

March 10, 2026
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 March 10, 2026, 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, Commissioner Bob Barnes and Mathew Morehouse. Others attending Steven Olsen County Attorney, Philip Barker County Surveyor, Steve Schweisberger Deputy Surveyor and Carl Gilbert Drainage Supervisor/Drone Program Coordinator, Tadd Troxell and Ian Henderson Survey Party Chief.

II. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Loucks opened the floor for discussion on the Drainage Board meeting minutes from February 10, 2025.

A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Kauffman) to approve the minutes from February 10, 2026 meeting. 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 motion.

II. CDF Report

Expenditure through March 3, 2026		\$32,388.70
Income cost share on Horn Ditch with the City of Goshen		\$11,710.60
Cash Ending Balance as of March 3, 2026		\$3,301,006.06
Funds Appropriated for project		\$287,823.78
Funds Available to Appropriate		\$3,013,182.28

III. Drainage Items

A. Public Notice / Project Review/ Bid Openings

1. Boyer Tile Replacement Project #26-003 – Public Hearing

Carl Gilbert reported this project is located in sections 33 & 34 of Middlebury Township. The project is located south of CR 28 and starts from a point 500 feet east of CR 35 and continues to a point 600 feet east of CR 37. The project will consist of the replacement of approximately 5,400 L.F. of the existing 15-inch clay with new 18”

**A. Public Notice / Project Review/ Bid Openings (continued)
Boyer Tile Replacement Project #26-003 – Public Hearing (continued)**

diameter plastic. The project will include 5 manholes for access. Work will be performed within the County's 75-foot right-of-way from either side of the drain. The project is scheduled to commence in the summer of 2026 and is to be completed by November 9, 2026. The estimated cost of the project is less than \$371,500.00.

The Board Attorney opened the Public Hearing. It appears that proper notice was provided stating that a hearing would be 9:30 A.M. Tuesday, March 10, 2026, with respect to the Boyer Tile Replacement Project #26-003. 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.

No public comments were made.

It was noted that staff discussed the project with all the landowners prior to this meeting.

To ensure that the project number was correctly stated during the public hearing, the Board Attorney restated the public hearing information, motions made and seconded to reflect the proper project name and number.

A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Pippenger) to close the public hearing for Boyer Tile Replacement Project #26-003. 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 (Pippenger/Barnes) to move forward with Boyer Tile Replacement Project #26-003 noting that the benefits outweigh the detriments. 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. Horn Tile and Lateral "A" Replacement Project #25-030 – Public Hearing & Bid Opening

Carl Gilbert reported this project is in section 3 of Benton Twp. south of CR 42 and east of CR 37. The project will consist of the replacement of approximately 400 L.F. of the existing Horn Tile main line with new 12" diameter plastic. The Horn Lateral "A" will include replacing approximately 2,200 L.F. of the existing 6" clay tile with 10" diameter plastic tile. Work will be performed from within the County's 75-foot right-of-way from either side of the above drainage. The project is scheduled to commence in the spring of 2026 and is to be completed by May 29, 2026. The estimated cost of the project is less than \$50,000.00. Additionally, the Elkhart County Drainage Board will be receiving quotes directly from suppliers for the material; the cost estimate for the material is less than \$30,000.00.

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

2. Horn Tile and Lateral “A” Replacement Project #25-030 – Public Hearing & Bid Opening (continued)

The Board Attorney opened the Public Hearing. It appears that proper notice was provided stating that a hearing would be 9:30 A.M. Tuesday, March 10, 2026, with respect to the Horn Tile and Lateral “A” Replacement Project #25-030. 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.

Kenneth Frey, 1210 Camden Ct., Goshen, IN 46526, is in support of the project. Staff provided information for Mr. Frey’s questions concerning how the project will affect his property.

Mr. Frey carried the original petition for maintenance.

No other public comments were made on this project.

A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Barnes) to close the public hearing for Horn Tile and Lateral “A” Replacement 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.

A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Morehouse) to move forward with Horn Tile and Lateral “A” Replacement Project #25-030 noting that the benefits outweigh the detriments. 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.

L.I. Excavating	\$36,350.00
Martin Farm Tiling	\$42,150.00
SAR Excavating	\$34,800.00

Bids were checked for accuracy prior to awarding the project to the low bid.

It was noted that SAR Excavating expressed that he would have enough time to complete the current County projects and the Horn Tile and Lateral “A” Replacement Project before the completion dates, if awarded that project. He places priority on County projects.

A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Barnes) to award Horn Tile and Lateral “A” Replacement Project #25-030 to SAR excavating for \$34,800.00. 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.

A list of suppliers and quotes were reviewed for materials for the Horn Tile and Lateral “A” Replacement Project #25-030. Quotes were requested from 3 suppliers, only 2 responses were received. Prices would include delivery to project site.

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

2. Horn Tile and Lateral “A” Replacement Project #25-030 – Public Hearing & Bid Opening (continued)

Suppliers can be mixed and matched for the different supplies. The gravel is per ton is estimated and ½ is to be supplied up front and the rest as needed.

Material quotes are as follows:

Tile and Fittings

Core & Main	\$15,868.00
Fratco	\$14,280.87

Stone Delivered

Elkhart County Gravel	
#8 gravel per ton	\$23.75
INDOT Revetment riprap per ton	\$41.00
Site Works Aggregates	
#8 gravel per ton	\$19.45
INDOT Revetment riprap per ton	\$40.80

Manhole Structures

Farmer Tank	\$6,020.00
Midwest Tile	\$5,864.00
Yoder Concrete	\$5,277.60

Bar Guard for Manhole

Farmer Tank	\$800.00
Midwest Tile	\$956.00

Materials will be purchased from the suppliers with the low quotes.

A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Kauffman) to purchase materials for the Horn Tile and Lateral “A” Replacement Project #25-030 from the suppliers with the low quotes as follows: Fratco for Tile and Fittings; Site Works Aggregates, for Stone Delivered; Yoder Concrete for Manhole Structures; Farmer Tank for Bar Guard for Manhole. 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. Christophel-Davidhizer-Doering Ditch CR 44 Crossing Replacement – Review

Steve Schweisberger reported that the crossing on CR 44, west of SR 19 is in failure and needs to be replaced. This crossing is structure #820 in the road soft program. The Highway Department has requested it to be replaced prior to being paved. The existing crossing is 72-inch diameter and 40 ft long and is proposed to be replaced with an 84-inch diameter and 55 ft. long culvert.

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

3. Christophel-Davidhizer-Doering Ditch CR 44 Crossing Replacement – Review (continued)

A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/ Kauffman) to approve the purchase of an 84-inch diameter and 55 ft. long culvert for the CR 44 crossing on Christophel-Davidhizer-Doering Ditch. The crossing will be replaced by County Highway Department. 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. Wertz Drain – Frontier – Utility Permission to Cross

Carl Gilbert reported that Frontier Communications did not get permits for these sites. Frontier is now requesting after-the-fact Utility Permission to Cross Wertz drain at 3 sites. These sites are within the Town of Wakarusa, section 36 of Olive Twp. Site #1 & #3 if accepted should include the stipulation that a corrected Utility Permission to Cross applications must be submitted reflecting the correct distance of separation along with as-built drawing. Site #1 form should represent an overhead crossing, not a below the ditch bottom. The Site #3 form should represent that the fiber line at the indicated tile crossing site was hydro-excavated and determined to be a minimum of 2 feet above the tile. The utility at Site #2 is only 6-inches below the tile. If site #2 is denied, the Utility must be reinstalled at a minimum separation of 5 feet below the regulated drain. A corrected Utility Permission to Cross application must be submitted along with an as-built of the re-installed utility location.

Staff recommendation is to have the motion made with respect to site #2 to have to relocated everything pursuant to standards and application according to appropriate final as-built and modifying the applications for site #1 and site #3 to reflect the as-builts with the proof of separation.

A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Morehouse) with respect to the Utility Permission to Cross request from Frontier Communications on Wertz Drain at (3) sites. Site #2 was denied; the utility must relocate everything pursuant to standards and application according to appropriate final as-built. Sites #1 and #3 were accepted with the stipulation that a correct Utility Permission to Cross applications must be submitted reflecting the correct distance of separation along with as-built drawing. 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. (4-1)

2. Fetters-Martin Ditch – Jeff Hilty – Cost Share Request

Steve Schweisberger reported that Jeff Hilty, contractor, had inquired in August of 2025 about the size of culvert needed to replace a failing crossing. He has inquired if there is any assistance available. The crossing, recognized as farm crossing #6 at station 224+00 is located north of CR 32 in Section 9 of Harrison Twp. On February 26, 2026, the Surveyor's office documented the failed crossing which was installed as part of the March 1990 reconstruction project on this system. The existing pipe elevations and size was

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

2. Fetters-Martin Ditch – Jeff Hilty – Cost Share Request (continued)

determined for this replacement. On 3/2/2026 the 48” CMP 36 ft. long crossing was replaced with a 48” plastic 40 ft. long culvert.

The Board Attorney explained that the Public Works Statute for the State of Indiana requires there must be 3 quotes requested prior to the project and awarded at a public meeting. There is a process to follow when participating in a cost share project. It would be a violation of the public works statute to make any payments after the fact.

A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Kauffman) due to the State’s legal requirements for Public Works Projects; the Board must deny the after-the-fact request from Jeff Hilty for assistance for a crossing replacement on the Fetters-Martin Ditch. 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. Swoveland Ditch lateral “E” – NIPSCO – Utility Permission to Cross

Ian Henderson reported NIPSCO request Utility Permission to Cross Swoveland Ditch Lateral “E” at CR 17, north of CR 40 in section 25 of Harrison township and section 30 of Elkhart Township. The project would relocated existing overhead utility lines and retire existing pole within the regulated drain easement.

A motion was made and seconded (Pippenger/Morehouse) to approve NIPSCO request for Utility Permission to Cross Swoveland Ditch Lateral “E” relocating existing overhead utility lines and retire existing pole within the regulated drain easement. 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. Berlincourt & Wagner Maintenance Project #25-026 – Change Order #1

Tadd Troxell reported 5.28 tons of extra riprap delivered for the Berlincourt & Wagner Maintenance Project #25-026. Change order #1 is to increase the contract by \$316.80.

A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Barnes) to approve Change Order #1 for Berlincourt & Wagner Maintenance Project #25-026 to increase the contract total by \$316.80. 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. Berlincourt Lateral “A” – Video Review

Tadd Troxell reported the Berlincourt Lateral “A” Tile Replacement Project was completed in 2017 by ADI, contractor. There were a lot of issues with this project. The company provided a 10-year warranty on the installation which is nearing expiration. R & R Visual was contracted to do a video inspection directly after the installation and again in 2026. A side-by-side comparison video of the inspections was shared with the Board.

C. Drainage Project Update and Reviews (continued)
2. Berlincourt Lateral “A” – Video Review (continued)

After reviewing and comparing the entire video from both inspections, it is the opinion of the Surveyor’s office that the system is functioning better than it was prior to the project. **No action will need to be taken.**

V. Other Business

1. Menges Ditch & Lateral “A” – NIPSCO – Power Pole Issue - Update

An unsatisfactory maintenance agreement has been received from NIPSCO concerning the power pole violations. The Board Attorney will continue to deal with the issue.

VI. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded by (Barnes/Morehouse) to adjourn the March 10, 2026, 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