

WHITLEY COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD – MINUTES REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 17, 2025, 9:00AM
Whitley County Government Center - County Commissioner/County Council Meeting Room – 1st Floor

Pursuant to law, the Whitley County Drainage Board met with those members present as follows:

Chairman Seth Schrader, Member Michael Schrader, Member Brad Cormany, Commissioner Rob Schuman

Members absent: Vice Chairman Dave Johnson

Staff present: County Engineer Brad Allen, County Surveyor Dane Drew, Drainage Supervisor Max Utterback, Drainage Board Attorney Matt Shipman, Drainage Board Secretary Jennifer Stephenson

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Seth Schrader called the meeting to order at 9:00AM.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC ATTENDANCE: There were seven (7) visitors in attendance at the March 17, 2025, Whitley County Drainage Board meeting. A guest list is included with the minutes of this meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 2025, WHITLEY COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MINUTES:

A motion was made by M. Schrader to approve and adopt the February 18, 2025, Whitley County Drainage Board Minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Schuman. Motion passed 4-0.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING:

279-000B HIVELY D

CURRENT ANNUAL DRAINAGE ASSESSMENT: \$6.00 per acre / \$50 minimum (\$5,683.21 annually)

PROPOSED ASSESSMENT: \$40 per acre / \$200 minimum (\$32,246.84 annually)

S. Schrader opened the Public Hearing at 9:05am.

DESCRIPTION: Proposal to increase the assessment rate on the 279-000B HIVELY D county regulated drain to allow for the first phase of tile replacement consisting of 1350 feet of 30" tile with an estimated cost of \$51,000. All landowners within the watershed were notified with no notices returned as undeliverable. One (1) written objection was received from Garry Ingram, who was also in attendance, opposing the increase. Glen Linville spoke in favor of the increase as he owns a good amount of acreage in the watershed, as well as Chandra Sauers who was in attendance to inquire about the replacement route. The HIVELY D watershed contains 692 acres with sixty-eight (68) assessments, forty (40) minimums. The current maintenance fund balance is \$29,129.47. M. Schrader motioned to approve the proposed assessment increase to \$40 per acre / \$200 minimum, collecting \$32,246.84 annually. Schuman seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

S. Schrader closed the Public Hearing at 9:18am.

IN THE MATTER OF CONSENT FOR PERMANENT STRUCTURE PETITIONS:

DRAIN: 461-000A MOWREY J1 A

Brightspeed is requesting to run fiber optic crossing the MOWREY J1 A county regulated drain a minimum of six (6) feet below the natural bottom of the open drain. Schuman motioned to approve the Consent for Permanent Structure Petition to Brightspeed for crossing the MOWREY J1 A county regulated drain. Cormany seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

DRAINS: 507-000B OTT E & 507-001B OTT E #1

Julie Gillespie is requesting to install a high-tensile fence crossing the OTT E county regulated drain in two (2) locations and crossing the OTT E #1 non-taxed drain in one (1) location. The tile will be located by the property owner prior to installation and fence posts will be kept the furthest distance possible away from each tile crossing. The property owner is aware that if the fence needs to be taken down for tile maintenance, it will be at their expense and responsibility to replace that portion of fencing. The property owner agrees to provide gate access if tile repair is necessary. Cormany motioned to approve the Consent for Permanent Structure Petition to Julie Gillespie for the installation of high-tensile fencing crossing the OTT E & OTT E #1 county regulated drains. Schuman seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

IN THE MATTER OF LET/BID JOBS:

003-000A ALLES J - Bids were recently accepted to dip 5000 feet from the top end on west side of SR9 to where it T's into the historic branch #9 of ALLES J on Derick Sheet's property.

Schuman motioned to award the labor to L.I. Excavating for \$5,500.00. Cormany seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

278-000A HINEN P - Bids were recently accepted to dip 4500 feet from the SCHOENAUER tile, east to the "Y" confluence. M. Schrader motioned to award the labor to L.I. Excavating for \$4,275.00. Cormany seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS:

129-000B DEMONEY E B - Attorney Shipman informed the Board that a Public Information Request was received from an Attorney representing Edmund Muehlfeld regarding the DEMONEY E B county regulated drain. Shipman communicated with the attorney regarding the potential costs involved in re-establishing the top portion of this drain. Shortly after, the attorney withdrew the request. With Muehlfeld not being in attendance today, we can assume this issue is closed.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ENGINEER REPORT:

574-000B RAPP G - Allen reported that Utterback and himself met with the Town of Churubusco and their consultants, who will be moving forward with their Community Crossings road paving project located on Weston Avenue. They are proposing to replace the RAPP G drain within the limits of this paving project. An Owner Funded Packet providing specific details will be submitted to the Board in the coming months.

IN THE MATTER OF THE FIELD WORK REPORT:

089-000B COX J - Utterback reported that property owners, Jason Doctor & Tom Bernhard, have both requested tile replacement on this drain. The first phase would consist of replacing 2000 ft of 36" tile beginning at the bottom end with an estimated cost of \$91,000. It was noted that the length of this tile, being 13,589 feet, will unfortunately take years to complete a full replacement. Utterback explained that there are numerous suck holes on Doctors' property with water backing up on Bernhard's property at the top end along with many other areas. M. Schrader motioned to move forward with holding a Public Hearing on the COX J drain for \$40 per acre / \$200 minimum, collecting \$52,162.60. Cormany seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

215-000B GLICK E & 289-000B HOWENSTINE W - Utterback reported that he has been able to get these two (2) tiles surveyed in the last week and staff will be working to get them sent for bids in the next few weeks. This will consist of replacing 1000 feet of 24" on the GLICK E and 950 feet of 12" on the HOWENSTINE W.

216-015B GOBLE E #15 - Utterback informed the Board that surveying is complete on this drain and bids will be sent out later this week to replace 2000 feet of 24" tile.

619-000B SCHRADER E - Utterback reported that property owner, Justin Alexander, is requesting the final phase to be replaced on this tile consisting of 1650 feet of 24" tile with an estimated cost of \$42,000. Cormany motioned to approve moving forward with a Public Hearing on the SCHRADER E drain with a rate of \$40 per acre / \$200 minimum, collecting \$13,919.72 annually. Schuman seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

644-002B SMITH-BRADEN #2 - Utterback reported that property owner, Gary Lamle, is requesting this tile be replaced due to it being broken down with numerous suck holes. The estimated cost to replace 2100 feet of 15" tile would be \$35,400. Schuman motioned to move forward with holding a Public Hearing to increase the assessment rate to \$40 per acre / \$200 minimum, collecting \$7,411.00 annually. Cormany seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman S. Schrader adjourned the meeting at 9:32am.

Submitted by: Jennifer Stephenson, Drainage Board Secretary

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE LIST - WHITLEY COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD, MARCH 17, 2025:

1. Garry Ingram
2. Glen Linvill
3. Ann Linvill
4. Billy VanAuken
5. Chandra Sauers
6. Jon Gotz, SWCD
7. Scott Crance
8. Shelly Lybarger

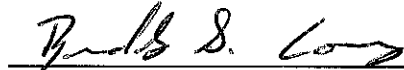
Members signing do hereby concur that the foregoing is a true copy of the proceedings of the Whitley County Drainage Board meeting held on March 17, 2025:

SETH SCHRADER, Chairman

DAVID JOHNSON, Vice Chairman



MICHAEL SCHRADER



BRAD CORMANY



ROB SCHUMAN, Commissioner Member



ATTEST: BRAD ALLEN, Whitley County Engineer