

INDIANA LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Meeting of Board of Directors
Saturday, September 6, 2025

The Third Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indiana Land Improvement Contractors Association was held at the Prophetstown State Park in West Lafayette, IN, on Saturday, September 6, 2025. The meeting was called to order by President, Keith Miller at 10:05 a.m. EDST.

Introductions were made including Allison Hack and Adam Cook who joined the meeting by Zoom.

Chris Smidler moved to have an open agenda. James Ramsey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Prior to the meeting, discussions were introduced concerning holding the 2026 summer National convention at the Purdue ACRE farm in conjunction with the Purdue tile field day. After considerable further discussion, the board is eager to work with National to combine the two events. Possible dates are either the third week of July, fourth week of July, or first week of August. Nanci Gutwein will start contacting Purdue to work out rental of buildings for meetings.

While Allison was participating in the meeting, she reported that the job of "Chief of Operations" has been posted and a lot of applications have been sent in. The committee is working on narrowing down choices at this time, hoping to hire someone before Jerry leaves at the end of the year. Allison also announced that a discount for ConExpo 2026 is now available for LICA members. Members may sign up with the link on the website.

Minutes: The minutes from the Second Regular meeting in June, 2025, had been emailed to board members. Nate Miller moved to accept the minutes as presented. Joe Stull seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Smider read the written treasurer's report. Total assets = \$203,323.71. The Ladies Savings account has a balance of \$7,043.96 after the scholarships were paid. James Ramsey moved to accept the treasurer's report. Tony Cain seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Presidents's Report: Keith Miller reported he thought the field day at the Purdue Acre farm went very smoothly. He attended National in Duluth, MN, where he attended several meetings and sessions. Keith also attended a committee meeting for the 2026 field day.

National Report: Tony Cain reported that he attended National convention in Duluth. Many concerns were addressed during a good meeting. Eileen is still trying to find a QuickBooks person. Tony also attended the Farm Progress Show and the Half Century of Progress in Rantoul, IL. Tony reported that for the Drainage Forum in 2028, there is coordination with an adjoining landlord to hold field demonstrations. The landlord asked about doing a control structure.

Area Director's Report: Guilford Wehr, Jr. commented that he's still working and the weather has been nice.

Executive Director's Report: Nanci Gutwein presented a written report of her activities. The accountant cleaned up her bookkeeping system to purge old accounts. Just as she got the computer back, it crashed so while most of the data was able to be retrieved, she had a little bit of re-posting to

do. She is back up and running now. Nanci brought the history books which are now ready to be delivered to libraries across the state. Inside each book, she placed an introduction and a QR code which links to the INLICA website. Members left the meeting with books to deliver. James Ramsey moved to pay Nanci her contracted bonus of 5% of profit from the field day. Joe Stull seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Technical Advisor's Report: Mike Cox passed out the pricing survey results. The survey will be repeated at the state convention. Mike reported that NRCS lost approximately 60 employees in Indiana but are trying to hire back essential personnel. Some offices are still under staffed. National employees are being shuffled to regional hubs.

Legislative Report: James Ramsey says the conversation at the state level is shifting to water quality and quantity. DNR has been given more responsibility but no more funding.

Education Advisor's Report: Jane Frankenburger would like to get more students involved in the 2026 Purdue field day. Conservation Drainage Network will be involved in training for NRCS staff in November. The Conservation Drainage Network will have their main meeting in June 2026 in Lansing, MI. Jane asked members for input on the topic of solar farms and drainage repair issues.

Old Business:

The Purdue Field Day 2026 is in the planning stages. Nanci would like to incorporate some tours to try to get more people to attend. She is anxious to help National put on a quality convention. This field day will concentrate on the south end of the field and will contain some drainage structures. After a little discussion, the board agreed that the week of July 20 is the first choice of time slots. The final profit number from the 2025 field day is \$29,124.06. James Ramsey has had discussions with Laura Boling about doing work on the woods area at the ACRE farm in the future. Laura will check with people at Purdue to see what kind of project they would be interested in doing.

New Business:

For the State Fair exhibit in 2026, Jim Beatty and Jeff Boyer suggested the INLICA exhibit be manned during the Saturdays and Sundays of the fair. After some discussion about equipment at the exhibit, a sub-committee was appointed consisting of John Pickering, Keith Miller, Chris Smidler and Joe Stull.

Nanci asked for convention topics. Some suggestions: 811 updates as after September 29, call-ins are only taken Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., so on-line requests are more critical; Quickbooks and business law, OSHA/CPR training, hearing testing.

The following business was presented for regular membership: Lubovich Excavating of Clinton, IN. Board members voted to approve.

Westside Tractor salesman, Nathan Darter will be the replacement associate board member for Neal Hall.

Three worthy scholarship applications were turned in. Each was awarded a scholarship.

The check for the Indiana Donor Network is now ready to be presented. Nanci will notify by email about the date to take it. All are invited to be present.

There being no further business, Chris Smidler moved to adjourn the meeting. Tony Cain 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
Technical Advisor -	Mike Cox
SE Director -	John Pickering
	James Ramsey
NE Director -	Todd Gross
	Guilford Wehr, Jr.
SW Director -	William Harriman
At-Large -	Joe Stull
Member -	Austin White
INLICA Lady -	Sally Smidler