

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday-January 6, 2020 8:30 A.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, Kevin Woodward, Tamara Robbins; Attorney Roy Johnson; 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 2020:

Mr. Gerber turned the floor over to Mr. Hahn to re-organize the Wells County Drainage Board 2020 officers. Mr. Hahn mentioned the nominations are opened for a chairman and vice-chairman.

Mr. Woodward motioned to retain Blake Gerber as Chairman, Kevin Woodward as Vice Chairman. Dr. Robbins 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Hahn asked to re-appoint Diana Collins as secretary.

Mr. Woodward motioned to re-appoint Diana Collins as the Drainage Board secretary. Dr. Robbins 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Hahn asked to re-appoint Roy Johnson as the Attorney.

Mr. Woodward motioned to re-appoint Roy Johnson as the Drainage Board Attorney. Dr. Robbins 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

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 16, 2019.

Dr. Robbins motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on December 16, 2019 as submitted. Mr. Woodward 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Project Update:

King Prong Tile Drain- Jefferson Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned a contractor has completed replacing the King Tile Prong in Jefferson Township, section 22, range 12E east of State Road 1 and north of 800 north. Hahn noted they replaced the 18-inch with 850 feet of 24-inch. Hahn also mentioned that the State Highway will be replacing 2 culvert pipes under State Road 1 soon.

Sprang Tile Drain- Jefferson Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned a contractor has completed replacing the Sprang tile drain in Jefferson Township, section 29, range 11E that angles from 1200 north a crossed to 750 east. Hahn noted they replaced the 18-inch with 600 feet of 24-inch. Hahn noted that the Sprang is part of the Allen County's proposed to establish the Valentine Joint Drain watershed. The Board members discussed of correspondence and no date set for hearing at this time.

Compromise Tile Drain- Liberty Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned a contractor has completed replacing the Compromise tile drain in Liberty Township, section 29, range 11E running along 500 south just east of 500 west. Hahn noted they replaced the 18-inch with 1500 feet of 24-inch. Hahn noted he received a call from a landowner on the upperend of the Compromise tile that was replaced in 2013 who believes to have tree roots in it. Hahn has put a call in to have it jetted out with the landowner agreeing to take the trees down.

Certify of 2020 Drains-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 as follows: Bowers, Jamison, Kelly, Lee #1, Mt. Zion, Sprang, Stites.

Hahn also mentioned the yellow highlights are drains that the assessment collections are already turned off and will remain off as follows: Gerber Art, Grames, Heckber, Mahlon Porter, Wm. McClelland, Ed. McKinney, Walt. McKinney, McMullen, Middaugh, Mulligan, Oppenheim, Ck Reid and Runkle.

Hahn noted the red highlight is and recommends turning off assessment collections on the Joint Flat Creek and Foust watersheds as they are over the 4 times annual assessment with no maintenance work scheduled to be done at this time.

Mr. Woodward motioned to turn off collections on the Joint Flat Creek watershed for 2020 as recommended. Dr. Robbins 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Dr. Robbins motioned to turn back on collections on the Lane watershed for 2020 as recommended. Mr. Woodward 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Hahn noted that all other drains not mentioned will remain on for collection of 2020.

Proposed Change to Update Classification of Drains-
Harry Bunn and Summers Prong Tile Drains-Jefferson Township:

Mr. Hahn has prepared a proposed letter to change the classification of drain on the Harry Bunn and The Summers Prong tiles in Jefferson Township, section 15, range 12E. Hahn mentioned both tiles are located on the property that a proposal for a new housing subdivision near Ossian where the Bunn and Summers tiles will be relocated. Hahn noted the Summers tile that was approved by the Drainage Board as a part of the Bridges Subdivision Plans to replace. Hahn noted that currently these two tile drains are classified as need of reconstruction. Hahn noted it has been requested and warrants to re-classify both tiles as "urban drains" as described in the drainage code IC 36-9-27-2 for the new proposed new housing subdivision near Ossian. Hahn also noted at request, to reduce the easement on the drains to a dimension less than the standard 75 feet but at this time would not recommend reducing the easement to the minimum that is allowed under the statute, although Hahn does believe that the easement could be reduced. Hahn mentioned the new owner of the property will call the new subdivision "Cross Wind Lakes" has submitted preliminary plans to my office to reconstruct and relocate these two drains that are within their property and will also cover the cost of that work. Hahn noted the Summers tile will be a 30-inch or 36-inch and the Bunn tile will be a 15-inch. Mr. Woodward questions are the plans to shorten up the easement on the residence side of tile and make easement wider on the other side. Hahn noted he is not sure at this time, but the tile will run along the detention pond, and the road and back of property lines. Hahn mentioned he is not ready to set an easement without the final plans in hand.

Hahn mentioned that drainage code IC 36-9-27-52.5 "Authorization of reconstruction of regulated drain" allows the Drainage Board to approve a reconstruction without a public hearing, provided that certain conditions are met. Hahn mentioned the plans are to reconstruct to relocate the Bunn and Summers tile and feels there will be no adverse impacts to any of the surrounding landowners and would recommend that this be approved when final plans are completed to view.

Dr. Robbins motioned to classify the Harry Bunn and the Summers Prong tile as "urban drains" as recommended, with the easement yet to be determined. Mr. Woodward 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Hahn noted the final plans of the new subdivision will be presented at the next Area Plan Commission on February 6th and with the Drainage Board to meet 2 times before the APC meeting, therefore will have time to view the final plans for easement and authorization for reconstruction.

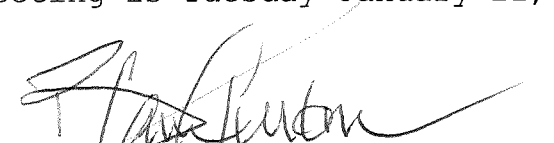
State Highway 218 Resurface Project-Regulated Drains:


Hahn noted he was contacted by the State Highway who has requested him to locate and determined the depth of regulated tile drains that are need of replacement under State Road 218 resurface project believed to be in 2022. Hahn noted that there is only one of him and the State Highway has a team to make that determination. Hahn mentioned that this may need to hire this done which leads to the question, by request, who pays for this added cost and can we bill the State Highway for those services. Attorney Roy Johnson will research Drainage Code for an answer and report at the next drainage board meeting on January 21st.

Adjournment:

Dr. Robbins motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board meeting at 8:58 a.m. Mr. Woodward 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Tuesday-January 21, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.


Blake Gerber - Chairman


Kevin S. Woodward - Vice Chairman