

**October 14, 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 October 14, 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, Carl Gilbert Drainage Supervisor/Drone Program Coordinator, Tadd Troxell Drainage Technician and Ian Henderson Survey Party Chief.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Loucks opened the floor for discussion on the Drainage Board meeting minutes from September 9, 2025.

**A motion was made and seconded (Kauffman/Morehouse) to approve the Drainage Board meeting minutes from September 9, 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 10/6/2025		\$23,123.64
Income		0
Cash Ending Balance		\$3,010,450.93
Funds Appropriated for project		\$177,849.12
Funds Available to Appropriate		\$2,832,601.81

**III. Drainage Items**

**A. Public Notice / Project Review/ Bid Openings**

**1. Lily Creek Maintenance Project #25-027 – Bid Opening**

Tadd Troxell reported the project is in Section 16, and 21 of Osolo Township along approximately 3,800 L.F. of Lily Creek. The project starts at a point about 150 feet south of CR 4 and terminates at the weir about 2,700 feet north of CR 4. The project consists of 3,800 L.F. of mow, brush, grind and the construction of a sediment pit 80 L.F. south of CR 4 and 80 L.F. north of CR 4. The only digging will be for the sediment pit. The project is to be completed by December 8, 2025. The estimated cost of the project is \$11,800.00.

**A. Public Notice / Project Review/ Bid Openings (continued)**  
**1. Lily Creek Maintenance Project #25-027 – Bid Opening (continued)**

Sealed bids were opened and read aloud by Barry Kauffman.

BMF Excavating LLC	\$9,200.00
Jerry Reed Excavating	\$8,004.00
JJC Excavating	\$12,240.00
SAR Excavating	\$9,980.00

Bids were reviewed for accuracy prior to awarding the low bid.

**A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Barnes) to award Lily Creek Maintenance Project #25-027 to Jerry Reed Excavating for \$8,004.00. 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.**

**2. Baugo Creek Obstruction Removal Project #25-025 – Bid Opening**

Tadd Troxell reported the project is in Section 2 of Olive Township, north of CR 30 and 1,400 feet west of CR 3. The project scope is for the removal of two logjams. The proposed maintenance consists of path clearing, logjam removal, and burning or hauling away of woody material. The project is to be completed by December 2, 2025. The estimated cost of the project is less than \$6,000.00.

Sealed bids were opened and read aloud by Barry Kauffman.

BMF Excavating LLC	\$3,899.00
Jerry Reed Excavating	\$4,000.00
JJC Excavating	\$5,386.00
SAR Excavating	\$5,250.00

Bids were reviewed for accuracy prior to awarding the low bid.

**A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Pippenger) to award Baugo Creek Obstruction Removal Project #25-025 to BMF Excavating LLC for \$3,899.00. 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. Berlincourt & Wagner Ditch Maintenance Project #25-026 – Project Review**

Carl Gilbert reported the project is in Sections 22, 26, 27, 34, 35 and 36 of Union Township, from South County Line extending northwest to CR 50, ½ mile east of CR 13. The proposed maintenance consists of brushing, grinding, mowing, digging and obstruction removal. There will be minor maintenance digging and cleaning out of the sediment pit at the intersection of Berlincourt and Wagner ditches. The project is to be completed by January 30, 2026. A petition for maintenance was carried on this ditch.

Denny Blosser, 72713 CR 52, Nappanee, IN 46550, requested that the entire ditch be cleaned. He noted that his outlets are underwater and expressed concern about sediment building up through the low ground.

Carl Gilbert noted that adding the requested additional footage would push the project to approximate a \$75,500.00 for the project.

**A. Public Notice / Project Review/ Bid Openings (continued)**

**3. Berlincourt & Wagner Ditch Maintenance Project #25-026 – Project Review (continued)**

It was determined appropriate to amend the project scope to add the additional footage requested. A public hearing will be scheduled and advertisement for bids will be published for the November meeting.

It was noted that landowners may take advantage of this time to secure a Permission to enter to stabilize their outlets.

**A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Barnes) to approve moving forward with the amended scope of work, schedule a public hearing and advertise for bids for the Berlincourt & Wagner Ditch Maintenance Project #25-026. 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. Rock Run Creek – NIPSCO – Utility Permission to Cross**

Carl Gilbert reported NIPSCO, 801 E. 86<sup>th</sup> Ave., Middlebury, IN 46540, request Utility Permission to Cross Rock Run Creek at 12374 CR 30, Middlebury, IN 46540 in Clinton Township, Section 10. The crossing will be with a new 2” plastic gas service at a minimum of 5 feet below the bottom of the ditch as shown on Civil & Environmental Consultants Inc drawing for NIPSCO – Proposed Gas Service, 12374 CR 30 Middlebury, IN 46540 dated 10.06.2025, figure No C-1. The Board approved the request to place a new 2” plastic gas service a minimum of 5 feet below the bottom of the ditch with the stipulation that the retired 1-inch plastic gas service must be removed from below the ditch without any disturbance to the banks.

**A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Kauffman) to approve Utility Permission to Cross to NIPSCO for Rock Run Creek at 12374 CR 30 Middlebury with a new 2” plastic gas service a minimum of 5 feet below the bottom of the ditch with the stipulation that the retired 1-inch plastic gas service must be removed from below the ditch without any disturbance to the banks. 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.**

**C. Drainage Project Updates and Reviews**

**1. Nuisance Brush and Weed Control Project #25-009 – Change Order**

Carl Gilbert reported this change order is to establish a time extension on the Nuisance Brush & Weed Control Project #25-009. The new completion date is December 31, 2025. In exchange, the contractor has agreed to complete the necessary footage not sprayed and to respray areas that were not satisfactory at the time of inspection of the project. The application is to be a dormant application. This additional work will be done at no additional cost.

After the remaining footage has been sprayed under the supervision of the Surveyor’s Office, fifty percent of the remaining balance will be paid. After satisfactory final

**C. Drainage Project Updates and Reviews (continued)**

**1. Nuisance Brush and Weed Control Project #25-009 – Change Order (continued)**

inspection the final fifty percent of the remaining balance will be paid. Satisfactory final inspection is satisfactory kill after full leaf out in the spring. Failure to provide the Surveyor's Office with forty-eight hours' notice to inspect the work being completed will delay any payment until satisfactory kill can be confirmed.

1) Berlincourt Ditch	12,800 L.F.	Respray
2) Christophel-Davidhizer-Doering	9,500 L.F.	Respray
3) Clay Ditch	4,300 L.F.	Respray
4) Dausman Ditch	11,950 L.F.	Respray
5) Fetters-Pletcher Ditch	6,150 L.F.	Respray
6) Fisher-Gordon Ditch	14,500 L.F.	Respray
7) Landis Ditch	2,000 L.F.	Complete
8) Peters Ditch	6,000 L.F.	Respray
9) Walters Drain	1,250 L.F.	Complete
10)Horn Lat. K.	2,080 L.F.	Complete

A total of 5,330 L.F. was satisfactorily completed on time. There is a total of 65,200 L.F. that was not satisfactory and will be addressed in the stated terms of change order.

**A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Kauffman) to approve a change order to address the 65,200 L.F. spraying that was not satisfactory and will be addressed in the stated terms of the change order for Nuisance Brush and Weed Control Project #25-009 to Right of Way Management. 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. Menges Ditch – NIPSCO – Power Pole Issue**

Ian Henderson reported NIPSCO has submitted a rough draft agreement for review.

It was noted that some items need to be changed in the draft. The Board outlined 3 options for NIPSCO to consider; 1) NIPSCO can remove and reset poles, 2) NIPSCO will take over 100% of the ditch maintenance in the area, 3) NIPSCO could purchase adjoining land and move the ditch to provide the 75 ft. maintenance right of way then the Drainage Board would take care of maintenance on the relocated ditch.

**A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Barnes) to advise NIPSCO that the agreement is not acceptable and that NIPSCO should review the above (3) options as directed by the Board for a solution. 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. Other Business – Additional Staff Items**

**1. Wagner Ditch Rodent Control Project #25-029 - Review**

Ian Henderson reported a beaver dam was found in Wagner Ditch; east side of CR 13 ½ mile north of US 6 in Section 26 of Union Township. A nuisance trapper was called, and one beaver was removed. The dam is holding back water and should be removed.

**A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Morehouse) to approve payment to the nuisance trapper for the Wagner Ditch Rodent Control Project #25-029. 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.**

**A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Pippenger) to approve moving forward with bids to remove the dam at the Wagner Ditch Rodent Control Project #25-029 site. 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.**

**VI. Adjournment**

**A motion was made and seconded by (Barnes/Morehouse) to adjourn the October 14, 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