

August 12, 2025
Minutes of the Elkhart County Drainage Board Meeting
Elkhart County Public Services Building
4230 Elkhart Road, Room A
Goshen, Indiana 46526
At 9:30 A.M

I. Call to Order

The Elkhart County Drainage Board held its August 12, 2025, Meeting in Room “A” of the Public Service Building, located at 4230 Elkhart Road, Goshen, Indiana 46526. Board Chairman Lynn Loucks called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. The following Drainage Board Members were in attendance: Chairman Lynn Loucks, Vice Chairman Ed Pippenger, Secretary Barry Kauffman, Mathew Morehouse and Bob Barnes. Others attending Steven Olsen County Attorney, Philip Barker County Surveyor, Steve Schweisberger Deputy Surveyor, Carl Gilbert Drainage Supervisor/Drone Program Coordinator and Tadd Troxell Drainage Technician.

II. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Loucks opened the floor for discussion on the Drainage Board meeting minutes from July 8, 2025.

A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Barnes) to approve the Drainage Board meeting minutes from July 8, 2025. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing no one called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the revised motion.

II. CDF Report


Expenditure through 8/8/2025		\$20,747.51
Income		0
Cash Ending Balance		\$3,144,431.33
Funds Appropriated for project		\$311,829.52
Funds Available to Appropriate		\$2,832,601.81

III. Drainage Items

A. Public Notice / Project Review/ Bid Openings

1. Boyer Tile Seeding Project #25-023 – Bid Opening

Carl Gilbert reported the project is located in Section 35 of Middlebury Twp, north of CR 28 and extends east approximately 400 LF to the west side of the hay field on the west side of CR 35. The project consists of restoring all disturbed areas back to a yard condition for approximately 14,000 sq. ft. The project is to be completed by October 15, 2025. The estimated cost of the project is less than \$5,000.00. **No bids were received.** The Board directed staff to get the disturbed areas stabilized now rather than waiting until spring.

A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Kauffman) to direct staff to rent equipment and purchase materials needed to complete the Boyer Tile Seeding Project #25-023  Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

2. Coe Meyer-Fisher Bank Stabilization Project #25-020 – Bid Opening

Tadd Troxell reported the project is located at 3521 Briarwood Drive, Elkhart Indiana 46514, on the corner of Briarwood Drive and Holly Drive, in Section 35 of Osolo Twp. The project consists of stabilizing the west bank by placing riprap for approximately 100 LF. The project will be completed no later than October 7, 2025. The estimated cost of the project is less than \$3,300.00.

Sealed bids were opened and read aloud by Barry Kauffman.

Jeff Hershberger	\$3,000.00
L.I. Excavating	\$3,300.00
Jerry Reed Excavating	\$3,300.00
SAR Excavating	\$3,100.00

Bids were reviewed prior to awarding the project to the low bid.

A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Barnes) to award Coe Meyer-Fisher Bank Stabilization Project #25-020 to Jeff Hershberger for \$3,000.00 Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

3. Damey Tile Repair Project #25-022 – Bid Opening

Carl Gilbert reported the project is located east of CR 43, ¼ mile north of CR 44 in Section 1 of Benton Twp. The project consists of repairing the specified tile breakdown and backfilling. The Surveyor's office will provide the necessary parts for the repairs. This work is to be completed no later than September 26, 2025. The estimated cost of the project is less than \$2,200.00.

Sealed bids were opened and read aloud by Barry Kauffman.

Jeff Hershberger	\$1,850.00
L.I. Excavating	\$2,200.00
Jerry Reed Excavating	\$2,610.00
SAR Excavating	\$2,100.00

Bids were reviewed prior to awarding the project to the low bid.

A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Barnes) to award the Damey Tile Repair Project #25-022 to Jeff Hershberger for \$1,850.00. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

B. Petitions, Permits, Variances and Requests

1. Swoveland Ditch Lateral "E" – County Highway – (2) Permission to Cross

Steve Schweisberger reported County Highway Department request Permission to Cross for the CR 17 Improvement Project. The crossing will be located in on CR 17 Section 25 of Harrison and Section 30 of Elkhart Twp., as shown on INDOT Road Plans: CR 17 Phase 1: from CR 142 to CR 38, Project No. 2100027. The proposed project will extend the existing 180 ft. long X 4 ft. diameter reinforce concrete pipe (RCP) 49 ft. at the structure outlet. The project will require 98 ft. of permanent impacts to Swoveland Lateral "E" for the placement of revetment riprap. Total dimensions of the revetment riprap being placed are 16.5 ft. L x 20 ft.

Charlie MacKenzie, County Highway Department, 610 Steury Avenue, Goshen, IN explained that the landowner will hire the contractor and manage the relocation of the crossing. The County Highway will pay for the cost of the crossing relocation from project funds. The contractor should contact the Surveyor's Office prior to relocating the pipe.

A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Kauffman) to grant Permission to Cross to County Highway Department for the CR 17 Crossing Improvements on Swoveland Ditch Lateral "E" for the extension of the 48" RCP to the east and west of the existing structure that carries flow under CR 17 as shown on INDOT Road Plans: CR 17 Phase 1: from CR 142 to CR 38, Project No. 2100027. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Private Crossing Relocation: Marlen Martin, 22151 CR 40 Goshen, IN 46526 request Permission to Cross Swoveland Ditch Lateral "E". This crossing is located approximately 700 ft. north of CR 40 and approximately 150 ft. east of CR 17. The private crossing was installed in the 2013 project for the landowner east of CR 17. The existing 48" RCP private field crossing is to be relocated approximately 48 ft. to the east to preserve the existing private field crossing Swoveland Ditch outside of proposed CR 17 right-of-way.

A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Morehouse) to grant Permission to Cross to Marlen Martin, 22151 CR 40 Goshen, IN 46526 for the existing 48" RCP field crossing to be relocated approximately 48 ft. to the east to preserve the existing private field crossing Swoveland Ditch Lateral "E" outside of proposed CR 17 right-of-way. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

2. Kitson Ditch – INDOT – Permission to Cross

Steve Schweisberger reported Indiana Department of Transportation, 100 N. Senate Avenue N758-ES, Indianapolis, IN 46204 request Permission to Cross Kitson Ditch. This request is located US-6 (500 ft W of CR 29) in Section 25 of Jackson Twp., as shown on submitted plans for INDOT Road Plans DES No. 2001164. The existing pipe is a 3.5 diameter CMP located approximately 500 ft west of CR 29 within the Kitson Drain. The pipe crosses under US-6 roadway and is fitted with two headwalls. As part of the proposed rehabilitation, the pipe will receive a cured-in-place (CIPP) liner,

B. Petitions, Permits, Variances and Requests (continued)

2. Kitson Ditch – INDOT – Permission to Cross (continued)

approximately 15 tons of Class 1 riprap for erosion protection, and mulch erosion control blanket to provide additional stabilization during the vegetation establishment. This project was previously reviewed at the May 14, 2024 Drainage Board meeting.

A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Morehouse) to approve, contingent receipt of a signed form, Permission to Cross Kitson Ditch to INDOT, 100 N. Senate Avenue N758-ES, Indianapolis, IN 46204, for the rehabilitation of the existing pipe. The pipe will receive a cured-in-place (CIPP) and 15 tons of Class 1 riprap for erosion protection, and erosion control blanket to provide additional stabilization during the vegetation establishment as shown on submitted plans for INDOT Road Plans DES No. 2001164. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

3. Worley Ditch – New Paris Telephone – Utility Permission to Cross

Steve Schweisberger reported New Paris Telephone, PO Box 47, New Paris IN 46553, requested Utility Permission to Cross Worley Ditch. The crossing will be on the south side of CR 50, east of CR 29, in Section 24 of Jackson Twp. as shown on submitted plans for Job # NPT25-104. Note the 2-foot diameter culvert depicted on the cross-section drawing is recorded to be a 5.2 ft. by 12.5 ft. span aluminum box culvert # SS-968 as shown in the County Highway Road Soft program. The fiber optic cable should be installed at a minimum of 5 ft. below the box culvert.

A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Morehouse) to approved Utility Permission to Cross Worley Ditch to New Paris Telephone, PO Box 47, New Paris IN 46553, to bore fiber optic cable a minimum of 5 ft. below the invert of the box culvert as shown on submitted plans for Job # NPT25-104. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

4. Whetten Ditch Lateral “C” – New Paris Telephone – Utility Permission to Cross

Steve Schweisberger reported New Paris Telephone, PO Box 47, New Paris IN 46553, request Utility Permission to Cross Whetten Ditch Lateral “C”. The crossing will be at the east side of CR 31, north of CR 50 in Section 19 of Benton Twp. as shown on submitted plans for Job # NPT25-104. Note the 2-foot diameter culvert depicted on the cross-section drawing is a County Highway equalizer pipe recorded to be a 12-inch circular CMP #C-2015-106 as shown in the attached County Highway Road Soft program aerial. The existing standpipe can provide a reference to the location of the tile. This tile should be physically located, and elevation of the existing tile be confirmed prior to installation of the utility at the approved minimum 5 ft. below the tile. The Surveyor’s Office should be notified when the tile is located, to confirm location and depth of the proposed crossing site.

B. Petitions, Permits, Variances and Requests (continued)

4. Whetten Ditch Lateral "C" – New Paris Telephone – Utility Permission to Cross (continued)

A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Kauffman) to approve Utility Permission to Cross Whetten Ditch Lateral "C" to New Paris Telephone, PO Box 47, New Paris IN 46553, to bore fiber optic cable a minimum of 5 ft. below the tile as shown on submitted plans for Job # NPT25-104. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

5. Kieffer Ditch – New Paris Telephone – Utility Permission to Cross

Steve Schweisberger reported New Paris Telephone, PO Box 47, New Paris IN 46553, requested Utility Permission to Cross Kieffer Ditch. The crossing will be on the west side of CR 127, north of US 6 in Section 26 of Jackson Twp. as shown on submitted plans for Job # NPT25-100. The fiber optic cable should be installed at a minimum of 5 ft. below the invert of the culvert.

A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Barnes) to approved Utility Permission to Cross Kieffer Ditch to New Paris Telephone, PO Box 47, New Paris IN 46553, to bore fiber optic cable a minimum of 5 ft. below the invert of the culvert as shown on submitted plans for Job # NPT25-100. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

6. Blyley Ditch Lateral "A" – New Paris Telephone – Utility Permission to Cross

Steve Schweisberger reported New Paris Telephone, PO Box 47, New Paris IN 46553, request Utility Permission to Cross Blyley Ditch Lateral "A". The crossing will be on the north side of CR 50, east of SR 19 in Section 19 of Union Twp. as shown on submitted plans for Job # NPT25-092. The fiber optic cable should be installed at a minimum of 5 ft. underneath the regulated drain. The submitted drawing showing Blyley Ditch Lateral "A" at 41.47161, -85.99781 is the road equalizer not the County Regulated Drain. The Blyley Ditch Lateral "A" is located east of the equalizer culvert. This tile should be physically located, and elevation of the existing tile be confirmed prior to installation of the utility at the approved minimum 5 ft. below the tile. The Surveyor's Office should be notified when the tile is located, to confirm location and depth of the proposed crossing site.

A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Pippenger) to approve Utility Permission to Cross Blyley Ditch Lateral "A" to New Paris Telephone, PO Box 47, New Paris IN 46553, to bore fiber optic cable a minimum of 5 ft. below the tile as shown on submitted plans for Job # NPT25-092. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

B. Petitions, Permits, Variances and Requests (continued)

7. Fisher-Gordon Ditch – NIPSCO – Utility Permission to Cross

Steve Schweisberger reported NIPSCO, 801 E. 86th Avenue, Merrillville, IN, requested Utility Permission to Cross Fisher-Gordon Ditch. The crossing will be north of CR 48 between CR 7 and SR 19 in Section 18 of Union Twp. as shown on the submitted NIPSCO work order number 400068974. The utility crossing will be with a 4” gas main extension, at a minimum 5 ft. below the invert of the culvert.

A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Morehouse) to grant Utility Permission to Cross Fisher-Gordon Ditch to NIPSCO, 801 E. 86th Avenue, Merrillville, IN, for a 4” gas main extension, at a minimum 5 ft. below the invert of the culvert as shown on the submitted NIPSCO work order number 400068974. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

8. Horn Ditch Lateral “K” (Lohri-Cripe) – NIPSCO – Permission to Enter

Steve Schweisberger reported NIPSCO, 801 E. 86th Avenue, Merrillville, IN, request Permission to Enter Horn Ditch Lateral “K” (Lohri-Cripe) with an interceptor channel to address surface water flooding issue coming from east of CR 31. The site is located west of CR 38 and CR 31 Goshen, Indiana in Section 24 of Elkhart Twp. The Horn Ditch Substation plan revision for the NIPSCO Project No. 13-056.00073, dated 6/6/2025, was reviewed on site and was determined to be acceptable. The Board also reviewed and approved the erosion repair depicted on the ditch bank from the flooding event.

A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Barnes) to approve Permission to Enter Horn Ditch Lateral “K” (Lohri-Cripe) to NIPSCO, 801 E. 86th Avenue, Merrillville, IN, with a diversion channel (bypass swale) as shown on the Horn Ditch Substation plan revision submitted plan for NIPSCO Project No. 13-056.00073, dated 6/6/2025. The erosion repair depicted on the ditch bank from the flooding event was approved. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Natalie Skaro, NIPSCO representative, gave an update on Menges Ditch. An agreement is still being drafted to address management and maintenance of this portion of the ditch. She will be in contact with staff to work through any questions.

C. Drainage Project Updates and Reviews

1. Boyer Tile Repair Project #25-001 - Update

Carl Gilbert reported the Boyer Tile Repair Project #25-001 is complete with only one change order. Three 4” – 6” lateral connections were not found (\$500.00). One additional 6” Lateral Connection X1 @ \$400.0 per tap @ \$400.00, The change order #1 is to only increase the contract amount by \$310.00.

C. Drainage Project Updates and Reviews (continued)
1. Boyer Tile Repair Project #25-001 – Update (continued)

A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Pippenger) to approve change Order #1 in the sum of \$310.00 for the Boyer tile Replacement project #25-001. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

V. Additional Staff Items

We are in the process of making 2 interlocal agreements, typically the staff comes forward with the scope of project and we have the interlocal agreement worked out and ready for signatures. Today we have the entire scope of the project but the interlocal agreement needs some modifications, it is recommended to keep it moving forward would be to proceed with the scope of the projects as they are and approve the interlocal agreements subject to final legal review. We would be doing these according to IC § 36-1-7-12. The County does everything, and the municipality would pay 50% of everything. This is the historical method used by the Drainage Board.

1. Horn Ditch Maintenance Brushing and Bank Stabilization Project #25-006 - City of Goshen - Interlocal Agreement

This would be an interlocal agreement between the City of Goshen and the County for the Horn Ditch Maintenance Brushing and Bank Stabilization Project #25-006. This project has already been presented to the Board, interlocal agreement drafted was discussed by the Board with the anticipated cost associated with the project to be \$11,100.00.

A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Morehouse) to approve moving forward with interlocal agreement with City of Goshen for the Horn Ditch Maintenance Brushing and Bank Stabilization Project #25-006 subject to final legal review. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

2. Pratt Ditch – City of Elkhart - Interlocal Agreement

This interlocal agreement is for scope of work on the Pratt Ditch for 3,000 L.F. feet of maintenance digging, spreading of spoil, brushing and crossing replacement as required. The total estimated cost is \$30,000.00 with 50% of the project to be paid by the City of Elkhart. A petition was carried on this ditch. The Board can proceed with an agreement pending final legal review and approval.



A motion was made and seconded (Kauffman/Pippenger) to move forward with an Interlocal agreement with the City of Elkhart for a project on the Pratt Ditch subject to final legal review. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

V. Additional Staff Items (continued)

3. A.P. Jones Joint Board

Lynn Loucks will not be available to attend the August 28, 2025 Joint Board Meeting for the A.P Jones Ditch. Matthew Morehouse is the other representative from the Board. Bob Barnes was appointed as the second representative for the Board.

A motion was made and seconded (Kauffman/Pippenger) to remove Lynn Loucks from the Joint Board with Kosciusko County Drainage Board for the A.P. Jones Ditch and appoint Bob Barnes as the other representative to the Joint Board. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

4. Boyer Tile Replacement Project # 25-001 – Video Inspection

Staff request support from the Board to video inspect the Boyer Tile Replacement Project #25-001 prior to releasing the performance bond next year. The Board agreed with the general idea.

VI. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded by (Kauffman/Morehouse) to adjourn the August 12, 2025, Elkhart County Drainage Board meeting. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Doris Biller, Recording Secretary