

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday-October 4, 2021 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, Michael K. Vanover, Jeff Stringer; Attorney Roy Johnson, Engineer Nate Rumschlag, Surveyor Jarrod Hahn, Secretary Diana Collins.

Determination of Quorum:

A quorum was present for the meeting.

Introduction of New Board member:

Mr. Gerber introduced and welcomed Mr. Jeff Stringer as the new Drainage Board member representing the 3rd district of Wells County and who was sworn-in early this morning by Clerk Beth Davis.

Nomination Vice-President:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that the Drainage Board needs to pick a vice-president for the remainder of the year.

Mr. Gerber nominated Mike Vanover as vice-president, Mr. Vanover accepted. Mr. Stringer 2nd, motioned 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 September 7, 2021.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on September 7, 2021 as submitted. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Drain Project Update

Gordon Tile Drains, Rockcreek Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that the contractor had finished opening approximately 300 feet of the 24-inch Gordon tile drain in Rockcreek Township, section 35, range 11E to prepare for INDOT's project in 2022 who will replace the undersized culvert under State Road 124. Hahn mentioned he had hired a local contractor hydro seed the new open ditch bank time and worked very well and is almost completely covered with grass. Mr. Gerber mentioned that September and October are the best months to plant and grow grass seed, all agreed.

Gustin Tile Drain-Nottingham Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned a contractor will replace about 600 feet of the Gustin two 7-inch tiles with a 12-inch dual wall tile in Nottingham Township, section 19, range 12E in the area of 900S between Meridian Road and 100E. Hahn mentioned the tile should be delivered this week and the contractor to begin as soon as tile gets on site.

Garrett Tile Drain-Jackson Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that contractor will start replacing about 1700 feet of the Garrett tile in Jackson Township, section 35, range 10E around 1200S and State Road 3 next week. Hahn noted the tile is on the upper end of the Stotts tile and is a continuance replacement project in the Stotts watershed.

Irvin Tile Drain-Chester Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned a contractor will be replacing about 600 feet of the Irvin 10-inch tile with a 12-inch dual wall tile in Chester Township, section 23, range 11E on 900S between 200W and 100W. Hahn mentioned the contractor is waiting on the tile to be delivered on site as it is getting difficult for deliveries.

AIC Annual Conference 2021:

Mr. Hahn made mention the in-person AIC Annual conference was last week and was well attended. Hahn noted of one session was on the ARP (American Recovery Plan) funding that can be used for storm water projects and be used for a specific drainage project like in urban town areas. Hahn mentioned that the ARP funds could not go into a revolving loan like the GID or Maintenance funds. The ARC fund can partner with the GDI but the GDI fund would need to be repaid back by the affected landowners taxes spread over a 5-year time.

Fiscal Policy Tax Summer Study Committee Hearing:

Mr. Hahn mentioned he will be attending the Fiscal Policy Tax Summer Study Committee hearing at the State House next week. Hahn noted he will be doing a presentation and testify on the October 13th on the River Basins Commissions, policies, requirements, and the new changes and development of the Commission Boards with watershed basin fees. Hahn noted in 2019 the legislature approved the Kankakee River Basin and Yellow River Basin Development Commission change its commission board and involves 8 counties in Indiana with an advisory board and is locally fund with a special maintenance assessment for those affect by the basin. Hahn mentioned that we are all members of the Upper Wabash River Basin Commission and the Maumee River Basin Commission Board, and if the law changes these commission basins somewhat model after the Kankakee River Basin and Yellow River Basin Development Commission.

Farm Bureau Drainage 101:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he attended Farm Bureau's Drainage 101 a couple weeks ago that was very informative on current legislative laws and funding. Hahn noted he will bring the date and time for next year's event usually in August if any Board member would want to attend.

Continued October 4, 2021

Allen County Joint Drain 5th Member:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that received a call from the Allen County Surveyor's office to be the 5th on a joint drainage board between Allen and Dekalb County on October 14th. Hahn noted that there is a 3rd County, but they waived their rights to the hearing so the hearing will be set-up as between two counties.

Wells County Engineer Nate Rumschlag-Small Structure Report:

Mr. Rumschlag brought in a detail listing of small structure replacement report noting that several pipes have already been done with several more on the list to replace yet this year.

Mr. Rumschlag wanted to amend the listing adding the new 403 small bridge structure(#260)on 800S and west of 1000W over the Davids open drain and is a Community Crossing project list.

Mr. Rumschlag also explains and what defines a small culvert structure, bridges, and federal aid projects which is a center line of the road and its width. There are over 300 bridges and 1700 small structures and is funded through the Highway Department and depending on size, shape and form is installed by a local contractor with large equipment or can be handle by the county highway employees.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve the small structure list with the amendment to add the new 403 small bridge structure(#260)on 800S and west of 1000W over the Davids open drain. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Rumschlag also mentioned he will bring up in today's Commissioners meeting the Murray Storm Water project Grant that Wells County was awarded some funding from the Transportation and Stormwater Grant Program that provide grants utilities and/or communities for stormwater/flooding projects that impact State Roads in their local communities. Mr. Rumschlag noted that the grant was for 1 million dollars but short \$200,000.00 so we can scale the project back but still waiting on the design. Mr. Rumschlag will clarify more in the Commissioners meeting.

Mr. Hahn also noted that there are over 850 miles of tiles and open drains through-out the county and approximately 750 miles of county roads in the county. Hahn mentioned in Murray there are no tile drains but when the storm drainage is put which entity will take care of it, to make a legal drain there is a petitions and a legal process to follow.

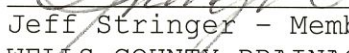
Adjournment:

Mr. Vanover motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board meeting at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Monday-October 18, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.


Blake Gerber - Chairman


Michael K. Vanover - Vice Chairman


Jeff Stringer - Member
WELLS COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

ATTEST: 
Diana L. Collins
WELLS DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY