

**INDIANA LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Business Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 21, 2025**

The 71<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the Indiana Land Improvement Contractors Association was held at the Renaissance Hotel in Carmel, Indiana, on Tuesday, January 21, 2025. The meeting was called to order by President Joe Stull at 9:07 a.m. Introductions were made. Mike Koehne moved to have an open agenda. James Ramsey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Minutes: Tony Cain moved to accept the minutes from the 2024 annual meeting. James Ramsey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Nanci Gutwein presented the written treasurer's report on behalf of Chris Smidler who could not attend. Total of all funds is \$204,484.80. The main account will need to have money added after convention and payment of the rest of the dues. James Ramsey moved to transfer the Ladies' savings into the Main account and Money Market account but to retain its integrity in the books. Kevin Hohman seconded the motion. The motion passed. Nanci Gutwein presented the budget for the coming year. She explained several line items. Nanci pointed out that the budget does not include \$4,995 for the Drainage History books nor does it include a 4% increase in her salary. James Ramsey moved to approve the 2025 budget. Kevin Hohman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President's Report: Joe Stull reported he has been dealing with the cold weather. He plans to attend National in Jacksonville, FL.

National Report: Tony Cain reported that the Water Management Forum at St. Joseph College was well attended and the associates liked the format. The next Water Management Forum will be in June, 2026. The \$20,000 profit that was made from the WMF was used by National to cover the loss they had from poor attendance at the summer National convention. Tony stated that National is looking for someone to do Quickbooks for National. Eileen is helping part time until someone is hired for the books. Allison is taking over more of Jerry's duties. The winter National convention will be in Jacksonville, FL. Tony reported he has been traveling to various state conventions. Tony reported that he and Nanci attended the Rural Water Drainage Alliance show last fall hoping to acquire new members for INLICA. It became obvious that this group was not a good fit for INLICA.

Area Director's Reports: Todd Gross reported that business has picked up in his area since the election in November. John Hack II reported that he has been attending monthly meetings for the Septic Review Panel for the State of Indiana. Contact him with any ideas or issues members would like to be reviewed. Some of the ideas may be put into the Indiana Code.

Executive Director's Report: Nanci Gutwein presented a written report of her activities. She invited members to the Area Meeting on February 24, 2025 at Keith Miller's shop near Kokomo, IN. Topics will include NRCS updates, 811 changes and online features, and DOT information.

Technical Advisor's Report: Mike Cox passed out the pricing survey and told members that with the QR code, they may do the survey online. The online version has more details and descriptions. They added water control structures to this survey. He stated they will probably leave the survey open until the March board meeting, then publish results. Mike stated that with a new administration and a new

Secretary of Agriculture, there are a lot of unknowns at NRCS. The Farm bill may be taken up by July, 2025.

Legislative Update: Mike Koehne reported that with the presumptive new head of EPA, Lee Zeldin, some clarification on WOTUS may be forthcoming. Other items of concern are the Herbicide Strategic Act, the Water Resource Development Act, and the Farm Bill which may be taken up in July. There are several bills now in the Indiana General Assembly having to do with water issues, property tax assessments, agriculture land protection, and accelerated depreciation. Mike reported he is on the committee to update the Drainage Handbook. James Ramsey reported that there is a bill working its way through the process that would exempt Homestead farms from eminent domain.

Education Update: In Jane Frankenburger's absence, Joe Stull reported that Jane is working with the Conservation Drainage Network which will have a meeting in April at Champaign, IL. Jane is presenting at NACADE.

Standing Committee Reports:

Membership: At this time 77 INLICA memberships have been paid. They are still trickling in and Nanci hopes for over 100. There was a discussion about changing the membership structure to include employees at a reasonable rate. At this time, National still requires \$150 per person. Nanci will talk to National about this issue.

Scholarship: Alexa Haas and Kaden Miller are the scholarship recipients for 2024.

Convention: There are 157 people registered for the banquet on Wednesday night. The convention has gone smoothly so far. There is no ladies' program this year. Chris Smidler will not be able to attend so Tony was suggested to help with honors and awards.

Necrology: Gary Bullock passed away during this past year.

Old Business:

Field Day - Plans are in process for a project at the Purdue Acre farm. The details are still being worked out. They need three bids from INLICA contractors. INLICA is proposing a 2025 field day to show in-crop main installation and then a 2026 field day to show lateral installation. The following committee was appointed for this project: John Hack II, Tony Cain, James Ramsey, Joe Stull, and Keith Miller.

New Business:

Nominations and Election of Officers and Directors:

James Ramsey nominated Nate Miller to serve as Vice-President. James Ramsey moved to close the nominations. Tony Cain seconded the motion. The motion passed.

A director is needed to replace Nate Miller in the NW region. Tony Cain agreed to move to a NW director. Brendon Sasser agreed to take Mike Koehne's place as SE director. Joe Stull moves to At-Large director replacing Tony Cain.

The following slate of officers was presented for 2025: President - Keith Miller, Vice-President - Nate Miller, Treasurer - Chris Smidler.

The following is the new slate of directors for the board:

	Term ending 1- 2026	Term ending 1 - 2027	Term ending 1 - 2028
NW Director	John Hack II	Nate Miller	Sam Baker
NE Director	Kevin Hohman	Todd Gross	Guil Wehr, Jr.
SW Director	Rob Wood	William Harriman	Dean Neiswinger
SE Director	James Ramsey	John Pickering	Brendon Sasser
Associates	Neal Hall	Steve Holtzleiter	Brenden Noggle
At-Large	Bryan Noggle	Chris Smidler	Joe Stull

James Ramsey moved to accept this slate of officers and directors. Kevin Hohman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

National Convention:

Keith Miller and Chris Smidler will be attending National convention in Jacksonville. James Ramsey moved for INLICA to pay for travel and hotel expenses for Nanci Gutwein and voting delegates. Keith Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Nanci Gutwein reported that ADMC dues of \$1500 are now due. Tony Cain moved to pay the dues. James Ramsey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Tony Cain moved to adjourn the meeting. Todd Gross seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Frieda Pickering, Recording Secretary

Attendees:

President -	Joe Stull
Vice-President -	Keith Miller
National Officer -	Tony Cain
Technical Advisor -	Mike Cox
NW Director -	John Hack II
	Nate Miller
NE Directors -	Todd Gross
	Kevin Hohman
SE Director -	John Pickering
	James Ramsey
	Mike Koehne
Executive Director -	Nanci Gutwein
Recording Sec -	Frieda Pickering
Members -	Darrell Birge
	Brendon Sasser
	Wayne Kessens
	Burr Worl
	Jeff Beggs
	Steven Dieckmann
Guest -	Sandy Birge
	Hailee Young