WARRICK COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

REGULAR SESSION - AGENDA
107 W. LOCUST ST., STE. 303- BOONVILLE, IN 47601
PHONE - (812) 897-6170

SARAH A. SEATON | TERRY J PHILLIPPE | STACEY FRANZ

Meeting Date: August 24, 2026
Meeting Time: 2:30 P.M.

Link to view meeting via YouTube: Warrick County Meetings

Note: Persons with disabilities or non-English speaking persons who wish to attend a public meeting or hearing and need assistance should contact the Commissioner's Office, 107 W. Locust Street, Suite 301, Boonville, Indiana 47601 or 812-897-6120 not later than one (1) week prior to any meeting or hearing. Every effort will be made to make reasonable accommodations for any such person or persons.

Present: Steve Sherwood, Morrie Doll, Stacey Franz, Terry Phillippe, Sarah Seaton, Steve Spinks and Ondrea Temme.

The meeting was called to order following the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Approval of Minutes

August 10, 2026 meeting- Stacey Franz made motion to approve, Sarah Seaton seconded motion, Motion approved unanimously (3-0)

2. Claims

Terry Phillippe: Five claims for Morrie for a total of $500.00 (April- August)

Stacey Franz: I'll make a motion to approve.

Morrie Doll: Thank you.

Sarah Seaton: Second.

Terry Phillippe: All in favor? Motion carries (3-0)

Terry Phillippe: Next order of business is the Deaconess Cancer Center drainage approval.

3. Deaconess Cancer Center

Jim Morley Jr.: Jim Morley Jr., project engineer. And so, this is for Deaconess, they tore down part of the hospital and now they're building a great big building in replace of that. But primarily it was pavement or rooftop before, and now it's pavement or rooftop again. So, the detention requirement did not change. We

ended up rerouting some pipes and such as we changed grading , but the pipes into the basin stayed the same and the pipe out of the basin stayed the same.

Steve Spinks: Jim, here if you want to walk them through that if they have questions? We have a copy made up for you.

Jim Morley Jr.: Okay.

Steve Spinks: That's what they have in their folder, sir.

Jim Morley Jr.: Okay. So, on this picture here, the yellow is the new proposed pipes, and the orange represent existing pipes. I met with Steve Spinks and went through the whole thing, also.

Terry Phillippe: Any additional input?

Steve Sherwood: As Mr. Morley stated, it's basically in the original plan, accounts for all the drainage. So, I think you even had it reduced just a little bit. So, there's no new drainage, so it all falls in the originally approved guidelines. So, I believe I recommended Steve Spinks office for approval.

Stacey Franz: I'll make motion to approve.

Sarah Seaton: Second.

Terry Phillippe: All in favor? Motion carries (3-0)

4. Newburgh Goodwill

Terry Phillippe: And Newburgh Goodwill.

Jim Morley Jr.: Jim Morley, project engineer for Newburgh Goodwill. So, on this picture, kind of the two black squares are where the new Newburgh Goodwill will go. It's kind of right behind the Walmart, if you will, or if you've ever eaten at the Teriyaki Madness. So, if you're looking at Teriyaki Madness, to the left. And so, this subdivision when it was originally developed, right below those two black squares is a great big dark triangle, and that is a large detention basin that was done for this entire subdivision. And so, this project drains into that detention basin and is in accordance with what's allowed by the original drainage plan. And so, then this is the picture here just shows the parking lot out front, and the darker square is the Goodwill building.

Steve Sherwood: Once again, as Mr. Morley described, this lot is part of a larger commercial development, has a pre-approved drainage, and he meets and does not exceed any of those parameters, and it even abuts the retention basin, so it's got a short distance to travel again. I recommend Steve Spinks office for approval.

Sarah Seaton: I'll make a motion

Stacey Franz: Second

Terry Phillippe: Motion carries (3-0)

Jim Morley Jr.: Thank you all.

5. Gesselman Property (Ellerbusch Rd & Willow Pond Rd)

Terry Phillippe: Gesselman property, Ellerbusch Road, and Willow Pond Road.

Steve Spinks: Yeah, I've got a report on that. I think two weeks ago when we had it out there at Freeman Park, that's when all this kind of busted loose. I went out there that afternoon, met with Mr. Gelman. We went all the way to the end of his property back there, talked about it, went through 8-foot tall Johnson grass looking at stuff. Steve probably has something to put in on this also. But basically, what they did, they got into our legal drain about, I think, if I remember right, about 30 feet or so, they got into it. So, they're going to put it back at no cost to us because they got into it, and they're going to put it back, and they're going to put it back the way it should be.

But there's some other factors there, too, as this project moves along. That legal drain was cleaned out a few years ago, several years ago and product and material never was leveled out like it should have been. So that's created some problems. BP has a pipeline running through that ditch, so you got to be careful in there. Anytime you dig around that, you got to have one of their people there.

So basically, when that thing was cleaned out several years ago, they dug too deep in front of it. And Joe Kiesel told me it's 18" he shot. It's 18" inches to 2' foot too deep. So, what they propose to do, if this project moves along correctly, then to help the water flow on that part of the legal drain, is the owner of that land, once they get that pond dug or the lake, he would like and would accept if we pump some water out of that legal drain into his pond. Then we can get that water out of there, and then that will let us go in there and put that 18" inches to 2' foot of fill in front of that pipe and bring it back up level again, and then the water will flow, and that will stop some of the problems there in that area, but not all of them. So that's bringing you up to date. I think Steve might know some about it if he'd like to talk about it.

Steve Sherwood: All this project started as a public complaint filed for work for disturbing one acre or more. He has up to 26 acres in this area.

Terry Phillippe: Who's the developer?

Steve Sherwood: Mr. Gesselman himself.

Terry Phillippe: Okay.

Steve Sherwood: I think he hired a private dirt contractor. And then when I got ahold of it, I had to write them up for lack of having a proper SWPPP on file. And in my discussion with Joe Kiesel, what Steve Spinks was describing, I believe he's been hired by Mr. Gesselman to do the SWPPP, but I won't receive a SWPPP until all this legal drain activity is done, so he can accurately design a SWPPP to reflect current conditions. Now, this work is in a legal drain and does run through a floodplain/flood zone of limited size. And I believe Steve Spinks and Mr. Kiesel have both been advised to work with the Area Plan Commission, who is the director associated with floodplain through the Area Plan Commission with Molly Barnhill. So as long as everything meets with their stuff in accordance, eventually we'll get to the point where I can get a SWPPP on file from my end, but Steve Spinks is handling everything in the legal drain.

Terry Phillippe: Did they have any appropriate filings with the county for any of the development?

Steve Sherwood: It's a previously recorded minor subdivision, so it is lots determined in a minor subdivision. And according to Molly, she advised Mr. Gesselman a year ago what he needs to do, but evidently, he moved forward without taking the proper steps.

Terry Phillippe: Okay, I'm just curious. Did you say it's 26 acres? And how many lots?

Steve Sherwood: This is the largest lot, about 26 acres. There's four lots in all in the subdivision. Two other lots are owned by other people, much smaller, and he owns a residual lot of about an acre to two acres in size. But the 26 is the balance that fronts and borders the Willow Pond legal drain south of Willow Pond Road and west of Ellerbusch Road.

Terry Phillippe: Okay, thank you.

Terry Phillippe: All right, so that's just informational.

Steve Spinks: Yes, sir, it's just informational to let you know, bring you up to date with what's going on.

Terry Phillippe: Okay. Any other business for the drainage board?

Steve Sherwood: Just one comment. I believe at the last meeting at Freeman Park, Newburgh Sewer was told this would be tabled to this meeting, and they're not in the audience that I see, nor is it on the agenda.

Morrie Doll: I talked to Newburgh's attorney. They asked for another two weeks. Apparently, the superintendent is on vacation at a conference.

Steve Sherwood: So, it should be scheduled technically three weeks is the next meeting.

Terry Phillippe: Okay. Anything else, Board?

6. Comments/ Discussion

Steve Spinks: This is my technical deputy asking to speak under comments.

Terry Phillippe: Come on up.

Chris Scherzinger (Surveyor Technical Deputy): Yes, sir. Okay. I've personally walked a lot of that area, and from Frame Road, forgive me if I got my road wrong where Willow Pond starts, there's huge volumes of water coming through there, coming down through the area. So, if, like what I've heard being spoke, if we bring that up and allow more water flow coming hard, the folks downstream are going to have to deal with that somewhere. And I just wanted to make everybody aware.

Terry Phillippe: Yeah, makes sense. Thank you.

Steve Spinks: Thank you, Chris.

Terry Phillippe: Okay, anybody else? Mr. Sherwood.

Stormwater

Steve Sherwood: Thank you, Mr. President. My agenda will be brief. Westwood subdivision Section A and B drainage improvement project just for a project update, I have not been informed that they've completed the final punch list yet. We're still holding a 10% retainage. I expect that to be resolved before the next meeting.

And then we've had some discussion on item number two, the violation notice that I sent Mr. Gesselman on the Willow/Ellerbusch Road area for needing to get a SWPPP submitted. And I gave you a brief description on the drainage board meeting as to why the SWPPP has not yet been submitted. That's all that I have unless you have any questions for me.

Terry Phillippe: Any additional business for the stormwater meeting?

Michael Bell (Town of Chandler): Thank you. I didn't call in to ask to be on the agenda because I just don't know sometimes if my schedule will allow me to be here. So, kind of impromptu, and I just want to say thank you for looking at Chandler. Steve Spinks has been looking at our needs, and we have spent some time with Chris Scherzinger on Pigeon Creek and Stollberg, and there are some very large log jams that I think have been accumulating over a long period of time. And one of them is in Pigeon Creek just as it intersects with Stollberg, about 1,000 ft to the southwest. And that is a very large log jam, and I appreciate Steve Spinks trying to help us with that. I think he's got some plans in motion.

But just to describe to you and confirm whatever he might say, that log jam is probably 120' feet long, covering that much of Pigeon Creek, and 15' to 18' feet high and 80' feet wide. It's very large pictures and videos and I also have, if you're interested, I've got some maps here of just where the issues are. If I can share with those again, this really is an important issue because in June, around June 21, I think we had a week of bad weather. That Sunday night we had several tornadoes, and the following week there was like 10 inches of rain, and that closed down some of our roads for like six days.

So here is one portion of the GIS map that covers a couple of the areas. The log jam on that particular map is the major one. Very, very large. And then this is another map. We couldn't get it all on one because we've, Chris Scherzinger and I, we've been walking and boating, and we've covered just about everything from Inderrieden Road all the way through to Stevenson Station Road. And so, there's some issues, but the main log jams are again on this map right here as described as this log jam. And then on this particular map, dam number three, that's a pretty good size log jam that's over by Stevenson Station Road. And those are the major ones.

So again, just appreciate your looking at what needs to be done and moving forward as quickly as possible, because again, in the week of June 21, we had I think about 10 inches of rain. We had Inderrieden down for about six days. Heim was down for about six days. Had a couple other roads blocked, and just couldn't navigate those roads, and so those dams I think are causing us some real grief in Chandler and for other parts of the area.

Terry Phillippe: For the record, did you just describe three dams, then? Dam 1, 2, and 3?

Michael Bell: There are two very large log jams, and there is one large beaver dam on Stollberg. The rest of the areas are lesser.

Steve Sherwood: So, the log jam you described by Stevenson Station, is that the one that was the older one that's at the Warrick County/Vanderburgh County line, or is this a new one?

Michael Bell: It's one, that we have not.

Steve Sherwood: So, do you know if we still have the one at the Vanderburgh/Warrick County line in Pigeon Creek that was discussed?

Michael Bell: We do. I just haven't been down that far.

Steve Sherwood: The scale of that is even larger than the largest one you described, the last I have heard.

Michael Bell: What I described as being the largest we have a way now to get back there. I would invite anyone, we could take you back in a UTV. Totally accessible by UTV. So we could take you back there. The owner of that property has given us permission, and you can drive all the way back there. So anytime you want to look, we can set that up. I'd be glad to. It's like one of the wonders of the world, it's so large.

Steve Sherwood: I know that the town of Chandler shares Stolberg Ditch, is the beaver dam you mentioned, is that within the town limits or outside in the county?

Michael Bell: It's in the county legal drain. It's, about 1,000' feet before you get to Pigeon Creek on Stollberg. And I do have pictures. I don't have a way probably to show those, but it's very large. And so, we have issues with our sanitary plant because it cannot drain properly, and the backwater comes back into our sanitary and it causes our readings to be wrong with IDEM that's monitored, of course, you know, and that's one of the issues. And then of course the backwaters flood into our area, and it's not only just Chandler, but the surrounding areas. It's a large portion of the county.

If you go again north on Inderrieden Road just at the edge there of our municipality, there is a little Wrights Ditch, I believe, a bridge there. And if you take that area and you go to the southwest and wiggle all the way over to Stevenson Station, that's the area that we've covered. So, it's again not just Chandler; it just prevents us from having good drainage. But there's many other people that are affected by that.

Terry Phillippe: And on this drawing, you got it marked Beaver Dam. Is that Beaver Dam one? I'm sorry. Is that dam two or three?

Michael Bell: That's different places. I just couldn't put it all on one page. This is technically dam one and dam two. We when we were in the boat, we just shot some coordinates back to Dave, who was in the office, who could pinpoint it on our maps.

Terry Phillippe: And so, do you know from dam three to the other dam that's on the Warrick/Vanderburgh line, what's the distance from three to there?

Steve Spinks: No, I don't, Terry.

Michael Bell: Dave's been there. He's flew a drone over just a few years ago. That's the one that's been a major issue that people have talked about for a long time. So, Dave Ballew could speak to that about how far that might be.

Dave Ballew: Cliff Weaver, the EMA director, and I, we worked on that one a few years back ago. We actually did a presentation for INAFSM, the Indiana Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management conference. If you get out of the Warrick County line and get into Vanderburgh and right before you get back out or into it again, you know, that's where the big beaver dam was. We actually accessed it from a service road in farmer's property, so that's how we get to it.

Terry Phillippe: Do you know what the distance from dam three to that one? Mile or two?

Dave Ballew: Yeah, I'd say probably say mile, mile and a half.

Terry Phillippe: Okay. I'm just asking because if you if you were able to clear dams one, two, three, and the log jam, then they're all just going to back up against the one at the county line So, we're just spreading the water out, basically. Does that help? I don't know.

Dave Ballew: Yeah. Well, it's going to dissipate it more into the farmland than have it coagulate on into Inderrieden.

Michael Bell: As we all know, Pigeon Creek has problems. And that rain I spoke of in June, Dave Ballew and I, we tracked Pigeon Creek all the way from Chandler and every point that we possibly could to the west side of Oak Hill Road in Evansville. And North Green River Road was experiencing a lot of problems. So, I know we cannot help Vanderburgh County's issues; all we can do is help Warrick County issues. So, I know there are problems in Vanderburgh County, because we've been there and saw the flood.

Terry Phillippe: I guess my question would be: if all those we're talking about were broken and cleared, that maybe in your mind creates some relief in the local area, but does it create more problems back downstream? Would we be flooding other people's lands now?

Dave Ballew: Well, it's going to increase velocity a little bit, but you know, allowing water to flow freer. But at the same time, you know, everything has a basic cause and effect, you know, action/reaction. So it's going to eventually it will average out, you know, it'll find its own mean.

Steve Sherwood: Yeah, so I think the trick he's referring to is as you remove these log jams, to not let the logs flow continue downstream and cause problems elsewhere.

Dave Ballew: Sure.

Steve Sherwood: They have to be removed piecemeal.

Dave Ballew: Yeah, and they will. So, it's an ongoing maintenance item.

Michael Bell: I think going forward, it's something we just need to monitor at least once a year, go down those areas to make sure what's happening.

Dave Ballew: Yeah, and I know Vanderburgh County did receive some grant money to remove some log dams.

Terry Phillippe: That would be helpful.

Dave Ballew: Yeah, but it was very minimal in comparison to what needs to be done. There's like $13,000 or so.

Terry Phillippe: Gotcha.

Michael Bell: So, not a whole lot.

Terry Phillippe: That's not going to do it.

Dave Ballew: No.

Steve Spinks: So, this all started out so the board knows, Michael Bell approached me and said that they had problems down there. I sent the technical deputy. They floated that creek several times, and I advised them when they got the report back to let us know, and we would work towards getting them out. Okay? So, they're about done with their report. Getting close to it. I think they got one more thing that they want to float down. But we'll go ahead and get on this before they finish their total report. So, I want to work with them totally, 100%, you know, get that water out of there.

Terry Phillippe: How much money do you have left in your project budget?

Steve Spinks: About $60,000—$65,000. Here's the thing, Terry, where I need some input in on this, that thing is massive. I've seen pictures of it. It's massive, about the length of a football field, I guess, close to it. Can we get a truck in there? I've got to go out there and look at it with him. Can we get a truck in there to load them logs up and get them out? You know, can we pile them up? Can we burn them? You know, we have to put somebody out there to watch it if we burn them 24/7 until the fire is out. There's a lot of things there that we have to take into calculation you know I'd love to get a truck in there and haul them out so they don't float down to the other people. But I told him I'd work with them, and we'd get some of that out so Chandler wouldn't have to worry about getting flooded out this fall.

Michael Bell: Well, we've had a lot of farmers that have been complaining about this same issue. And Terry, as you spoke about the dam at the county line, that's the area I'd like to explore next, is to go from Stevenson Station to the southwest towards the county line to take a look at that. I've heard how large that is. I personally have only seen the drone footage of it, but we attempted the drones, but the foliage is just too great, and the drone is too expensive to try to get down there and wiggle through. So that's why we put actual eyes on it, and I think that gives us a greater feel of what we are really working with than just a picture.

Terry Phillippe: Understood. Thank you.

Michael Bell: I appreciate your help.

Terry Phillippe: Anything else for Stormwater?

Steve Sherwood: No, I'm good.

Terry Phillippe: I'll make a final motion.

Stacey Franz: Motion to adjourn.

Sarah Seaton: Second.

Terry Phillippe: All in favor? Motion carries 3-0