Eads should continue working and finish the project. Board Members discussed the issue and agreed to look into obtaining quotes for the project.

Rhett Mast – Flood zone issue

Mrs. Slee stated that Rhett Mast who's property is north of the Bachelor Creek Drain (300 N) is wanting to improve his property. He would like to remodel and add on to his house but since his house is in the IDNR floodway, he is restricted from adding on to his house. Mr. Mast would like the office to shoot elevations on the creek and the surrounding area to determine if the creek could be lower and if that could possibly change the floodway status. She told Mr. Mast that she and Mr. See would go look at the property but since they are not registered surveyors, he would have to hire a surveyor to get official elevations. He also wants to know when the ditch was certified which will take a lot of research. She stated that we are very busy and it would probably be a couple months or so before we can look into this. Mr. Dawes suggested letting Mr. Mast know that it would be a while before anyone could look into this and if he wants it done in a timely manner, he would need to hire a registered surveyor.

Transfer of funds – Auditor

Mrs. Slee presented a claim for repayment of loan/transfer total of \$14,437.05 from #1158 General Drian Improvement to:
#2600 Drain Reconstruction Fund; \$10,891.25.
#2700 Drain Maintenance Fund; \$3,545.80

Mrs. Ross motioned to approve the transfer of \$14,437.05 from General Drain Improvement fund #1158 to #2600 in the amount of \$10,891.25 and to #2700 in the amount of \$3,545.80. Mr. Niccum second. Motion passed 3-0.

Miscellaneous Drainage business

Discussion was held on acquiring quotes for a new push rod and crawler camera.

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; Samual & Savarino, 85-20-05-200-005.000-005, shipping container. 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 invoices: Maintenance; Washington Ridgeway #661, \$4,950.25 to Troy Eads Excavating; William Stouffer#644, \$241.48 to Eads & Son Bulldozing; Mrs. Ross motioned to accept the claims as presented. Mr. Niccum 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 2-0.

Jeff Dawes, Chairman

Cheryl Ross, Vice-Chairman

Tyler Niccum, Member