

**INDIANA LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of Meeting of Board of Directors**  
**Saturday, March 15, 2025**

The First Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indiana Land Improvement Contractors Association was held at Walt's Pub in West Lafayette, IN, on Saturday, March 15, 2025. The meeting was called to order by President, Keith Miller at 10:00 a.m. EDST.

Joe Stull moved to have an open agenda. Chris Smidler seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Minutes: The minutes from the Fifth Regular meeting in January, 2025, had been emailed to board members. Nanci noted one correction. Board Directors should have read: NW Term ending 1-2027 is Sam Baker and Term ending 1-2028 is Tony Cain. James Ramsey moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Nate Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Smidler read the written treasurer's report. Total assets = \$181,351.27. The Ladies Savings account has a balance of \$13,043.96 which reflects expenses for awards and scholarships but doesn't yet include all the auction money. Sam Baker moved to accept the treasurer's report. James Ramsey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Presidents's Report: Keith Miller reported he attended a committee meeting at the Purdue Acre Farm concerning the upcoming field day. He traveled to Florida and then attended National convention where he attended several committee meetings and learned more about the 401K rollout and the CDL training. A new Director of Sales and Marketing is being sought to take Jerry's place. Keith announced that Indiana received the Top State award at the convention. Also Keith hosted the Area Workshop which had about 35 attendees and some good sessions.

National Report: Tony Cain reported he has been busy since the first of the year traveling to four state conventions and then Jacksonville, FL for National. National board has been meeting virtually with several topics under discussion. A person to keep Quickbooks is still being sought. Eileen wants to be completely retired from this job by July 1, 2025. National office is hoping to move back to their old space which will be sufficient and save quite a bit of money. Tony reiterated that the board is looking for a replacement for Jerry. Nick Yaksich, Director of Government Relations retired since the first of the year. The board will be discussing whether this role is still needed. Summer convention will be held in Duluth, MN.

Area Director's Report: Todd Gross reported that in the NE region, conditions are dry right now. Brendon Sasser reported that in the SE region people are getting excited about planting.

Executive Director's Report: Nanci Gutwein presented a written report of her activities. Membership has come back above 100 after she made some personal contacts. Nanci distributed a draft of a letter to include inside the covers of the Drainage Books to be placed in libraries. She has put together a "Need to Know" sheet with information that would be needed concerning INLICA were she to be incapacitated. It will be put in the minute book. Nanci announced that Illinois LICA is sponsoring an event at the Badlands Off-Road Park on July 26, 2025. They have invited INLICA members. More details will be in the next newsletter.

Technical Advisor's Report: Mike Cox could not attend the meeting. He had emailed that NRCS has lost some probationary employees, but thinks they may be coming back. So far four pricing surveys have been turned in.

Legislative Report: James Ramsey reported that the Indiana Legislature is in a bit of chaos with a lot of confusion on the property tax reform issue. The main bill that would be of interest to INLICA has to do with invasive species control. At the federal level, no farm bill has emerged yet. They would like to pull food stamps out of the next farm bill. Also, the EPA is being told to revisit emissions standards and roll back regulations.

Education Advisor's Report: Jane Frankenburger reported that the situation with the Federal government is causing grants to be taken away from education. Purdue Extension is struggling and changes will be coming. Jane commented she enjoyed NACADE and being able to connect with colleagues. The Conservation Drainage Network will be meeting in Champaign, IL next month. Jane is serving as Vice Chair. Going forward, funding will be affecting various groups.

Old Business:

Purdue is ready to go forward with work on a 200 acre field at ACRE. The plan is to complete the work in two phases. The first part which will include an in-crop installation of the mains will be accomplished first with a field day on June 18, 2025. The field day will include a little bit of main installation, ground penetrating radar to locate existing tile and education about the cost effectiveness of in-crop situations. The second phase will include lateral installation with a field day in the summer of 2026. Wheat will be planted for summer harvest followed by double crop soybeans. Also for the 2026 phase, controlled drainage structures will be installed in the south end of the field.

New Business:

The Nature Conservancy has several projects coming up and would like to partner with INLICA. More information will be available soon.

The following businesses were nominated for membership:

Nathan Davis with Davis Ag in Sheridan, IN  
Drew Reiger with HD Ag in Greensburg, IN  
Austin White with Whitewater Farm Drainage in Clarks Hill, IN  
Energy Service Solutions in Shelby, MI

Chris Smidler moved to accept these new members. Tony Cain seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There being no further business, James Ramsey moved to adjourn the meeting. Todd Gross seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Frieda Pickering, Recording Secretary

Attendees:

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| President -          | Keith Miller       |
| Vice-President -     | Nate Miller        |
| Treasurer -          | Chris Smidler      |
| Executive Director - | Nanci Gutwein      |
| Recording Sec -      | Frieda Pickering   |
| National Off & NW-   | Tony Cain          |
| Education Advisor -  | Jane Frankenburger |
| NW Director -        | Sam Baker          |
| SE Director -        | John Pickering     |
|                      | James Ramsey       |
|                      | Brendon Sasser     |
| NE Director -        | Todd Gross         |
|                      | Guilford Wehr, Jr. |
| SW Director -        | Rob Wood           |
| At-Large -           | Joe Stull          |
| Member -             | Darrell Birge      |
| Guest -              | Jason Gutwein      |