

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday- October 3, 2022 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.

Minutes:

Mr. Gerber opened the Drainage Board meeting with the first item on the agenda to approve the Board's regular meeting minutes on September 6, 2022.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on September 6, 2022 as submitted. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Project Update:

Goodspeed Tile Drain Project-Crop Compensation Agreement Signed:

Mr. Hahn mentioned the contractor has completed putting in the Goodspeed tile that consisted of 1,650 feet with 18-inch tile, 2200 feet of 15-inch, and 1240 feet of 12-inch in Harrison Township, sections 17,18,19, range 12E located south of the City of Bluffton between 250S and south of 300S, west of the Hoosier Highway. Hahn noted that there was only a couple of extra cost on materials and tile, so even with those cost we are still within the project's cost. Hahn noted that measurements will be done soon for the crop damage compensation agreement.

Gaskill Tile/Prong Drain Replacement(Phase #7)-Liberty Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that a landowner had contacted him on continuing replacing the Gaskill tile and prong in Liberty Township, section 17, range 11E south of 200S between 400W and 500W. Hahn noted the landowner has a quote from a contractor Easds & Son Bulldozing to replace 1630 feet of 15-inch feet, 1950 feet of 10-inch and, 610 feet of 8-inch totaling \$39,897.00. Hahn provide a detailed map and proposal cost to view. Hahn mentioned the Gaskill is a part of the continuing replacement of the Charles Stinson tile project starting in 2013 and as funds become available from landowners along with the Stinson watershed. Hahn noted that there are 3 landowners involved in this project and is asking to contribute \$15,000 with the landowners will pay the rest of the cost.

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve \$15,000 out of the Stinson watershed to contribute to the Gaskill tile and prong replacement in Liberty Township, section 17, range 11E. Mr. Vanover 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Char. Stinson Tile Replacement Phase #6-Liberty Township:

Mr. Gerber asked about if there any plans to replace the Charles Stinson tile to the west of the Gaskill tile project. Mr. Hahn said yes, there is only one landowner that is affected by replacing the upperend of Charles Stinson tile and will cost approximately \$60,000.00+ with that landowner will pay the total cost of that project. The Charles Stinson tile location is in Liberty Township, section 17, range 11E south of 200S between 400W and 500W just west of the Gaskill Tile. Hahn mentioned that the Charles Stinson and the Gaskill tile projects are the last to be replaced out of the whole tile system and will last for decades to come.

Kiser Tile Drain Replacement-Chester Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that a landowner would like replaced the Kiser tile in Chester Township, section 11, range 12E south of 700S between Meridian Road and 100W. Hahn noted the landowner has not received a quote yet but will be replacing approximately 1,350 feet of 12-inch and 750 feet of 10-inch tile to include putting in a breather pipe therefore anticipates the total cost to be around \$23,000.00 to \$24,00.00. Hahn is asking some amount but not the full amount out of the Maddux watershed fund landowners will pay the rest of the cost.

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve but not to exceed \$20,000 out of the Maddux watershed fund to contribute to the Kiser tile replacement in Chester Township, section 11, range 12E. Mr. Vanover 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Hahn reported that there are a few tile reports to repair, bank repairs and several better clean cut as crops are harvested.

Continued October 3, 2022

Raising Spending Maintenance Fund Limit Without Board Approval:

Mr. Hahn asked the Drainage Board members on raising the spending maintenance fund limit from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 without getting Board approval. Hahn mentioned the increase is due to the ongoing inflation as the contractors raising their cost for equipment, materials, labor ect..., therefore spending \$5,000.00 gets very little footage done on bottom clean out, brush work done and some tile repairs. Mr. Gerber would like for the Board members to think this over and to revisit this discussion at the next Drainage Board on October 17th.

AIC Annual Conference 2022:

Mr. Hahn mentioned he attended the AIC Annual conference was last week and was well attended. Hahn noted of a few interesting and educational seminars that was on drainage renewable energy solar farms, and inflation and budgeting, public mental health.

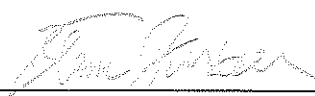
Drainage Task Force:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he had his first Drainage Task Force meeting last week which all who was appointed by the Governor was present for greetings and introduction. Hahn noted it was announced that there will be adding a couple of congressmen and representatives from both parties to be represented on the Drainage Task Force as well.

Adjournment:

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


Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Monday-October 17, 2022



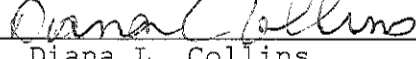
 Blake Gerber - Chairman



 Michael Vanover



 Jeff Stringer - Member
 WELLS COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

ATTEST: 
 Diana L. Collins
 WELLS DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY