

December 03, 2025

The Newton County Drainage Board met in the Commissioner's Room of the Newton County Courthouse at 10:00 a.m. CST on December 3rd, 2025.

Members present were Councilman Scott Carlson, Commissioner Rob Churchill, Surveyor Beau Watkins, Secretary Jamie Rowe and Attorney Jacob Ahler. Also present was Mike Schoof of Indiana DNR.

Councilman Carlson called the meeting to order.

Minutes

11-05-2025

Commissioner Churchill made a motion to approve the minutes. Second by Councilman Carlson. Motion passed 2-0.

IDNR/TNC Joint Wetland Project

Mike Schoof was present to discuss a project in the preliminary stages that will affect Lawler Ditch and Houseworth Riner Ditch.

The proposed project would take place between 200 N and 400 N and west of 400 W in T30N, R9W, Sections 17 & 20 as well as T30N, R10W Section 18 and would affect approximately 1,050 acres.

Discussion followed regarding how the project may impact neighboring landowners, outlet and water table changes, and future modeling. Mr. Schoof stated these questions will be addressed upon completion of the project modeling.

Rebecca Spitler (714)

The Board reviewed invoices submitted for the pipe and stone on this crossing. After due discussion, *Councilman Carlson made a motion to pay \$649.42 for the pipe to George Sons, landowner. Second by Commissioner Churchill. Motion passed 2-0.*

Follow Up

Denham Subdivision (705)

Surveyor Watkins reported that an IDEM meeting scheduled for the following day regarding permitting for laying a pipe in the ditch will need to be rescheduled due to IDEM's internal contact being transferred.

He also advised the Board that Dirt Diggers submitted a final invoice on the open (past due) contract for this drain. Commissioner Churchill asked whether the project had been completed to specifications. Surveyor Watkins stated that as of his last check before snowfall, it had not.

The Board instructed that the invoice not be paid until the work is done to the contract specifications. Attorney Ahler agreed with the Board's decision. Surveyor Watkins will contact Dirt Diggers to follow up.

Thompson Ditch – Ade Wall (612)

Surveyor Watkins reported the project is complete. He recommended installing a guardrail around the wall and along the drive for safety. The Board agreed with this. Surveyor Watkins will contact Sharon Domonos, Highway Superintendent.

Hibler (716)

Surveyor Watkins provided follow-up on the Hibler watershed question raised at last month’s meeting. He stated that the landowners Mr. Wunderink referenced were removed from the watershed because they are not actually located within it. Surveyor Watkins also reviewed Mr. Wunderink’s concerns regarding the assessment, noting that he and his neighbor have historically taken care of their portion of the ditch.

The Board discussed the matter and clarified that if any work is to be performed on the ditch, it must be done with the Surveyor’s approval and compensated by the drain.

The Board agreed that no action will be taken on this situation.

Other Matters

Best Ditch (717)

The Board discussed the ongoing beaver dam issue. Surveyor Watkins noted that in the spring the Board may need to consider hiring the amphibious excavator to remove the dam. Discussion also took place regarding the status of the culvert permit that CBBE has been working on.

Surveyor Watkins also suggested that a pump station similar to the one at Sumava might be an effective long-term solution.

2026 Meeting Dates

Meetings in 2026 will be held the first Tuesday of the month, at 10:00 am at the Newton County Courthouse.

Exceptions will occur on election days in May and November, when the meetings will be held on the first Monday of those months.

2026 Attorney

Attorney Jacob Ahler will remain the Drainage Board Attorney. His office will send over the agreement this week.

Adjournment

With no further business, *Commissioner Churchill made a motion to adjourn. Second by Councilman Carlson. Motion passed 2-0.*

X

Scott Carlson
President

X

Steve Eilers
Vice President

X

Robert Churchill