

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Tuesday - January 3, 2023 4:30 P.M.

The Wells County Drainage Board met in a regular scheduled meeting at the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223W. Washington St., Multi-Purpose Room 105, (Lower Level), Bluffton, Indiana.

Drainage Board members present: Voting members Blake Gerber, Michael K. Vanover, Jeff Stringer; Attorney Colin Andrews, Engineer Nate Rumschlag, Surveyor Jarrod Hahn, Secretary Diana Collins.

Determination of Quorum:

A quorum was present for the meeting.

Re-Organize Wells County Drainage Board 2023:

Mr. Gerber turned the floor over to Mr. Hahn to re-organize the Wells County Drainage Board 2023 officers. Mr. Hahn mentioned the nominations are opened for a chairman and vice-chairman, and to reappoint the secretary and attorney.

Mr. Stringer motioned for all officers and appointees to retain their positions for 2023, Blake Gerber as the Chairman, Michael Vanover as Vice Chairman; appointees Diana Collins as the secretary, and Attorney Colin Andrews is setting in for who will be appointed in the Commissioners meeting today will also be the Drainage Board's appointee's attorney. Hahn closed the nominations, Mr. Vanover 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0. Hahn thanked Attorney Andrews for his service on the Board.

Minutes:

Mr. Gerber opened the Drainage Board meeting with the first item on the agenda to approve the Board's regular meeting minutes on December 19, 2022.

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on December 19, 2022 as submitted. Mr. Vanover 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

2023 Certify Collection of Watersheds-Detail Listing Sheet:

Mr. Hahn provided a detailed listing sheet on the watersheds and their assessment amounts. Hahn noted the orange highlighted areas are drains that are either at or close to the 4 times the annual amount but has plans to use the funds in upcoming projects this year therefore remains to collect. Hahn also mentioned the yellow highlights are drains that the assessment collections are already turned off and will remain off. Hahn mentioned there are no red highlights to turn off and no green highlights to turn on for assessment collection at this time. Hahn asked Auditor Lisa McCormick how long do we have to notify your office to make a change for collection. Auditor McCormick responded, sometime in February.

Hahn further mentioned the blue highlights are the claims that were paid out on December 19th. Mr. Hahn noted that all other drains not mentioned will remain on for collections for 2023.

Mr. Vanover motioned to certify collections of watersheds for 2023 as recommended. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Project Update:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he has no project update to report.

Bills Creek Watershed:

Hahn mentioned that he looked into Bills Creek watershed current assessment rate and status of its cost on regular maintenance, tile replacements and industrial future infrastructure. Hahn explained the details on the preparation and procedure of an increase maintenance assessment hearing. Hahn currently mentioned the annual assessment collection is approximately \$10,500.00, and then examined the figures based on increase cost of maintenance and what needs to be done in the future to see what the annual assessment needs to be. Hahn noted based on those figures the annual assessment needs to be approximately \$34,000.00 annually which is \$2.50 per acre and \$30.00 minimum. Hahn will continue to look into the cost based on what the needs are today and in the future's for the watershed's maintenance for a solid rate.

Adjournment:

Mr. Stringer motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board meeting at 4:55 p.m. Mr. Vanover 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Tuesday-January 17, 2023.


Blake Gerber - Chairman


Michael K. Vanover - Vice Chairman


Jeff Stringer - Member