

**November 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 November 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, and Mathew Morehouse. Others attending Steven Olsen County Attorney, Philip Barker County Surveyor, Steve Schweisberger Deputy 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 October 14, 2025.

**A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Kauffman) to approve the Drainage Board meeting minutes from October 14, 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 11/7/25		\$1,718.07
Income		\$21,506.66
Cash Ending Balance		\$3,030,239.52
Funds Appropriated for project		\$176,131.05
Funds Available to Appropriate		\$2,854,108.47

**III. Drainage Items**

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

**1. Berlincourt & Wagner Ditch Maintenance Project #25-026 – Public Hearing & Bid Opening**

The Board Attorney opened the Public Hearing. It appears that proper notice was provided stating that a hearing would be 9:30 A.M. Wednesday, November 12, 2025, with respect to the Berlincourt & Wagner Ditch Maintenance Project #25-026. The Board initially reviewed the matter and decided that a public hearing would be appropriate to identify and determine if the benefits outweigh the cost detriments. Therefore, the Board will give an opportunity for those in attendance to give their views and discussion with the Board prior to the Board ruling on items.

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

**1. Berlincourt & Wagner Ditch Maintenance Project #25-026 – Public Hearing & Bid Opening**

**A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Kaufman) to close the public hearing for 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.**

Tadd Troxell 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. The project is scheduled to be completed by March 2, 2026. The estimated cost of the project is than \$78,000.00.

**A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Pippenger) to grant the benefits outweigh the costs detriments of the Berlincourt & Wagner Ditch Maintenance Project #25-026 and approved moving forward with the project. 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.**

Sealed bids were opened and read aloud by Barry Kauffman.

A1 Backhoe Services	53,462.50
Beaver Excavating	61,851.00
BMF Excavating	62,770.50
Jerry Reed Excavating	57,300.00
L.I. Excavating	64,555.00
<u>SAR Excavating</u>	<u>47,854.00</u>
Timber Valley Clearing	71,947.00
Stanger Group	150,500.00

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

**A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Kauffman) to award the Berlincourt & Wagner Ditch Maintenance Project #25-026 to SAR Excavating for \$47,854.00. 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. Wagner Ditch Rodent Control Project #25-029 - Review**

Carl Gilbert reported a beaver is back in Wagner Ditch. Another dam was built at the same site that was removed last month. Nuisance trapper has been engaged to remove the beaver.

**Information only, no action needed today.**

**B. Petitions, Permits, Variances and Requests**

**1. Baugo Creek, Werntz, Werntz Lateral “K” & Wisler Ditches – New Paris Telephone- Utility Permission to Enter**

Ian Henderson reported the New Paris Telephone request for Utility Permission to Cross Baugo Creek at CR 1, Werntz Ditch at CR 1, Werntz Ditch Lateral “K” at CR 40 and Wisler Ditch at CR 40 all in Olive Twp. Fiber optic cable will be bored a minimum of 5 feet underneath the drains at the above-described locations for job# NPT25-111.

**A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Pippenger) to approve (4) Utility Permission to Cross to New Paris Telephone for job# NPT25-111; Baugo Creek at CR 1, Werntz Ditch at CR 1, Werntz Ditch Lateral “K” at CR 40 and Wisler Ditch at CR 40 at a minimum depth of 5 feet underneath the ditches. 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. Lehman-Farmwalt Ditch – Justin Johnson (NIPSCO) – Utility Permission to Cross**

Carl Gilbert reported the NIPSCO request for Utility Permission to Cross Lehman-Farmwalt Ditch on the west side of SR 13 in Section 15 of Clinton Twp. The crossing will consist of horizontal directional drill of 4” PMMP pipeline at a minimum of 7.5 feet underneath the ditch for NiSource WO# 4000090123, dated 6/25/23. The existing aerial crossing at this site will be retired and removed.

**A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Morehouse) to approve the Utility Permission to Cross to NIPSCO for the Lehman-Farmwalt Ditch. The utility will cross on the west side of SR 13 at a minimum of 7.5 feet underneath the ditch for NiSource WO# 4000090123, dated 6/25/23. 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. Lateral “L” Horn-Yoder & Rock Run Creek Lateral “N” Horn-Kauffman Ditches – James Swift (NIPSCO) - Utility Permission to Cross**

Carl Gilbert reported the NIPSCO request for Utility Permission to Cross Lateral “L” Horn-Yoder and Rock Run Creek Lateral “N” Horn-Kauffman in Section 13 of Elkhart Twp. The crossing will be for a new 1” gas service via directional boring a minimum of 8 feet underneath the ditch at 16152 CR 36 Goshen, as shown on Civil & Environmental Consultants Inc. plan dated 9/22/25, figure no.: C-1.

**A motion was made and seconded (Kauffman/Pippenger) to approve Utility Permission to Cross to NIPSCO for Lateral “L” Horn-Yoder & Rock Run Creek Lateral “N” Horn-Kauffman with a new 1” gas service via directional boring a minimum of 8 feet underneath the ditch at 16152 CR 36 Goshen, as shown on Civil & Environmental Consultants plan dated 9/22/25. 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)**

**4. Rock Run Creek – Ben Mannies (NIPSCO) – Utility Permission to Cross**

Carl Gilbert reported this Utility Permission to Cross Rock Run Creek in Section 3 of Clinton Twp. was approved last month with the stipulation that NIPSCO remove the old service line on the east side of the drive when the new 2” plastic gas service is installed at 12374 CR 30 Middlebury. NIPSCO states that the existing service would not be able to be removed without damage to the ditch. A revised plan has the existing service retired in place on the east side and the new service to be installed on the west side of the driveway. The crossing will be at a minimum of 5 feet below the bottom of the ditch as shown on revised plan dated 10/30/2025.

**A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Kauffman) to approve the revised Utility Permission to Cross to NIPSCO for Rock Run Creek at 12374 CR 30 Middlebury with a 2” plastic gas service to be installed on the west side of the driveway. The existing line to be retired in place on the east side. The crossing will be at a minimum of 5 feet below the bottom of the ditch as shown on the revised plan dated 10/30/2025. 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. Yellow Creek – Justin Johnson (NIPSCO) – Utility Permission to Cross**

Steve Schweisberger reported the NIPSCO request for Utility Permission to Cross Yellow Creek at 24402 CR 45 Elkhart in Section 22 of Concord Twp. The new crossing will bore a 6-inch PMMP pipeline under Yellow Creek parallel with CR 45. The crossing will be at a depth greater than 6 feet below the creek as shown on NiSource WO# 400009548. The project will retire and remove an existing aerial crossing at this site.

**A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Kauffman) to approve Utility Permission to Cross to NIPSCO for Yellow Creek at 24402 CR 45 Elkhart with a 6” PMMP pipeline at a depth greater than 6 feet below the creek as shown on NiSource WO# 400009548. 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. Washington Twp. Ditch – Troyer Group (Frontier) – Utility Permission to Cross**

Carl Gilbert reported the Frontier request for Utility Permission to Cross Washington Twp. Ditch in Section 8 of Washington Twp. The project will install a new fiber network to provide high-speed internet to local homes. The Utility will cross on the north side of CR 6 at 54686 Country Manor Pl, Elkhart, at a minimum of 6 feet below the culvert as shown on Frontier project number 2489785, dated 5/20/25.

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

**6. Washington Twp. Ditch – Troyer Group (Frontier) – Utility Permission to Cross**

**A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Pippenger) to approve Utility Permission to Cross to Frontier for Washington Twp. Ditch at 54686 Country Manor, Elkhart. The project will install a new fiber network at a minimum of 6 feet below the culvert as shown on Frontier project number 2489785 dated 5/20/25. 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.**

**7. Osolo Twp. Ditch – Elkhart County Redevelopment Commission – Utility Permission to Cross**

Ian Henderson reported the Elkhart County Redevelopment Commission request for Utility Permission to Cross the Osolo Twp. Ditch in Section 33 of Osolo Township. The Prairie Creek Water Improvements Project will install an 8-inch water main by horizontal directional drilling at a minimum of 5 feet below the ditch. The crossing is located on Sunset Avenue between Adams Street and Lilac Ct as shown on the Commonwealth Engineers plan project W23099.

The petitioner will be notified that a typical maintenance project on this system would involve the removal of up to 2 feet of sediment from the ditch bottom. The depth of installation should accommodate for this to ensure your minimum depth of cover requirements to protect the water main from freezing.

**A motion was made and seconded (Kauffman/Morehouse) to approve Utility Permission to Cross to Elkhart County Redevelopment Commission for the Osolo Twp. Ditch at a minimum depth of 5 feet below the bottom of the ditch. The crossing will be for an 8-inch water main as shown on the Commonwealth Engineers plan project W23099. 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. Crawford Ditch Lateral “B” – Rick Rottweiler (U-Haul of Elkhart) - Permission to Enter & Petition for Variance**

Steve Schweisberger reported the Rick Rottweiler request for Permission to Enter Crawford Ditch Lateral “B” in Section 11 of Baugo Twp west of CR 3 and north of Old US 33. The structure would be a 12-inch storm sewer pipe, and 12-inch end section outlet points into the ditch from the proposed dry pond as shown on Spaceco Civil Engineering & Surveying plans for Job No. 13524. This request is for the U-Haul of Elkhart site at 29031 Old US 33 Elkhart.

Also, a Petition for Variance was requested for the construction of a dry pond 10 feet from ditch top of bank (65 feet variance), storm sewer pipe within the ditch top of bank (covered by Permission to enter), pavement and storage area 50 feet from the ditch top of bank. Details for the requests are shown on Spaceco Civil Engineering & Surveying plans for Job No. 13524, sheets C4.0 and C5.0.

**B. Petitions, Permits, Variances and Requests (continued)**  
**8. Crawford Ditch Lateral “B” – Rick Rottweiler (U-Haul of Elkhart) -  
Permission to Enter & Petition for Variance (continued)**

**A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Kauffman) to approve Permission to enter to Rick Rottweiler, 103 W. Holbrook Road, Glenwood, IL 60425 for the U-Haul of Elkhart Site. Permission to Enter with 12-inch storm sewer pipe with a 12-inch end section outlet from the dry pond. Petition for Variance for construction of dry pond 10 feet from the top of bank, pavement storage area 50 feet from the top of bank. Details shown on Spaceco Civil Engineering & Surveying plans for Job No. 13524, sheets C4.0 and C5.0. 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. Additional Appropriation**

An additional appropriation of \$200,000.00 has been requested to cover awarded contracts and proposed projects through the first part of 2026. Since no appropriations will be approved at the December Council meeting, staff submitted the request, on behalf of the Drainage Board, to be heard at the November Council meeting, to provide funds to pay contractors for project completed.

**A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Kauffman) to approve the request for additional maintenance appropriation in the sum of \$200,000.00. 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.**

**2. Nuisance Brush & Weed Control Project #25-009 – Update**

Tadd Troxell reported the contractor for the Nuisance Brush & Weed Control Project #25-009 has completed the dormant spray application on November 6, 2025. Staff members accompanied the spray crews during the dormant application. As agreed, 50% of the project cost can be released now with the rest to be released in the spring after it is determined that a satisfactory result has been documented. **Information only**

**3. Pratt Ditch Maintenance Project #25-008 - Update**

Carl Gilbert reported that the contractor has started the work. The maintenance man for the apartment complex informed staff that there is a sanitary line right under the crossing. Elevations were taken at the manholes by staff. There appears to be a 6-inch separation between the private sewer line and the culvert. Considering this new information, staff had the pipe squashed to accommodate the space available. There will be an increase in the cost of the pipe for this modification. It does not appear that the private sewer line received permission to cross when installed. Additional expenses related to the existence of the concrete sewer pipe will need to be dealt with on a change order basis with the contractor. Determining who is financially responsible for these changes will be decided later to avoid creating any additional delays to the project. Staff have been working with the management from the apartment complex for this project from

**V. Other Business – Additional Staff Items (continued)**

**3. Pratt Ditch Maintenance Project #25-008 – Update (continued)**  
the beginning.

**A motion was made and seconded by (Morehouse/Pippenger) to approve moving forward with the necessary alterations to the project scope for the Pratt Ditch Maintenance Project #25-008 to deal with the conflicting sanitary pipe at the driveway crossing and deal with it as a change basis with the contractor. Who is financially responsible for these changes will be determined later. 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 (Pippenger/Morehouse) to adjourn the November 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