

1st Qtr
2025

INDIANA LICA NEWS

INLICA Takes Top State for 2024!

Indiana LICA was proud to receive the 2024 Top State award at our recent convention in Jacksonville. This award is given to the state that has shown the most effort and time spent building their state chapter, as well as the industry and promotion of LICA.

2025 INLICA Officers

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Keith Miller
13529 S 150 E
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765-776-2458

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Chalmers, IN 47929
219-204-2572

Treasurer

Chris Smidler
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47957
219-863-3395

Executive Director

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Francesville, IN
47946
219-204-1722
www.indianalica@
gmail.com
Visit us at:
www.indianalica.org



A Word from our President

Hello Fellow INLICA Contractors,

I hope everyone is doing well and busy with all your spring work. It has been a busy first couple of months for me and my new role as President. Kate and I traveled to Florida for some quality time together before attending National LICA Winter Meetings in Jacksonville. The trip to St Augustine was rich with a lot of history. I would recommend visiting St Augustine in your future travels.

I attended several committee meetings including Insurance & Safety. It was brought to our attention that insurance premiums are up 5-10% for contractors. We discussed the safety manuals available on the National LICA Safety Portal. Next was the Membership Committee where we discussed many new ways other state chapters are bringing in new members. Water Table Management was interesting learning how Florida is implementing automation of irrigation using NOAA weather stations to send recommendations for timely irrigation. They are seeing 70% reduction in groundwater usage.

The new 401K program was introduced to the membership from World Insurance. Many states are mandating businesses with 5 employees or less to provide 401K programs. Check out this new member benefit on the LICA website. The new CDL training program was also introduced. We as employers can be registered with FMCSA to train our own employees at a much lower cost to our LICA membership. Go to the National LICA website to receive more information on how to get started with training.

I also attended the Delegate and Board Meetings. There was a lot of discussion concerning budget and what to do with office space. National LICA is creating a new position of Director of Sales and Marketing. This new position will take the place of CEO Jerry Biuso.

After returning home Kate and I hosted the Area Meeting at our shop. The meeting was very well attended. We had a session on the new Indiana 811 web ticket entry and NRCS updates. We had several friendly Indiana DOT officers here to talk about proper load securement and many other topics contractors may have had questions about. After a great lunch catered by Half Moon Brewery, we learned about new cutting technology in Ground Penetrating Radar to locate existing tile lines. Thank you, Nanci, for organizing another great INLICA event!

I would like to invite all INLICA Contractors to attend an educational seminar or field day in the future and come with an open mind willing to learn new things. Even more important are the friendships and networking we can all gain from INLICA membership.

In closing, we are all here preserving the land God has given to us. Let's all remember to be safe and no life is worth losing over safety in getting the job finished. Hope to see you all at an INLICA event in the near future.

Keith Miller

Indiana LICA President

PLEASE FILL OUT THE 2025 PRICE SURVEY

So many of our contractors find this a valuable tool for their use. However, we need pricing from many in order to make an accurate average. Please take the time to scan this code, or go the following link to fill out the survey.

<https://forms.office.com/g/ETeJu3tHRu>



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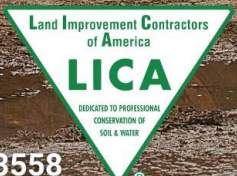
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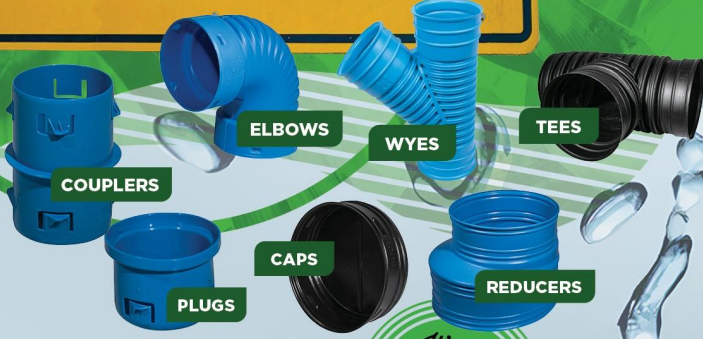
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2025 INLICA ANNUAL BANQUET



2025 INLICA Representatives and Officers

L-R Brendan Sasser, Kevin Hohman, William Harriman, Tony Cain, John Hack, Nate Miller (VP), Keith Miller (President), Steve Holtzleiter, Brendan Noggle, James Ramsey, Joe Stull

Convention looked a bit different this year, but sometimes change is good. Thank you to all of the Associates that jumped on board with our NACADE programming, and an even bigger THANK YOU to those Associates that stepped up and sponsored tables at our annual banquet. We hope you all found the time spent worthwhile!



2024 Mr & Mrs Contractor of the Year

John and Frieda Pickering



50 Year Members

Left, JP Fullhart
Right, Joe Frey (pictured accepting the award on his behalf, Mike Frey)
Greg Blankenberger was the 3rd, 50 Year Member recognized. Congratulations!



2025 INLICA ANNUAL BANQUET Continued



Left—Passing of the Presidents Pin from Joe Stull to Keith Miller.
Above—Ron Schlatter presented Joe Stull with his President's
Plaque and Gavel.



INLICA Board and Representatives traveled to Jacksonville Florida this past February. We were able to see 2024 National LICA President, Tony Cain, pass his presidents pin onto 2025 National President, Jeff Schell (Kansas) . Pictured right is Tony receiving his past presidents award from former president David Gallahan (Virginia)



INLICA is once again partnering with ILICA on a trip to the Badlands! Join us as we meet up in Attica and participate in a day of riding and enjoy a meal together (we can skip the ILICA meeting, haha!) You can even make it a weekend and join some of the other members in camping!



Join us for LICA's Off Road Adventure, Dinner & Illinois LICA's Members' Meeting at Badlands Off-Road Park in Attica, IN! Spend the day exploring over 1400 acres of sand dunes, trails, mud, rocks, and MX tracks and then meet up later at the clubhouse for a catered dinner and the ILICA members' meeting. And be sure to check out badlandsoffroad.com for side by side rentals, camping & lodging options. We can't wait to see you there!

EST	9 am	Park Opens \$25 Daily ride wristbands purchased at the Pro Shop
	11 am - 3 pm	Food Shack Hours
	5 pm	Dinner & IL LICA Members' Meeting Located at the clubhouse: 3962 N Xavier Rd, Attica, IN

Park Requirements:

Daily Ride Wristbands | Waivers for Minors | No Alcohol | SUV's, Jeeps, SxS, ATV's Welcome | Flags Required 2' Above Tallest Point of Rigs and Rider Height | Helmets for Dirt Bikes, ATV's and 18 & under SxS riders | Flags & Mounts Available for Purchase Onsite



Please return form by July 11, 2025

Name/Company name: _____

Yes, I/we will attend dinner # _____ x \$25 = _____

Names of all attending: _____

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Sponsor the ILICA Dinner & Members' Meeting for \$500!

Total amount enclosed: _____ or Bill me



Please Remit by July 11th to: Illinois LICA
112 Exchange St., Ste. 2
Galva, IL 61434

This notice is to inform all officers, directors, alternate directors, chairmen and members of standing committees, and all active members of the Illinois Land improvement Contractors Association, Inc. that the next ILICA members' meeting will be held on July 26, 2025 @ 6:00 pm EST at Badlands Off-Road Park, 3962 N. Xavier RD, Attica, IN 47918. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Register
HERE



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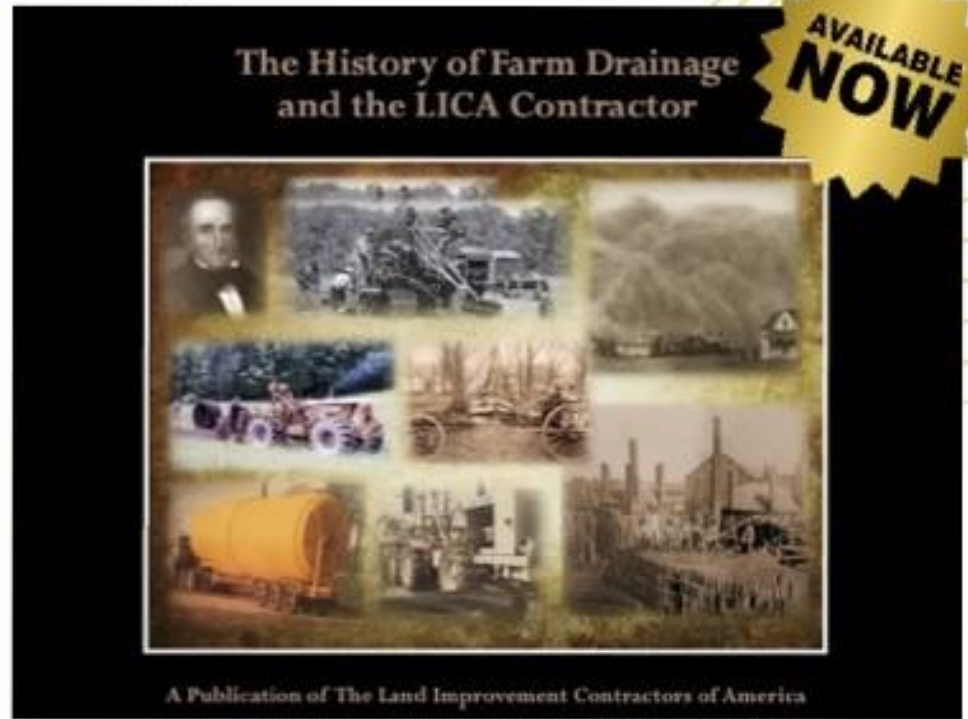
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This essential book takes you through the significant milestones and advancements in the field, highlighting the critical role played by the Land Improvement Contractors of America (LICA).

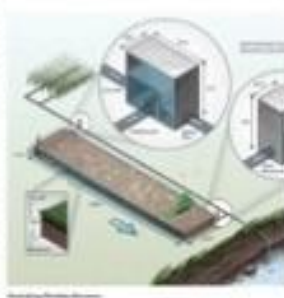
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Whether you are a professional in land improvement, an academic, or simply interested in agricultural history, "The History of Farm Drainage and the LICA Contractor" is an invaluable resource.



Chapter 12 Conservation Practices and the Future of Farm Drainage

Conservation practices are essential for maintaining the long-term productivity of agricultural land. This chapter explores various techniques such as cover cropping, no-till farming, and buffer strips, which help reduce soil erosion and improve water quality. It also discusses the role of LICA in promoting these sustainable practices among its members.



Using a hand-dug well with a dipper.



Men from the drainage crew using hand tools.



Working with a hand-dug well is a labor-intensive process. In the early days of drainage, workers used simple tools like dippers and buckets to draw water. As technology advanced, the use of pumps and electric power made the process much more efficient. Today, LICA members continue to innovate with new materials and techniques to improve drainage systems.

Modern drainage systems are designed to be both efficient and sustainable. They incorporate advanced materials like plastic pipe and geotextiles, along with precision engineering. LICA's commitment to research and development ensures that its members have access to the latest and most effective drainage solutions.



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BOOK HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Timeline:** Follow a chronological journey through the key events and developments in farm drainage history.
- **The Inception of Farm Drainage:** Exploring the early stages and initial practices in farm drainage.
- **The Development of Plastic Pipe:** How LICA members have pioneered advancements in plastic pipe technology.
- **LICA State Chapters:** A closer look at the contributions of various state chapters of LICA.
- **Conservation Practices and the Future of Farm Drainage:** A forward-looking perspective on sustainable practices and future trends.



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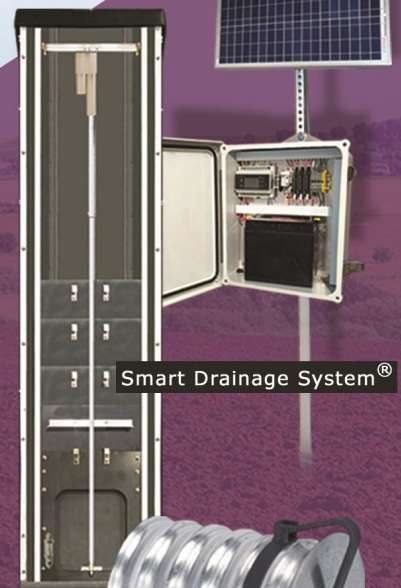
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2025 Conservation Drainage Network Annual Meeting

Illini Union Hotel, 1401 West Green St., Urbana, IL 61801 (Virtual options available)

April 1-3, 2025

PRE-CONFERENCE SATURATED BUFFER DESIGN WORKSHOP ON MARCH 31, 2025



TARGETED OUTCOMES

- Raise awareness of the importance of agricultural water management to farm profitability, local, regional, and national initiatives to advance soil health, water quality, watershed restoration, risk reduction, and climate resiliency.
- Strengthen understanding of drivers for practice implementation and identify impediments to conservation drainage practice adoption.
- Prioritize information needs to address risks.
- Understand how to advance conservation drainage as an integral component of managing food production, regenerative agriculture, and terrestrial water supplies under changing climate conditions.

ADVANCE CONSERVATION DRAINAGE IMPLEMENTATION.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Be sure to check out the pre-conference Saturated Buffer Design Workshop that will be hosted by Dr. Ehsan Ghane. Dr. Ghane will go through a new design tool made possible by a USDA-NRCS CIG. The workshop will be held on March 31, 2025, if interested please select the Saturated Buffer Design Workshop ticket in addition to the regular registration when signing up for the conference.

On Wednesday April 2nd, there will be two concurrent sessions. Session 1 will be a conservation drainage training for practitioners. This training will help practitioners understand what is needed to facilitate the design of a practice and will work through Illinois-based examples. If interested in this session, please select the ISAP Conservation Drainage Ticket in addition to the regular registration.

Session 2 will be more focused on current conservation drainage research and future collaborations. No additional registrations are required.

Illini Union Hotel Information

The hotel has offered us discounted rates within our room block. The discounted rates are available until **March 3, 2025**.

To make a reservation online:

Go to <https://illiniunionhotel.illinois.edu/>

Enter the stay dates and click "Enter it Now" for Promo or Group Code

Note the page says: "Those dates are not available". That is because all rooms are in our room block. Once you enter the booking code you will be able to select a room.

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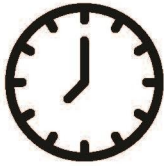
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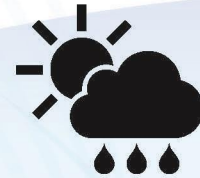
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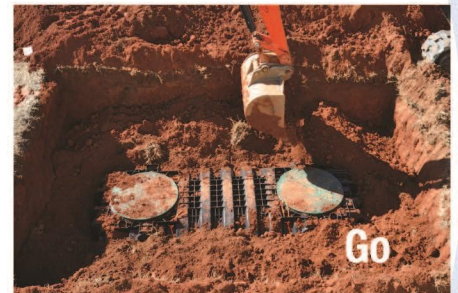
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From the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water

Krisitin Bean, Alliance of Indiana Rural Water
State Legislation:

The 2025 Indiana General Assembly is well underway, and we continue to monitor legislation that could significantly impact Indiana's water and wastewater utilities. As we move past halftime, bills that have survived the first chamber are now being considered in the other chamber, while others have failed to advance. Below is an update on key legislation, our advocacy efforts, and what comes next.

Key Bills We Are Tracking

House Bill 1459 - Water and Wastewater Utility Asset Management

Summary: Mandates non-IURC-regulated water and wastewater utilities to submit asset management reports, including federal orders. The IURC will set reporting requirements and review compliance every four years.

Status: Passed House, now in Senate Utilities Committee

Our Position: We previously testified in opposition to HB 1459 before the House Utilities, Energy, and Telecommunications Committee, citing concerns over increased regulatory burdens without dedicated funding or resources. Working closely with our lobbying firm, BOSE Public Affairs Group, we have been actively engaging with legislators for several months to improve the bill's impact on rural and small utilities. While the bill is not necessarily ideal, particularly being housed under the IURC, we recognize the importance of proper asset management and responsible long-term planning for utility infrastructure. Given the bill's strong legislative backing, we have worked diligently to secure the best possible outcome for our communities. As a result of these collective efforts, along with AIM's advocacy, Amendment #4 was introduced and passed unanimously (9-0) in committee today, marking a significant improvement from the bill's original form. We welcome any thoughts or concerns as we continue to navigate this process.

Senate Bill 4 - Water Matters

Status: Passed Senate, now in House Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications Committee

Summary: Strengthens oversight of large-scale water transfers and long-haul pipelines by requiring water utilities to obtain IURC approval (CPCN) before construction or transactions. It also mandates a DNR permit for transferring over 30 million gallons per day out of a basin or from restricted areas. Existing interbasin transfers exceeding system capacity over 90 days must also secure a permit. Transfers are approved only if they do not deplete water resources and serve the public interest.

Our Position: We have been engaging with legislators to ensure the bill's requirements align with the realities of utility operations, particularly as many policymakers may not fully understand the capacity needs and operational challenges utilities face. We will continue working to ensure a balanced approach that protects water resources while avoiding unnecessary strain on local communities.

Senate Bill 426 - Water Utilities

Status: Passed Senate, currently on 3rd Reading in House

Summary: Expands IDEM's three-strike rule for wastewater violations and, if passed, would apply similar enforcement to drinking water utilities. The bill also requires IURC to consider mechanisms for integrating and investing in acquired utilities and allows utilities to recover certain infrastructure improvement costs. It limits liability for water utilities if their supplied drinking water meets federal and state standards and restricts the Department of Natural Resources from ordering the removal of certain dams if doing so would impact public or private water supplies.

Our Position: We appreciate the bill's efforts to provide immunity protections for utilities. However, we continue to express concern about the increased IURC oversight for non-regulated water utilities, which could impose additional regulatory burdens on rural systems already facing resource challenges. While we support responsible enforcement and investment in utility infrastructure, we will continue working with legislators to ensure a balanced approach that protects rural utilities without unnecessary regulatory overreach.

Senate Bill 459 - Environmental Matters

Status: Passed Senate, now in House Environmental Affairs Committee

Summary: Mandates that certain entities conduct annual cybersecurity vulnerability assessments for public water systems, designate a primary cybersecurity incident reporter, submit annual certification to the Department of Environmental Management, and report any actual or suspected cybersecurity breaches to the Office of Technology.

Our Position: We support strengthening cybersecurity protections for public water systems, recognizing the critical need to safeguard infrastructure. We are actively working to ensure utilities receive clear guidance, reasonable implementation timelines, and the necessary resources to comply with new environmental regulations effectively.

NEXT STEPS & HOW YOU CAN HELP

- ◆ Engage with Your Legislators - Share your concerns regarding legislation affecting your utility. [Find your legislator here!](#)
- ◆ Stay Informed - Stay updated on the [IGA | Home](#) webpage, as well our [Legislative Updates Site](#) for additional bills we're tracking.
- ◆ Testify & Advocate - Your voice matters! If you have specific concerns, we encourage you to participate in hearings and provide feedback.

For more information or to get involved with our Legislative Working Group, reach out to us at alliance@inh2o.org.

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INLICA Area Meeting

INLICA would like to thank Keith Miller for hosting this years annual meeting. We met this past February for a morning of education, and a free lunch. Topics covered were the IN811 Ticketing System, INDOT tie-down training, NRCS Updates, as well as locate services. Thank you to all who attended and provided this training for our contractors.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 18th– Field day at Purdue ACRE Farm

July 8th–12th- LICA National Summer Meeting, Duluth MN

July 26th–Indiana and Illinois Membership Event at the Badlands

September– Board Meeting and Family Membership Event TBD



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