

WHITLEY COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD – MINUTES REGULAR MEETING – NOVEMBER 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, Vice Chairman Dave Johnson, Member Michael Schrader, Member Brad Cormany, Commissioner Rob Schuman

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

Staff absent: Drainage Supervisor Max Utterback

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

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC ATTENDANCE: There were twelve (12) visitors in attendance for the November 17, 2025, Whitley County Drainage Board meeting. A guest list is included with the minutes of this meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING:

DRAIN: WAGNER S

S. Schrader opened the Public Hearing at 9:00am.

DESCRIPTION: Scott & Angela Wagner have petitioned the Drainage Board to establish a county drain located south of Paige Road and north of Mowrey Road, running west to the Eel River for a distance of approximately 1100 feet. Public Hearing Notices were sent by the Wagners to all affected property owners on September 16, 2025. Six (6) remonstrances were received opposing the establishment of the tile becoming a county regulated drain. During the October Drainage Board Meeting, it was discovered that some property owners that received the original Public Hearing Notice were not going to be assessed in this watershed due the benefited acreage amount being less than .10 of an acre. Letters were then sent from the Engineer/Surveyor Department informing each property owner know if they were included in the watershed or not. Shipman explained the process of establishing a county regulated drain and provided information on the existing easement that is already recorded on these properties for the drain. Property owner, Michelle Judd, originally spoke during the October Hearing but had further information that she had researched regarding the existing drain easement on the recorded deed. Property owner, Mike Dear, who also spoke during the October Hearing, was in attendance again to bring questions to the Board that he was concerned with and again express his opinion against the drain establishment. Property owner, Brent Schrader, was in attendance to state some history of the drain. Property owner, Jeff Carey, also was in attendance to speak against the drain establishment. Attorney Shipman summarized the petition and state statute to the Board and the public. M. Schrader motioned to dismiss the petition to establish the Wagner S drain. Cormany seconded the motion. Motion to dismiss the petition passed 4-0-1 with S. Schrader abstaining.

S. Schrader closed the Public Hearing at 9:47am.

IN THE MATTER OF CONSENT FOR PERMANENT STRUCTURE PETITIONS:

DRAIN: 145-003B EGOLF M1 #3

Surf Internet requested to install fiber optic crossing the EGOLF M1 #3 145-003B county regulated drain. M. Schrader motioned to approve the Consent for Permanent Structure Petition to surf Internet to install fiber optic crossing the EGOLF M1 #3 county regulated drain. Cormany seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

IN THE MATTER OF LET/BID JOBS:

Prior to the approval of the HIVELY D bid job, the Board formally approved to go into the red for 2 to 2-1/2 years to allow for the longer distance of tile to be replaced. Johnson motioned to go into the red for 2 to 2-1/2 years. Schuman seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

279-000B HIVELY D – Bids were recently accepted to replace 2800 ft of 30" tile from the Blue River, crossing Anderson Road to the west side of 450 East. Johnson motioned to award the labor to Tri County Excavating for \$40,400. M. Schrader seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Cormany motioned to award the pipe to Baughman Tile for \$53,234.56. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Johnson motioned to award the backfill to Brad Hull Trucking for \$23.50/ton. Cormany seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS:

Scott Wagner thanked the Board for their time on his petition to establish the Wagner S drain.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ENGINEER REPORT:

Allen had nothing new to report at this time.

IN THE MATTER OF FIELD WORK REPORT:

216-034AB GOBLE E #34 – Allen reported that Eric Sheets was previously awarded the project consisting of replacing 900 feet. However, when they got on-site to begin, it was found that there were discrepancies in the elevation of the tile in previous jobs. In 2006, 30" tile was replaced under 800 South and was not installed low enough. Two phases of tile were then completed later on both sides of the road. The assigned contractors completed the projects to the specs given at the time, which left the tile too high for the old clay tile that they needed to tie into. Since there is now not enough fall, we will need to replace to the point that proper grade can be obtained. Sheets would like to be relieved of their awarded project of 900 feet so that the tile can be re-bid with the additional footage that is needing replaced. The estimated cost to replace 2,470 feet of 30", 24" & 18" is \$65,100, would leave the drain fund 2-1/2 years in the red. Johnson motioned to go in the red for 2-1/2 years and re-send the project out for bids and release Sheets from the original bid. M. Schrader seconded the motion. Motions carried 5-0.

IN THE MATTER OF CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE OCTOBER 20, 2025, WHITLEY COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MINUTES:

A motion was made by Johnson to approve and adopt the October 20, 2025, Whitley County Drainage Board Minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Cormany. Motion passed 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman S. Schrader adjourned the meeting at 10:09am.

Submitted by: Jennifer Stephenson, Drainage Board Secretary

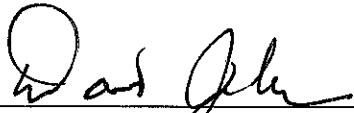
PUBLIC ATTENDANCE LIST - WHITLEY COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD, NOVEMBER 17, 2025:

1. Tom Sroufe
2. Jan Sroufe
3. Jeff Carey
4. Eric Sheets
5. Derick Sheets
6. Mike Judd
7. David Judd
8. Ericka Lambert
9. Brent Schrader
10. Mike Dear
11. Jon Gotz
12. Stacey Petrovas

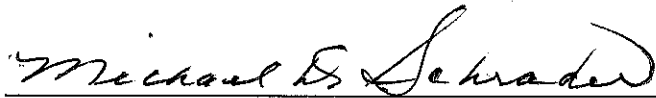
Members signing do hereby concur that the foregoing is a true copy of the proceedings of the Whitley County Drainage Board meeting held on November 17, 2025:



SETH SCHRADER, Chairman



DAVID JOHNSON, Vice Chairman



MICHAEL SCHRADER



BRAD CORMANY



ROB SCHUMAN, Commissioner Member

ATTEST: BRAD ALLEN, Whitley County Engineer