

December 9, 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 December 9, 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, Bob Barnes 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 November 12, 2025.

A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Pippenger) to approve the Drainage Board meeting minutes from November 12, 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

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|--------------------------------|--|----------------|
| Expenditure through 12/1/25 | | \$1,175.00 |
| Income | | \$5,21.92 |
| Cash Ending Balance | | \$3,034,486.44 |
| Funds Appropriated for project | | \$374,956.05 |
| Funds Available to Appropriate | | \$2,659,530.39 |

III. Drainage Items

A. Public Notice / Project Review/ Bid Openings

1. Millersburg Lateral “A” Project #25-030 – Project Review

Carl Gilbert reported a petition was accepted in 2018 for maintenance on this system. Water was bubbling out of the ground. The site is in Section 3 of Benton Twp., southwest of the Town of Millersburg. A portion of the Lateral “A” was opened during Project #24-009. Staff rented an excavator to locate and used the push camera to investigate condition of the tile. A blockage was found that was blocking the flow. MOR Custom was called on an emergency basis to clear the blockage. Staff request permission to pay for the rental of the excavator and the MOR Custom fees associated with the Millersburg Lateral “A” Project #25-030.

A. Public Notice / Project Review/ Bid Openings (continued)
1. Millersburg Lateral “A” Project #25-030 – Project Review (continued)

A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Barnes) to approve payment of the excavator rental and the MOR Custom fees associated with the Millersburg Lateral “A” Project #25-030. 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.

Carl Gilbert reported a proposed project would replace approx. 650 L.F. of 12” tile on the main line and replace entire Lateral “A” with an 8” flexcore tile. This project is estimated to cost approximately \$75,000.00 to replace 2,500 L.F. of Lateral “A” and the described portion of the main line. Part of the video taken with the push camera was played for the Board. The Board requested staff to get cost estimates on different sizes and types of tiles for their review.

A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Kauffman) to get quotes for different sizes and types of tiles for the Millersburg Lateral “A” Project #25-030 work. 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. Bechtel Ditch Lateral “B2A1” & “B2A” Maintenance Project #25-028 – Update

Tadd Troxell reported this project is in section 33 of Concord Twp. between CR 9 and CR 11. The project limits begin at a point about 2,000 L.F. south of CR 126 and extend to a point about 800 L.F. north of CR 126. The project also extends west to CR 9. The project is to be completed by April 10, 2026. The project scope to include 5,300 L.F. of Brushing Bechtel main, B2A1 & B2A, placing and moving mats in sensitive work areas, main line Maintenance digging 2,300 L.F, Lateral B2A maintenance digging 850 L.F., Lateral B2A1 maintenance digging 2,650 L.F. and spreading spoil 5,800 L.F. The estimated cost of the project is \$48,125.00. Staff met with army corps to confirm that this project can be completed without permits if we meet their requirements. Mats are not required but they will minimize disturbance to the work area. It was determined that a minimum of 500 L.F. of mats would be cost effective for this project. The spoil will need to be trucked to an upland site. Staff have investigated the cost of renting vs purchase of mats for this project. County Highway Department does have some mats that would be available for our use if we maintain them. Staff will check to see if they will be the type of mat we need for our project. Depending on the number and type of mats available from County Highway Department, we might need to rent or purchase additional mats for this project. Staff request guidance on whether the Board prefers renting or purchasing the mats needed. After weighing the cost of the options, the Board instructed staff if additional mats are needed to purchase the bolted mats, which would be easier to maintain.

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

2. Bechtel Ditch Lateral “B2A1” & “B2A” Maintenance Project #25-028 – Update (continued)

A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Morehouse) to approve using the County Highway Department mats if possible. If those mats will not work or are not enough to cover the 500 L.F. required, staff are authorized to purchase the new bolted mats to cover the balance of the footage or the entire 500 L.F. if necessary. 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 a public hearing to determine if the benefits outweigh the cost of the Bechtel Ditch Lateral “B2A1” & “B2A” Maintenance Project #25-028 and to open bids at the January 2026 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.

B. Petitions, Permits, Variances and Requests

1. Werntz Lateral “M” & “N” tiles and Wisler Ditch – New Paris Telephone-Utility Permission to Cross

Steve Schweisberger reported that New Paris Telephone is requesting (3) Utility Permission to Cross for job #NPT25-133. Werntz Lateral “M” tile is in Section 2 of Locke Twp., south of the Town of Wakarusa on CR 3. The crossing will be on the west side of CR 3 for a bored fiber optic cable at a minimum of 5 ft underneath the tile. Werntz Lateral “N” tile is in Section 1 of Locke Twp, south of the Town of Wakarusa. The crossing will be on the east side of CR 3 for a bored fiber optic cable at a minimum of 5’ underneath the tile. It was emphasized that it is the contractor’s responsibility to physically confirm the tile elevation on both tiles prior to the installation of the proposed cable. Wisler ditch located in Section 10 of Locke Twp., at the intersection of CR 1 and CR 42. The crossing will be on the north side of CR 42 for a bored fiber optic cable at a minimum of 5’ underneath the tile.

A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Pippenger) to approve Utility Permission to Cross to New Paris Telephone for Werntz Lateral “M” & “N” Tiles. The contractor must be responsible for physically confirming the tile elevation on both tiles prior to installation of the cable. Also approve Utility Permission to Cross Wisler ditch for bored fiber optic cable at a minimum of 5’ underneath the ditch as shown on job #NPT25-133. 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)

2. Baugo Creek – Justin Johnson (NIPSCO) – Utility Permission to Cross

Ian Henderson reported NIPSCO is requesting Utility Permission to Cross Baugo Creek (DLCA 489) on the east side of CR 3, in Section 36 of Baugo Twp. The crossing will be with an HDD 414' of 4" plastic gas main at a minimum of 7.5 ft under the creek for WO# 4000090183. The existing aerial crossing will be retired and removed.

A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Barnes) to approve Utility Permission to Cross Baugo Creek (DLCA 489) to NIPSCO for an HDD 414' of 4" plastic gas main at a minimum of 7.5 ft beneath regulated drain as shown on WO# 4000090183. 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. Turkey Creek – Justin Johnson (NIPSCO) – Utility Permission to Cross

Ian Henderson reported NIPSCO is requesting Utility Permission to Cross Turkey Creek on the north side of CR 46, in Section 9 of Jackson Twp. The crossing will be with an HDD 580' of 6" PMMP at a minimum of 10 ft. beneath regulated drain for WO# 4000090131. The existing aerial crossing will be retired and removed.

A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Kauffman) to approve Utility Permission to Cross Turkey Creek to NIPSCO for an HDD 580' of 6" PMMP 10 ft. beneath regulated drain for WO# 4000090131. 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. Preston Miles Ditch – Paul & Lois Wise Family Trust – Permission to Cross

Matt Morehouse will abstain from voting on this item.

Steve Schweisberger reported Permission to Cross Preston Miles drain has been requested on behalf of the Paul and Lois Wise Family Trust. The new crossing will provide access to a field east of the ditch from CR 21. The site is in Section 32 of Jackson Twp., east of CR 21 and south of US 6. Staff has reviewed and determined that a 48" diameter structure will be adequate to handle the flow. Staff will be on site to set the grade for the crossing.

A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Kauffman) to approve Permission to Cross Preston Miles ditch to the Paul and Lois Wise Family Trust for the installation of a 48" diameter structure to provide field access. Mr. Loucks called for comments or discussion on the motion, hearing none, he called for a vote. The Board voted in favor of the motion. (4-0-1)

5. Josiah Neff Tile – Brandon LaFollette –Petition for Variance & Permission to Enter

Steve Schweisberger reported that staff have physically located the tile at 70556 CR 19 New Paris, in Section 20 of Jackson Twp. Brandon LaFollette is requesting variance into the Josiah Neff tile right of way to install a new septic system. The variance

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

5. Josiah Neff Tile – Brandon LaFollette –Petition for Variance & Permission to Enter (continued)

would allow the system to be installed 12' into the 75' right of way. Also, requesting permission to enter with a 6" perimeter drain, if the tile is low enough to provide a positive outlet.

A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Kauffman) to approve a 12' variance into the Josiah Neff tile 75' right of way to install a new septic system for Brandon LaFollette at 70556 CR 19 New Paris. Also, approved Permission to enter with a 6" perimeter tile, if the tile is low enough to provide a positive outlet. 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. Millersburg Lateral/Livengood/Rink Lateral – Rob Geiger – Petition for Maintenance

Carl Gilbert reported Rob Geiger, 11880 CR 52 Syracuse submitted Petition for Maintenance for Millersburg Lateral/Livengood/Rink Lateral in Clinton Twp., east of US 13 north of CR 42, in Section 35 of Clinton Twp. The tile is failing. If approved, this request will be placed on the petition list for investigation and review.

A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Morehouse) to approve Petition for Maintenance carried by Rob Geiger for the Millersburg Lateral/Livengood/Rink Lateral. This request will be placed on the petition list for investigation and 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.

7. Rink Lateral of Stoney Creek – Rob Geiger – Petition for Maintenance

Carl Gilbert reported Rob Geiger, 11880 CR 52 Syracuse submitted Petition for Maintenance for rink Lateral of Stoney Creek Section 35 of Clinton Twp., east of US 13 north of CR 42. This is for the enclosed portion of stoney creek where 2 tiles are running side by side. The tile is failing.

A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Barnes) to approve Petition for Maintenance carried by Rob Geiger for the Rink Lateral of Stoney Creek. This request will be placed on the petition list for investigation and 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.

C. Drainage Project Update and Reviews

1. Pratt Ditch Maintenance Project #25-008 - Update

Tadd Troxell reported that the contractor for Pratt Ditch Maintenance Project #25-008 has cleared the brush, dug the sediment and is now working on the crossing replacement. We encountered a sanitary line that goes over the culvert. The apartment complex agreed to pay to have the culvert had to be squashed to be able to fit properly

C. Drainage Project Update and Reviews (continued)

1. Pratt Ditch Maintenance Project #25-008 – Update (continued)

under the sewer line. A water line was also found to be on top of the culvert. It does not appear that either crossing received permission to cross from the Drainage Board. The apartment complex will pay for the sanitary line replacement, squashing of the pipe and paving of the crossing. This project does have an interlocal agreement with the City of Elkhart. The culvert was installed at a lower elevation due to the existence of the water main. The lower elevation has created the need to re-dig approximately 1,100 L.F. southwest and east to get the flow needed. A change order for the additional digging would increase the contract by \$1,650.00.

A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Pippenger) to approve the change order for the additional digging to increase the contract by \$1,650.00 for the Pratt Ditch Maintenance Project #25-008. 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. 2026 Drainage Board Meeting Calendar

The 2026 Drainage Board meeting calendar was submitted for review.

A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Kauffman) to approve the proposed 2026 meeting calendar. 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 – Change Order

Change Order # 2 will decrease the contract amount by \$270.00 for 1,000 L.F. of Feters Pletcher Ditch that could not be sprayed.

A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Barnes) to approve change order #2 for a contract decrease of \$270.00 for the Nuisance Brush & Weed Control Project #25-009 for 1,000 L.F. of Feters Pletcher Ditch that was not sprayed. 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/Barnes) to adjourn the December 9, 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