

**WHITLEY COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD – MINUTES REGULAR MEETING – JANUARY 20, 2026, 9:00AM**  
**Whitley County Government Center - County Commissioner/County Council Meeting Room – 1<sup>st</sup> 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 (arrived at 9:25am), 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. With there not being a quorum at that time, the meeting was postponed until 9:26AM when Chairman Schrader again called the meeting to order.

**IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC ATTENDANCE:** There were two (2) visitors in attendance at the January 20, 2026, Whitley County Drainage Board meeting. A guest list is included with the minutes of this meeting.

**IN THE MATTER OF ELECTION OF 2026 WHITLEY COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD OFFICERS:**

Schuman motioned to nominate Seth Schrader for Chairman for the year 2026. Cormany seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0-1 with M. Schrader abstaining.

Schuman motioned to nominate Dave Johnson for Vice Chairman. Cormany seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-1 with M. Schrader abstaining.

**IN THE MATTER OF 2026 JOINT COUNTY BOARD APPOINTMENTS:**

Schuman motioned to retain the Joint County Board member assignments as were decided in 2025. Cormany seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0-1 with M. Schrader abstaining.

ALLEN/WHITLEY COUNTY JOINT DRAINS.....SETH SCHRADER & BRAD CORMANY  
HUNTINGTON/WHITLEY COUNTY JOINT DRAINS.....DAVID JOHNSON & ROB SCHUMAN  
KOSCIUSKO/WHITLEY COUNTY JOINT DRAINS.....DAVID JOHNSON & MICHAEL SCHRADER  
NOBLE/WHITLEY COUNTY JOINT DRAINS.....MICHAEL SCHRADER & BRAD CORMANY  
WABASH/WHITLEY COUNTY JOINT DRAINS.....SETH SCHRADER & ROB SCHUMAN

**IN THE MATTER OF CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE DECEMBER 15, 2025, WHITLEY COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Schuman to approve and adopt the December 15, 2025, Whitley County Drainage Board Minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Cormany. Motion passed 3-0-1 with M. Schrader abstaining.

**IN THE MATTER OF CONSENT FOR PERMANENT STRUCTURE PETITIONS:**

DRAIN: 571-000A RITTENHOUSE C

Northeastern REMC requested to replace a utility pole located a distance of thirty-two (32) feet from the RITTENHOUSE C county regulated drain. Schuman motioned to approve the Consent for Permanent Structure Petition to Northeastern REMC to replace the utility pole located thirty-two (32) feet from the RITTENHOUSE C county regulated drain. Cormany seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0-1 with M. Schrader abstaining.

DRAIN: 543-000A PHILLIPS C A

Brooks Boles had submitted a petition at the previous meeting to place storage units with the closest building being a minimum distance of five (5) feet from the top of bank of the PHILLIPS C A 543-000A county regulated drain, which was tabled pending further information being obtained regarding the county drain. Allen has recently communicated with Boles who is willing to make efforts to ensure the county drain is not compromised including adding grass strips between the buildings and the ditch bank, making sure his drainage is controlled and protected into the ditch, and getting Geotech recommendations to confirm that the bank can hold up to the structures. Boles is also willing to pay for clearing along this county drain and could also move the buildings further away up to ten (10) feet from the top of bank. M. Schrader still had concerns about the cost to taxpayers if work would be needed on the drain due to the placement

of the structures. The Board was also concerned with the precedent that has already been set in regard to the distance allowed from the county drains, and if this was approved would lead to future issues. Schuman motioned to table the Consent for Permanent Structure Petition to Brooks Boles indefinitely for the above reasons. Cormany seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-1 with M. Schrader abstaining.

**DRAIN: 459-001B MOSSMAN J #1**

Thrills RV petitioned to place a gravel parking lot over the non-taxed MOSSMAN J #1 county regulated drain, which was discussed and tabled at the December meeting. Utterback did a site-visit recently and talked with the owner north of the property who says the tile does seem to work properly but does come over Lincolnway at times before going down within a few hours. Utterback feels if the tile is replaced beneath the parking lot and a catch basin installed for when the water does come across the road so there is a way to keep the gravel from washing into the tile. Jared Hochstedler was present and does think the tile is 10" presently but will replace with the size that is existing. Hochstedler has also talked with the adjoining property owner and could replace up to the existing suck hole. Cormany motioned to approve the Consent for Permanent Structure Petition to Thrills RV to install a gravel parking lot with the condition of replacing the tile beneath the lot and installing a retention fixture to keep gravel from washing into the tile. Schuman seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0-1 with M. Schrader abstaining.

**DRAIN: 573-000A ROUCH-SHAW A**

Braden Coffelt petitioned to construct a pole building to be located a minimum distance of forty (40) feet from the top of bank of the ROUCH-SHAW A 573-000A county regulated drain. Schuman motioned to approve the Consent for Permanent Structure Petition to Braden Coffelt to construct a pole building located a minimum distance of forty (40) feet from the top of bank of the 573-000A ROUCH-SHAW A county regulated drain. Cormany seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-1 with M. Schrader abstaining.

**IN THE MATTER OF OTHER BUSINESS:**

There was no business to report at this time.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ENGINEER REPORT:**

SCHNEIDER J #4 Update – As reported previously, property owners Brian & Sonya Emerick were preliminarily requesting the SCHNEIDER J #4 be established as a taxed county drain. Since Allen County would have jurisdiction over this drain, Allen has talked with the Allen County Surveyor. Allen County is good with moving forward to establish the SCHNEIDER J #4 as a taxed drain, however it would need to be initiated by Whitley County. There currently is not a repair application on file from the property owners. Allen also has looked into the non-taxed branches that are existing on the Emerick's property, which no longer serve a purpose since private tiling was installed. Those branches could now be vacated.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FIELD WORK REPORT:**

Utterback reported that bid jobs have been being worked on with some being completed. Pankop has completed the GLICK/HOWENSTINE project, Warner Excavating continues to work on the GOBLE E #15 and L.I. Excavating will soon be starting the GOBLE E #34 once pipe is delivered. Open ditches needing dipped will be looked at later this week so that those projects can get started as well.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business and no further questions or comments from the public, Chairman S. Schrader adjourned the meeting at 9:45am.

Submitted by: Jennifer Stephenson, Drainage Board Secretary

**PUBLIC ATTENDANCE LIST - WHITLEY COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD, JANUARY 20, 2026:**

1. Jon Gotz, SWCD
2. Jared Hochstedler, Thrills RV

Members signing do hereby concur that the foregoing is a true copy of the proceedings of the Whitley County Drainage Board meeting held on January 20, 2026:



\_\_\_\_\_  
SETH SCHRADER, Chairman



\_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID JOHNSON, Vice Chairman



\_\_\_\_\_  
MICHAEL SCHRADER



\_\_\_\_\_  
BRAD CORMANY



\_\_\_\_\_  
ROB SCHUMAN, Commissioner Member



\_\_\_\_\_  
ATTEST: BRAD ALLEN, Whitley County Engineer