

November 17, 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 3, 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 gave a progressive report on the Henry Keaffaber Reconstruction. The contractor started the project at the outlet (Henry Keaffaber open drain) and the road cut through State Road 13 has been completed. Pictures were presented for Board Members to review. The road cut was wider than expected due to the bridge. She said that INDOT contacted her and questioned when State Rd 13 was closed because there was supposed to be a fifteen day advertised public notice sent out before the road was closed. The gentleman from INDOT stated that the information would have been in the paperwork prepared for the project. That paperwork was sent to our engineers from Banning and was never forwarded to the Surveyor's Office. Mr. Miller, Banning Engineering, apologized and said he did not remember this as a requirement in the past. Mrs. Slee stated that INDOT had given her contact information for someone to call 2 weeks before the project beginning and that was the only notification she was aware of in conversation. The contractor did e-mail the INDOT representative approximately 2 weeks before starting the project.

While cutting the road, it was discovered there was bridge remnants and void under the asphalt. The cut was larger due to digging out the bridge remnants. There will be an additional cost for the wider cut. On the west side of the road there was a 2" grade difference in setting the manhole because of an unmarked utility. Due to tree roots found in the existing tile, the fence row between Abresist Corporation and the Wasem property needed clearing which will be an additional cost to the project. There were some issues with ridging when laying the new asphalt but that was resolved and the road has been opened to traffic. We have not received any correspondence from the railroad for the flagging and monitoring. There could be debris was dug out and hauled away from the outlet which is an additional cost. The outlet does not currently have rip rap so we will need to check to see if it would be beneficial to add to the outlet.

Herb Ringel's assessment check prior to the bank loan was received and deposited into the Henry Keaffaber reconstruction fund. The bank loan resolution will be presented to the Council on December 8, 2025 for their approval.

Bachelor Creek Drain – log jam removal

Mr. See reported that Eads & Son had completed the log jam removal for the Bachelor Creek Drain. He has not completed a final walk through because of rainy weather but it appeared from the drive by that the job was completed successfully.

Staver Eckman Drain #641A Drain Relocation Project

Mrs. Slee stated that she and Joe Miller (engineer) walked the Staver Eckman Drain to inspect the work completed by Ingram Excavating and a final acceptance was approved. Due the weather, it is most likely that we will have to re-seed next spring. A change order in the amount of \$9553.49 was presented showing increases and decreases which was approved and signed by the Drainage Board bringing the total new adjusted contract price to \$75,034.94. There was more added onto the seeding and leveling because of rebuilding the filter strip. We will have a final invoice coming from Ingram for the 15% retainage that was held.

Mr. Niccum asked how long it would take to get the culvert pipe once measurements were taken. Mr. Smith replied that Kevin Brainard would like to dig around the old pipe to assess and measure before one is re-ordered. Mr. Smith mentioned that Randy Niccum approached him with concerns about mowing and leveling along the road edge. Since the work has not yet been completed on the culvert, the edge of the road will be addressed later after the highway rebuilds the edge of the pavement.

Thad Reynolds

Mrs. Slee stated that Mr. See had recently drove by the open portion of the Thad Reynolds Drain that Bowman's have requested to have filled in and a 36" tile installed. Dirt had previously been placed along the open portion and has now been removed. IDEM has been contacted for a follow up from the original meeting Mr. Bowman had with IDEM and there has not been any response from them regarding the issue.

Bowman's have contacted the Hovermale's and are working with them regarding the private drain hookup for the pond.

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: JL Hawkins Family Farm, 85-07-10-300-004.000-001, steel building & lean to; Jon & Heather Timmons, 85-19-27-203-005.000-006, barn; Ben & Leah Swingle, 85-07-22-100-029.000-001, new porch/shed/ greenhouse; Josh Holmes, 85-15-32-200-010.000-007, hog barn-CFO expansion; 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; Washington Ridgeway Drain #661, Troy Eads, \$2133.95; D.C. Lavengood Drain #594, Troy Eads, \$15,845.00: EDIT funds: Staver Eckman #641A to Ingram Excavating, \$63,795.17 & Staver Eckman #641A, Dale-Niccum Partnership, \$6,500.00.

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