

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes  
Monday-December 16, 2019 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.

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 2, 2019.

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

Valentine Joint Drain-Jefferson Township-Allen County Jurisdiction:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that Allen County Surveyor's office had called and wants to hold a joint hearing to establish the Valentine watershed maintenance assessment in the future, therefore will need two representatives from Wells County to serve on the joint board. Hahn noted he has not heard back of any scheduled date when the joint hearing will take place. Hahn mentioned the watershed located in Jefferson Township, sections 5 and 8, range 13E and affects 658 acres with 35 parcels. Mr. Woodward and Mr. Gerber volunteered to serve as joint board members. Hahn noted the board members will be notified in detail by Allen County who holds jurisdiction over the funds. Hahn mentioned that Wells County currently has a maintenance assessment known as the Sprang watershed at \$1.00 per acre with a \$10.00 minimum and consist of tile drain. Allen County Simmerman Joint will be a separate watershed to our landowners proposed at \$8.00 per acre and \$40.00 minimum. Hahn mentioned the affected landowner's names/addresses have been sent over to Allen County to complete their data, also Allen County will have to appoint a 5<sup>th</sup> member.

Mr. Woodward motioned to appoint himself and Mr. Gerber to serve as the Wells County joint board members on the Valentine Watershed hearing to establish the maintenance assessment. Dr. Robbins 2<sup>nd</sup>. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Simmerman Joint Drain-Jefferson Township-Allen County Jurisdiction:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that Allen County Surveyor's office had called and wants to hold a joint hearing to establish the Simmerman watershed maintenance assessment in the future, therefore will need two representatives from Wells County to serve on the joint board. Hahn noted he has not heard back of any scheduled date when the joint hearing will take place. Hahn mentioned the watershed located in Jefferson Township, sections 1,2,11,12,13,14, Range 12E and Sections 6,7,8 range 13E and affects 3,764 acres with 154 parcels. Hahn mentioned that Wells County currently has a maintenance assessment known as the Simmerman watershed at \$3.00 per acre with a \$30.00 minimum that consist of an open and its tile tributaries. Allen County Simmerman Joint will be a separate watershed maintenance assessment to our landowners proposed at \$5.00 per acre and \$25.00 minimum. Mr. Woodward and Mr. Gerber volunteered to serve as joint board members. Hahn noted the board members will be notified in detail by Allen County who holds jurisdiction over the funds. Hahn mentioned the affected landowner's names/addresses have been sent over to Allen County to complete their data, also Allen County will have to appoint a 5<sup>th</sup> member.

Dr. Robbins motioned to appoint Mr. Woodward and Mr. Gerber to serve as the Wells County joint board members on the Simmerman Joint Watershed hearing to establish the maintenance assessment. Mr. Woodward 2<sup>nd</sup>. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Project Update:

Hahn mentioned that there are about 5 tile replacement projects that are waiting for stone to be delivered on site. Also, Hahn noted that he has been approached by a few landowners on new projects that are in the early stages of development.

Detail Listing Sheet:

Mr. Hahn mentioned the Detail Listing Sheet amounts include the fall drainage assessment collections. Hahn made mention a couple of watersheds that have a large negative amount due to group tile projects. Hahn noted that these amounts will be paid down as the affected landowners pay their cost amount. Hahn also mentioned on one group project that not all the bills have come in by the contractor, so as soon as the bill comes in the affected landowners will be receiving their cost-share billing.

Continued December 16, 2019

Landowner Janet Pence of 1671S. Meridian Road-Harrison Township:

Janet Pence is here before the Drainage Board to express her concerns of the drainage around her home with the possible location of the new County Highway garage being rumored near her home that will add drainage problems to her property and surrounding area that already exist. Hahn noted that he does not know where the location of the County Highway will be but is aware of the drainage in that area. Hahn continued that there have been several tiles in the area that have been replaced and still planning in the future to continue replacing these tiles known as the Walter Johnson, Walter Johnson Prong 1 and 2 that are located in Harrison Township, sections 7, Range 12E. Ms. Pence asked why did the tile projects stop? Hahn replied, due to the lack of funds in the watershed, and noted that it may be up to 5 to 7 years out before funds are available to continue replacing the tile.

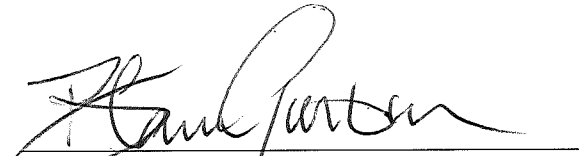
Ms. Pence questions a tile on the south side of the railroad tracks from her farm is going to be replaced. Hahn replied, that he believes the landowner has already replaced this tile with a 12-inch.

Ms. Pence also expressed that she cannot stop the building of the County Highway garage and her property value will decreased, and with the possible location of County Highway on how to drain that wooded area. Mr. Woodward replied, there are several Federal, State and County regulations to go through when a location is found, and no location has been found, and no applications have been submitted, so nothing is happening at this time, therefore no answers to your questions at this time. Woodward thanked Ms. Pence for coming and have made note of her concerns.


Adjournment:

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

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Monday-January 6, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

  
Blake Gerber / Chairman

  
Kevin S. Woodward - Vice Chairman

  
Tamara Robbins - Member  
WELLS COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

ATTEST:   
Diana L. Collins  
WELLS DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY