

REGULAR DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING:

December 10, 2025

President, William Whitehead, called the meeting to order. Members present at the meeting were the following:

William Whitehead, President
Joseph Hamilton, Vice President
Sherry Riggin, County Commissioner
John Christy, Member
Wayne Bothel, Member
Tom Borchers, Surveyor
Jennifer Licht, Recording Secretary
All board members appointed on January 6, 2025 for 1 year.

President, William Whitehead, opened the meeting by welcoming the audience and inviting them to participate in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Whitehead entertained a motion for the approval of the November 13, 2025 Drainage Board Meeting Minutes. **Ms. Riggin** moved for approval. Motion seconded by Mr. Hamilton. **Motion passed 5-0.**

TABLED BUSINESS:

Mr. Borchers stated the Arnolds claim was tabled so the attorney could figure out what a sufficient amount would be to pay for the work that was completed. **Mr. Hamilton** stated \$5,588.00 was the readvised amount. After our discussion at the last meeting, I am happy with this amount. **Mr. Whitehead** stated we will approve that with the rest of the claims.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Whitehead addressed Mr. Borchers and asked if he had any new business to present to the Board today.

Holt Tile

Mr. Borchers stated we have a request to tie into the Holt Tile. This is out there by the Carpenters Union at the bypass and Centennial. They are wanting to put in a new septic. They want to run their perimeter drain to the Holt Drain, which is south right along the bypass and there is a manhole that we have worked on in the last few years. They are going to run a 4" tile. That water is going

to get in there anyways because there's a couple breathers. I don't see a problem with it. **Mr. Whitehead** asked what kind of distance is it? **Mr. Borchers** stated off the top of my head, 50 yards to get to that tile. **Mr. Whitehead** stated is that a big enough tile? **Mr. Borchers** stated yes. I give it a favorable recommendation. **Mr. Hamilton** moved for approval. Motion seconded by Mr. Bothel. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Pate- Shoemaker

Mr. Borchers stated Tony Kirkham requests to put a bridge over the Pate- Shoemaker. This is right along 32. This is a safety concern. In order for him to mow the back part of his property, he has to go out on 32, and there is a huge hill and not a whole lot of room for passing. He sent me the specs of the bridge he wants to put in and the location. Assuming he signs the bridge acknowledgement that he is responsible for all maintenance of the bridge, I don't see a problem with this. Its going to be above the high-water mark. **Ms. Riggin** moves for approval. Motion seconded by Mr. Christy. Mr. Hamilton abstained. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Hog Creek Reconstruction

Mr. Borchers stated Mr. Howell has complied with the legal process to get the mutual drain converted to regulated drain. I assume it's up to the board to vote on making it a regulated drain. The paper work is on file. **Mr. Hamilton** so, we don't need a public hearing to convert that from mutual to regulated drain? **Mr. Borchers** stated I guess I thought it was at this meeting. I guess we do have to hear any public comment on it. **Mr. Hamilton** stated does anyone have any comments regarding the conversion of the mutual drain to regulated drain? **Mr. Howell** stated our family is a tenant on the farm that Mr. Conner owns. I think we have gone through all the process to get it started. I sent the letters out to everyone. I had only one phone call. Jim Swingley he was in favor of the process, he wanted to suggest that he needed his creek dredged on the other side of the road. I think that's a reasonable thing to ask for. He spoke with Mr. Smith; another receiver of the letter and he was fine with it. He was surprised that I hadn't proposed to lengthen it further south. I haven't heard from anyone else. We just can't control the water coming across the road. We can't do any stewardship on our farm because we can't handle all that water that breaks through the levee. Mr. Humbert has been helpful. His father is in the hospital. He would like to speak on the phone if he could. Mr. Conner would be here, but he is in poor health. **Mr. Hamilton** stated I also spoke to Mr. Swingley on the phone. His concerns were as part of this project, we conduct a repair report on the Hog Creek. He believes it has not been dredged since 1948 and Hog Creek will require some maintenance as part of this increased water flow. **Mr. Christy** stated Tom what's the difference between a mutual drain and a regulated drain. **Mr. Borchers** stated a mutual drain is a drain that drains two property owners' properties' but is not a regulated drain or a legal drain. So legally, we cannot use maintenance funds to take care of that, and we don't have a right of way on them. Therefore, we don't have a right of entry. It could be like this. It's just a larger area on the side of the road. Sometimes it's a natural waterway. Sometimes it's a ditch put in. We've got a few in the city where they put in neighborhoods and never have accepted them as a regulated drain. **Ms. Riggin** stated I am disappointed we don't have our attorney here to help us through this today. **Mr. Hamilton** stated do we need to address any comments from Mr. Humbert before we proceed. **Mr. Borchers** stated he said if we really need to that's up to the board. He's in the hospital. He doesn't know if he will be able to call in or not. I don't know that its necessary right

now. **Mr. Hamilton** moved to convert this mutual drain into a regulated drain. Motion seconded by Mr. Bothel. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Hamilton asked now that this is a regulated drain, what do we need to do to proceed with reconstructing the regulated drain? **Mr. Borchers** stated we have a petition signed by 10 - 25% of the landowners on file, so the next step would be to send out notices of a public meeting. If you want to move forward with the next step of the reconstruction, which is to notify landowners, we can do that through my office if it's accepted to move on to the next step. **Mr. Bothel** moved to for approval. Motion seconded by Mr. Hamilton. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Borchers stated typically, when you accept a ditch as a regulated drain, one of the first steps is to get a description of the ditch to have on file and go through the Records Office. I feel like if we are going to reconstruct it and make it longer, wider, or add tile to it, we should wait for the legal description because we have to hire that out and that way, we only have to pay them once. If that's okay with you. Board members agreed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Borchers stated I have a debrushing list, but I don't have it complete. I went out a few weeks ago to walk some of these to get the actual footage, and there is still a bunch of corn on them believe it or not. I didn't get a chance to walk some of them. I've got the partial list I can get out to you guys this afternoon, or if you want to wait a few weeks, I can email it out when I actually have some pictures and maps to send out. I would like to quote a handful of those, including the two we always do at the first of the year. **Mr. Hamilton** stated would you please send out the prioritized maintenance list as soon as you have it and any supporting photographs as you get them, and at the December meeting, we will move forward with maintenance on that prioritized list. **Mr. Borchers** stated I can do that. **Ms. Riggins** stated looking at this year's revenue and expense sheet, we've spent so far \$287,000.00. I would hope that we can raise this a little bit and do more. I'm sure that you have balanced out with the townships. I know you have more problems in some. **Mr. Borchers** stated if you look on the dashboard, the pins are pretty much spread all over the county.

Comments from Drainage Board Members:

Executive Meeting

Mr. Christy stated last week we had an opportunity to spend some time in Ft Wayne at the Allen County Surveyors Office, and that was time well spent. Really had a good day. Anthony was there and Mr. Hamilton. The other thing, Mr. President I wondered if the Drainage Board could have an executive session before the end of the year and exactly what we have to do to make that happen.

Mr. Whitehead stated I assume we have to advertise it. **Mr. Hamilton** stated let's move forward with scheduling the executive session after the December drainage board meeting. **Mr. Borchers** stated will you let me know of any information you will need for that other than what we will need for the regular meeting. **Mr. Christy** moved for approval. Motion seconded by Mr. Hamilton. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Russell

Mr. Hamilton stated Jeremy Russell contacted me about the regulated drain that is across from Reynolds Farm Equipment. There's a 10" county tile, what he believes is a county tile, that goes

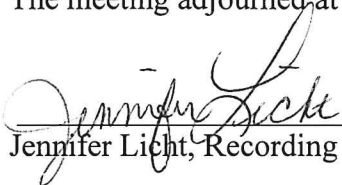
through a wooded area. He had heard that there will be a new gas station constructed there, and he wanted to make sure that as the gas station is constructed that regulated drain is evaluated. **Mr. Borchers** stated I have to sign off on any construction plans to make sure there is not a regulated drain within a certain amount of feet. Those have not come across my desk that I know of but I can check it. **Mr. Hamilton** asked do you know if that is a regulated drain? **Mr. Borchers** stated off the top of my head, I don't believe we have anything that runs south of there. I think the only thing we have running through there is the Ham- Miller, which is that open ditch that runs up through Morningside. I can look on some of the older maps and make sure that there wasn't something missed. **Mr. Hamilton** stated let's do that. **Mr. Borchers**, okay.

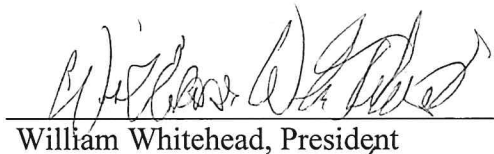
MAINTENANCE CLAIMS:

Mr. Whitehead entertained a motion for approval of maintenance claims as presented. **Ms. Riggins** moved for approval. Motion seconded by Mr. Hamilton. **Motion passed 5-0.**

ADJOURNMENT:

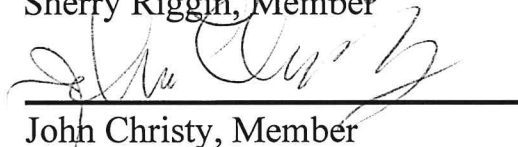
The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.



Jennifer Licht, Recording Secretary


William Whitehead, President


Joseph Hamilton, Vice-President


Sherry Riggins, Member


John Christy, Member


Wayne Bothel, Member