

**April 14, 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 April 14, 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, 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. Not attending, Ed Pippinger.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

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

**A motion was made and seconded (Kauffman/Barnes) to approve the minutes from March 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		\$9,176.60
Cash Ending Balance as of March 3, 2026		\$3,291,829.46
Funds Appropriated for project		\$278,647.18
Funds Available to Appropriate		\$3,013,182.28

**III. Drainage Items**

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

**1. York Twp. Ditch Lateral “F” – Michael Lambricht Property – Review**

Carl Gilbert explained to the 2 options to deal with the beaver problem on York Twp. Ditch Lateral “F” at the Michael Lambricht property.

**Option 1** would be to brush and dig last portion of ditch, approximately 250 L.F., and continue removing obstructions as they appear. Estimated cost: \$2,500.00 to brush and dig and continue obstruction removal. (minimum \$175.00 removal and approximately \$500.00 to \$1,200.00 obstruction removal per time)

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

**1. York Twp. Ditch Lateral "F" – Michael Lambright Property – Review (continued)**

Pros: cost effective

Cons: cost and would be manhour intensive with constant removal of obstructions.

**Option 2:** Install approximately 900 L.F. of tile connecting the wetland pond to downstream point. Estimated cost: \$15,000.00 - \$20,000.00.

Pros: Reduces strain on open ditch.

Cons: Not guaranteed to work.

Typical Cost Estimate: 900 L.F. X \$35.00 per foot = \$31,500.00

Cost based on the last bid project (Horn Tile and Lateral "A"): 900 L.F. X \$22.76 per foot = \$20,84.00.

Cost based on quote received by landowner: 900 L.F. installed for \$12,100.00.

Mr. Lambright was scheduled to attend today's meeting, apparently, his plans changed. This item will be tabled until Mr. Lambright attends the meeting.

**A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Morehouse) to table the York Twp. Ditch Lateral "F" on the Michael Lambright property discussion until the landowner is in attendance. 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 Rodent Removal Project #26-006 – Review**

Steve Schweisberger reported the beavers around the County have been active.

**a. Bishop Ditch & Lily Creek**

Complaints were received about beaver activity at Lily Creek at the weir in Section 16 and Bishop Ditch at CR 15 in Section 13 of Osolo Twp. Nuisance trapper was engaged to set traps at both sites. Three beavers were caught at the weir on Lily Creek. Approval was given for the dam to be removed for \$100.00. Traps were set at Bishop Ditch at CR 15. The beavers were active on the east side (inlet) of CR 15 pipe, plugging it with mud. Four beavers were removed then traps pulled. The site will need to be evaluated for removing the mud buildup at the pipe. The cost for services at both sites totaled \$1,050.00.

**A motion was made and seconded ( Morehouse/Barnes) to approve payment to Terry Smith for Nuisance Rodent Removal Project #26-006 – Bishop Ditch & Lily Creek in the amount of \$1,050.00. 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. East Lake Ditch/Hunter Lake**

The nuisance trapper set traps at 2 sites: Hunter Lake at Cottage Grove Drive and East Lake Ditch at the Marshall property both south of US 120, east of CR 43 in Section 25 of York Twp. One beaver was caught on East Lake Ditch and approval was given for dam removed for \$100.00. No beaver activity at Cottage Grove, traps were pulled. The

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

**2. Nuisance Rodent Removal Project #26-006 – Review (continued)**

**b. East Lake Ditch/Hunter Lake (continued)**

cost for services at both sites totaled \$375.00. County Highway paid to have a beaver removed last year since Hunter Lake is not a regulated drain.

**A motion was made and seconded ( Barnes/Morehouse) to approve payment of the entire bill \$375.00 for the Nuisance Rodent Removal Project #25-006 – East Lake Ditch /Hunter Lake. 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. York Twp. Ditch Lateral “F”**

A call was received on 4/6/2026 from Mike Lambright that the beavers are blocking the “leveler” on York Twp. Ditch Lateral “F” in Section 20. Carl Gilbert was on site to document dam and fresh mud. April 8, 2026, the nuisance trapper set traps. No activity was observed on April 9, 2026. On 4/10/26, 2 beavers were caught. Traps have been removed.

**A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Kauffman) to approve payment for Nuisance Rodent Removal Project #26-006 – York Twp. Ditch Lateral “F” in the amount of \$250.00. 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. Christophel-Davidhizer-Doering Ditch CR 44 Crossing Replacement Project #26-007 – Review**

Ian Henderson reported the Christophel-Davidhizer-Doering Ditch CR 44 Crossing Replacement Project #26-007 will be a joint project with the County Highway Department. Material for the CR 44 project would be 55 feet (1-piece) of 84-inch diameter, (95” X 67” squashed pipe) spiral C.M.P. with a polymer coating, 12 gauge galvanized, (3X 1 corrugation) and lifting lugs. Quotes are as follows: St. Regis (\$11,193.00), Core & Main (\$12,354.50), Metal Culverts (\$15,983.81) and Contech (\$17,784.00). St. Regis Culverts was the low quote at \$11,193.60.

**A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Barnes) approved purchase of a 55 feet (1-piece) of 84-inch diameter, (95” X 67” squashed pipe) spiral C.M.P. with a polymer coating, 12 gauge galvanized, (3X 1 corrugation) pipe with lifting lugs from St. Regis Culverts at \$11,193.60. 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. Leedy Ditch Emergency Obstruction Removal Project #26-008 – Review**

Tadd Troxell reported a drainage complaint was received from Don Riegsecker, Goshen City councilman, regarding flooding at Bashor and Reliance Roads. Investigation

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

**4. Leedy Ditch Emergency Obstruction Removal Project #26-008 – Review (continued)**

found a tree blocking the flow of Leedy Ditch, east of old CR 17, south of CR 30 in Section 7 of Elkhart Twp. It was determined that the blockage should be removed as soon as possible to avoid damage to property. An excavator was rented from Wakarusa Heavy Equipment for \$769.10 to remove the blockage and open the flow.

**A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Barnes) to approve payment to Wakarusa Heavy Equipment for excavator rental for Leedy Ditch Emergency Obstruction Removal Project #26-008. 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.**

**5. Menges Ditch Obstruction Removal Project #26-010 – Timberbrook MHP - Review**

Ian Henderson reported staff observed 2 significant obstructions in the Menges channel. It was determined that because there was a large dewatering project taking place upstream, it was in the best interest of the flow of the system to have the obstructions removed as soon as possible. Staff rented Jeff Hershberger's mini excavator to remove the obstructions and coordinated with County Highway Dept. to provide a truck to haul material away.

**A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Kauffman) to approve payment for excavator rental from Jeff Hershberger for the Menges Ditch Obstruction Removal Project #26-010. 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. Baugo Creek – NIPSCO – Utility Permission to Cross**

Carl Gilbert reported Utility Permission to Cross requested by NIPSCO for 30228 CR 36 over Baugo Creek. The site is in Section 22 of Olive Twp. south of CR 36 west of CR 1. The utility company will install a new pole in line with the existing utility pole/lines and utilize and re-use existing down guy wire for FRW-AG-30228 CR 36, Wakarusa-Burnt pole.

**A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Morehouse) to approve Utility Permission to Cross Baugo Creek to NIPSCO for a new pole and re-use existing down guy for FRW-AG-30228 CR 36, Wakarusa-Burnt pole. 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.**

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

**2. Cobus Creek Lateral “A” – Surf Internet – Utility Permission to Cross**

Carl Gilbert reported Utility Permission to Cross request by Surf Internet at Cobus Creek Lateral “A”. The site is on the south side of CR 6, west of CR 10, in Section 27 of Cleveland Twp., by the Cleveland Little League Ball Park. The request is to install conduit and fiber on the south of CR 6. Lateral “A” is enclosed on the south side of CR 6 from the Cleveland Little League Ball Park to where it crosses the road.

It was pointed out that the County Highway Department has a new plan to widen the road through this area. When the County moves forward with the widening project, Surf Internet will have to move the fiber. If any Utility Permission to Cross is granted, the motion must include that Surf Internet must relocate or remove the fiber into the new right of way immediately upon request from Elkhart County

Carl Gilbert requested an additional stipulation that the installation be approximately 5 feet below the invert elevation from where the tile crosses the road all the way through the Cleveland Little League Ball Park.

Ian Henderson noted the ditch will be relocated and re-constructed on the north side of the road when the road project is completed. The south side where the fiber will be installed will be out of the way.

**A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Kauffman) to approve Surf Internet request to install conduit and fiber on Cobus Creek Lateral “A” at approximately 5 feet deep to cover the enter stretch of the south side of CR 6 through the Cleveland Little League Ball Park, also, that Surf Internet must relocate or remove the fiber immediately up request by Elkhart County. 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. Indian Creek – New Paris Telephone – Utility Permission to Cross**

Carl Gilbert reported Utility Permission to Cross request by New Paris Telephone at Indian Creek. The site is at west side of CR 23, south of US 20 in Section 16 of Jefferson Twp. The utility will bore fiber optic cable a minimum of 5 feet underneath the regulated drain for job# NPT26-036.

**A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Kauffman) to approve Utility Permission to Cross Indian Creek to New Paris Telephone to bore fiber optic cable a minimum of 5 feet underneath the regulated drain for job# NPT26-036. 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. Fisher Gordon Ditch – St. Joseph County/Birk Ditch Association – Assistance Request**

Doug Deschepper 12161 Statin Road Bremen, Birk Ditch Association president. The Fisher Gordon Ditch flows into the Birk ditch in St. Joseph County. We have been an association for 10 years and have spent over \$160,000.00 to keep the brush under control. A dredging project is planned from Yellow River to the St. Joseph/Elkhart County Line.

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

**4. Fisher Gordon Ditch – St. Joseph County/Birk Ditch Association – Assistance Request (continued)**

Steve Schweisberger noted There are also several areas that will need bank stabilization. We do annual assessments based on acres. Since Elkhart County has a lot of water flowing through this system, we are requesting help to finance this dredging project.

the Fisher Gordon Ditch watershed, of approximate 5152 acres, flows into Lateral Number Five in St. Joseph County then to the Yellow River.

This watershed is approximately equal on both sides of the County Line. This area is unique because it is at the continental divide, so the water goes to the Yellow River rather than the Elkhart River. Elkhart County's portion of the watershed would be 48% of the total. The Yellow River to the St. Joseph/Elkhart County Line equals 26,789 L.F. The proposed project cost is estimated at \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00.

**A motion was made and seconded (Barnes/Morehouse) to table the request to allow Legal Counsel to review the assistance request from the Birk ditch Association. 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. Swoveland Ditch & Lateral "E" – Brookview Farms – Petition for Maintenance**

Steve Schweisberger reported a Petition for Maintenance was carried by Brookview Farms for Swoveland Ditch and Lateral "E", west of CR 19, north of CR 142, in Section 31 of Elkhart Twp. and Section 6 of Jackson Twp. Petitioner is requesting maintenance and removal of sand bars. Swoveland ditch main line and Lateral "E" will be evaluated.

**A motion was made and seconded (Morehouse/Barnes) to accept Petition for Maintenance for Swoveland Ditch & Lateral "E" carried by Brookview Farms and add it to the Petition List for evaluation. 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 – Review**

Tadd Troxell gave an update on the status of Project #25-026. A time extension was approved at the February 10, 2026 meeting so that the contractor can begin brushing on the other contracted project #25-028 that he has for the County. The digging was satisfactorily completed on March 30, 2026, with the spoil nearly ready for spreading. There is change order work that must still be completed. Upon final completion, the Board may consider any possible liquidated damages. **Update only**

**2. Bechtel Ditch System Maintenance Project #25-028 – Review**

Tadd Troxell gave an update on the status of Project #25-028. The completion date is April 10, 2026. The contractor is complete with the digging south of CR 26 and halfway done through the wet area. He is using a vertical spreader for spreading the spoil which works very well. The rain is slowing the project down. The mats from the

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

**2. Bechtel Ditch System Maintenance Project #25-028 – Review (continued)**

Highway Department were rotten, so more mats needed to be rented than originally planned. Estimated completion date is May 1, 2026. The contractor has been doing a good job and making consistent progress. Upon final completion, the Board may consider any possible liquidated damages. **Update only**

**VI. Adjournment**

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