

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday - November 6, 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 by electronic means of communication zoom, Michael K. Vanover, Jeff Stringer; Attorney Ted Storer, Engineer Nate Rumschlag, Surveyor Jarrod Hahn, Secretary Diana Collins. The public was able to simultaneously attend and observe the meeting, and all votes taken during this meeting were taken by roll call vote.

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 October 16, 2023.

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on October 16, 2023 as submitted. Mr. Vanover 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber motion carried 3-0 by roll call vote.

A.P. Kelley Prong 2 Drain Easement-Jefferson Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that landowner Jacob D. Alford on property address 6138N Main St (Tocsin) Ossian in Jefferson Township, section 36, range 12E has filed a "Request for Variance agreement and covenant" to be in the easement of the A.P. Kelley Prong 2 drain to build a utility room 30-foot x 16-foot/8-foot off the back of his house. Hahn presented a detailed map of the area and explained the utility room will be 15 feet from the A.P. Kelley Prong 2 drain. Hahn therefore recommends the utility room to be in the easement no closer than 15 feet from the center of the A.P. Kelley Prong 2 drain.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve landowner Jacob D. Alford on property address 6138N Main St (Tocsin) Ossian in Jefferson Township, section 36, range 12E to be in the easement of the A.P. Kelley Prong 2 drain no closer than 15 from the center of the tile as recommended. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber motion carried 3-0 by roll call vote.

2024 Drainage Board Meeting Dates and Times:

Mr. Hahn presented the schedule for the 2024 Drainage Board meetings dates and times. The Drainage Board meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 4:30 p.m. except as noted.

Dates are as follows:

JANUARY	2 (Tues)-16 (Tues)	JULY	1-15
FEBRUARY	5-20 (Tues)	AUGUST	5-19
MARCH	4-18	SEPTEMBER	3 (Tues)-16
APRIL	1-15	OCTOBER	7-21
MAY	6-20	NOVEMBER	4-18
JUNE	3-17	DECEMBER	2-16

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve the 2024 Drainage Board meetings dates and times as presented. Mr. Vanover 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber motion carried 3-0 by roll call vote.

Update Drainage Projects:

McCullough Open Drain-Lancaster Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that a contractor will soon begin a bottom clean out on the McCullough open drain very upper end approximately 3,600 feet in Lancaster Township, section 30, range 12E starting at 200N and ending at Meridian Road.

Harnish Tile Drain-Rockcreek Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that two landowners on the Harnish tile drain in Rockcreek Township, section 13 want to replace a portion of the Harnish tile and will contribute most of the cost. Hahn noted to the landowners the Harnish watershed has limited funds to contribute to the project replacement.

Continued November 6, 2023

Approval from County-State Regulations


Mr. Vanover asked if a county entity approves a building permit, the drainage easement for an individual could the state come in and put restrictions on the project. Mr. Hahn mentioned there could be certain circumstances on a construction in a floodway that the county approved, and the state could come in and put restrictions on the project or even stop it until the plans are reviewed which may need a letter or additional permit is obtained. Hahn also mentioned that our public website or the in-house GIS, there is a layer that is looked at to make sure that we do not approve any easement or permit in a floodway flood zone or easement without checking that layer. Hahn noted that for commercial project plans on flowage easement may require additional state and federal permits that may require a letter from Army Corp, DNR, IDEM and EPA, it really depends on what you are building and where. County Engineer Nate Rumschlag also mentioned that if the current building permit project changes its design plan and does not resubmit the plans with the new design which may require a different type or additional permit. Mr. Vanover appreciated the information provided.

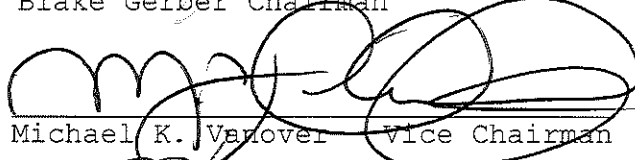
County Attorney Ted Storer made the Board members aware that the county highway has reported that some improvement has been on a county farm cemetery where cement had been dumped near a county drain. Attorney Storer noted that the cement was not removed but had been smoothed out by the landowner and hopefully continue to improve. Mr. Hahn mentioned that the landowner had contacted him and wants to meet with him, the County Engineer Nate Rumschlag, and Area Planning Director Michael Lautzenheiser sometime hopefully this week to go over the expectations are.


Adjournment:

Mr. Vanover motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board regular meeting at 4:50 pm. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber motion carried 3-0 by roll call vote.


Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Monday-November 20, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.


Blake Gerber Chairman


Michael K. Vanover Vice Chairman


Jeff Stringer - Member
WELLS COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

ATTEST:


Diana L. Collins

WELLS DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY