

REGULAR DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING:

June 11, 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, Commissioner
John Christy, Member
Wayne Bothel, Member
Brandon Murphy, Attorney
Tom Borchers, Surveyor
Jennifer Licht, Recording Secretary
All 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 May 14, 2025 Drainage Board Meeting Minutes. Ms. Riggin moved for approval. Motion seconded by Mr. Hamilton. **Motion passed 5-0.**

NEW BUSINESS:

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

Abe - McConnell

Mr. Borchers stated my first order of business is the Abe McConnell Reconstruction process. **Mr. Murphy** stated this is a public hearing where anyone who has any comments for, or against is free to speak. **Mr. Hamilton** stated the drainage board has received a petition to evaluate the reconstruction completed in 2009, of the Abe- McConnell Ditch. There are several problems that exist on this ditch with surface water drainage, the reconstruction was not completed in 2009 and it was never recorded. The first phase of the reconstruction will be evaluating the installation in 2009, determining if the design was done correctly. From there we will have an engineering recommendation on how to complete this if any changes are required and there will be another

hearing where land owners will decide if they want to pursue the suggested changes. It will require 60% of landowner support by area, to implement the changes as recommended. If the landowners decide not to pursue the recommended changes we will stop there. The engineering evaluation and design of this reconstruction project will be paid out of drainage board general funds. No additional cost will be assessed to landowners in the watershed. Any questions? **Gerald Ross**, approached and asked where is the actual ditch located? **Mr. Hamilton** stated this ditch extends from Waynewood Addition on the North side, NE corner of the addition and travels NW then runs parallel along 400 S as it travels W to No Name Ditch. **Brandon Dickie** approached and asked can you explain what you mean by it not being completed or finished in 2009. Is it just we have evidence that's its not and we don't know why? Was it designed not to be finished or was it designed to be finished but not done properly? **Mr. Hamilton** stated unfortunately no one on the drainage board at this time was on the drainage board at that time. There is little documentation that exists from the 2009 reconstruction. There are surface water drainage problems especially as you travel West on this ditch. Not all of the previous construction of the Abe-McConnell ditch, not all of the laterals were tied into the new construction and that has caused problems. After it was installed the new location of the Abe McConnell Ditch was not recorded in the Records Office. There are several items of the reconstruction that we know of, where not completed properly. This will evaluate the design and installation and make any corrections to complete the project. **Gary Hazlett, I live on 400 S**, is this a subsurface repair or a surface repair? I don't even know about the existence of this ditch other than it runs down my road. **Mr. Hamilton** stated the reconstruction would define the entirety of the water management of this area, it would include surface and subsurface issues. **Mr. Hazlett**, so where does the subsurface drain run? **Mr. Borchers** stated the only area you can see it is beside the Waynewood Addition at the end of Cowan Rd. There is a substation, and just to the north is a 14-16" riser, from there towards 400 S it runs along 400 S and dumps into No Name Ditch. **Mr. Hazlett**, how far is the entire drain, from the road on Cowan Rd? **Mr. Borchers**, it takes an angle from there to 400 S. That is the only access point I have to it. **Mr. Hazlett** stated obviously the concern is the amount of tillable ground that is going to be gained or lost depending on how this drain is placed. **Mr. Borchers** stated I believe it runs under the swell on 400. **Mr. Hazlett** stated my personal recollection is it disappears after that. **Mr. Borchers** stated I believe that to be the issue. **Mr. Hazlett**, thank you. **Mr. Whitehead** asked if anyone else wished to speak? Not being any **Ms. Riffin** moved to close the open meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Hamilton. **Motion passed 5-0.** **Mr. Hamilton** moved to move forward with the reconstruction project and hire an engineer to conduct an evaluation of the design and installation of the Abe McConnell Ditch. Motion seconded by Mr. Bothel. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Hiatt and Schram

Mr. Borchers stated we have two ditches that we mow every year due to the high capacity of the water. One is the Hiatt. The area that we mow would be from the BSU power station West to Petty Rd. A lot of it is weed eating and in the back of landowner's yards. We can get some equipment back there but for the most part it's a lot of hand work. The other one is the Schram Ditch that goes through County Village from 100 all the way to the back of Country Village. Both of these jobs typically cost \$17,000. I'm asking the board for permission to bid them out and have them read at the next meeting. **Mr. Bothel** moved for approval. Motion seconded by Mr. Hamilton. **Motion**

passed 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Mr. Borchers stated on the 2 ditches we bid out a few months ago, the contractor showed up to the Hog Creek one and the farmer already had done it. He didn't think it was fair to turn in a bill for something that had already been done. I went ahead and had him scoop it out because it wasn't dipped out and there were corn stalks in it, you saw the pictures. I had him cut down the stuff Mr. Howell came and talked about last meeting. He dropped the water on the structure about 2 feet so all our pipes that are coming out are now below water and the water is moving fast through the ditch. **Mr. Hamilton** asked was the cost of the claim adjusted to reflect the work that was completed? **Mr. Borchers** stated yes, I cancelled the bid claim. He did the dip work, cut down the structure and mowed area to the south that wasn't on the original bid. I think he charged \$3,000 and the original bid was closer to \$10,000. We got our monies work for sure. Then I checked on the Racer Ditch. He was working on it but he still has a lot of work to do. He has 30 more days to complete the project. It says in the Specs to call the office when they are working in the county and he has yet to call my office to let me know he's working, so I'm going to call him. That's just an update on those 2 and that's all the old business I have. **Mr. Whitehead** stated Mr. Howell did contact me last week and said he was still interested in the reconstruction but he had got busy the past month and hoped to be here in July.

Ms. Riggan stated I was kind of curious of this rain stopping and starting, how many projects are you waiting on? **Mr. Borchers** stated I would say the upwards of 20 work orders out. That's not including spray and beavers. That's just log jams and sinkholes.

Mr. Christy asked Mr. Murphy to talk about the virtual meetings. **Mr. Murphy** stated the board can take that up at any time. I did see your email that you thought 2 virtual meetings should be the max per year instead of 50%. If the board wants to adopt that today you may do so. Mr. Christy if you want, you can make the motion to adopt with that amendment and we can vote today. **Mr. Christy** moved for approval. Mr. Hamilton seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Murphy stated as far as selecting an engineer for McConnell what process would we like to go through. **Mr. Hamilton** stated I have talked to Banning Engineering about this project. We can send it out, request bids. **Ms. Riggan** how big a project is it? **Mr. Hamilton** estimated \$40,000 total. **Mr. Bothel** stated with that amount we probably ought to bid it, so we know. **Mr. Hamilton** stated I will work with the Surveyor and Mr. Murphy to define the project and send it out for bid to other engineering firms. **Mr. Whitehead** asked do we need a motion for that. **Mr. Murphy** stated no. We can just address that at the next meeting.

MAINTENANCE CLAIMS:

Mr. Whitehead entertained a motion for approval of the maintenance claims as presented. **Mr. Bothel** stated is it normal to charge for the tool truck and trailer per hour after they're to the job

and its just sitting? **Mr. Borchers** stated yes, that's how they've always done it. **Mr. Bothel** stated its my opinion they got to have that to get to the job, you ought to be figuring it into the price. I don't see charging by the hour when its just parked. **Mr. Borchers** stated that's how they've done it since I've been in here. It's going to be six one way, half a dozen the other. If they're not going to charge for the truck, they are going to charge us extra for the excavator. **Mr. Bothel** stated if they hid it in the excavator, I wouldn't even know they were doing it. I just didn't know if it was common, they did that. **Mr. Borchers** stated I went back and looked from early 2000 in my office and every single one of them had it listed that way. **Mr. Hamilton** stated in my opinion the way to avoid us nit picking apart the amount charged are to bid this per job and have competitive bids and just have one price for doing the job. Not have hourly price. I know that doesn't work on subsurface repairs and some situations. I think that will help eliminate some of the discrepancies in contractor fees. **Mr. Bothel** stated might be something to look at in the future. **Mr. Hamilton** moves for approval. Motion seconded by Ms. Riggin. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Whitehead asked if there were any other comments from the board?

Mr. Hamilton stated on August 26, 2025, Farm Bureau will host a drainage school at the Indiana Farm Bureau Headquarters in Indianapolis. Delaware County Farm Bureau has offered to pay the \$50 attendance fee for anyone in the surveyor's office or anyone on the drainage board if you are interested in attending. **Mr. Borchers**, have they opened up enrollment? It fills up really fast. **Mr. Hamilton**, I do not know. I have not enrolled but I plan to go. It will be a good opportunity to ask other Counties for discrepancies like charging for a trailer.

Mr. Bothel asked have you had a chance to see about getting somebody out there on that ditch behind Ball State? **Mr. Borchers** stated it's wrote up and I gave it to a contractor. **Mr. Bothel** stated I think we are going to have to evaluate removing the larger dams. He is doing a great job getting the beavers. I don't think we need to be paying him to remove the jam then having to pay a contractor. The debris and backup are still there. Its going to have to be dipped and done properly to finish the project. **Mr. Borchers** stated I will have a talk with him on that. **Mr. Bothel** stated on the bigger jams, we need to spend our money a little better. **Mr. Borchers** stated I agree 100%.

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

Jennifer Licht, Recording Secretary

William Whitehead, President

Joseph Hamilton, Vice President

Sherry Riggan, Commissioner

John Christy, Member

Wayne Bothel, Member