

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday - December 4, 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, Michael K. Vanover, Jeff Stringer; Attorney Ted Storer, 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 November 20, 2023.

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on November 20, 2023. Mr. Vanover 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber motion carried 3-0

Kitterman Consolidated Joint Drain-Proposed Watershed-Chester Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he received an e-mail from Blackford County Surveyor Paul Schriver who holds jurisdiction on the joint Kitterman Consolidated watershed to establish a maintenance. Hahn mentioned Blackford County Paul Schriver is asking Wells County to either waiver of rights to this proceeding or form a joint board which would require appointing two board members to sit on the joint board. Hahn presented a detailed map of Kitterman Consolidated watershed in Chester Township, section 32, range 11E with only 3 parcels totaling 83.89 acres with 1 landowner owning all 3 of those parcels and stated that the landowner is in favor to establish a maintenance fee. Hahn noted that there are over 3,000 acres in Blackford County with Wells County having less than 3 percent of the total acres, therefore recommends waiving our rights to this proceeding only but be notified of future hearings. Attorney Ted Storer also advised the Board members if you choose to waive your rights as for this hearing only and to retain the right for future representation on Kitterman Consolidated Joint Drain. Hahn noted that there is no rate or hearing date set at this time, but Surveyor Schriver hopes to have the hearing in January to include a 20-day judicial review to ensure a collection notice for 2024 sent to the Auditor's office by February 1st.

Mr. Stringer motioned that Wells County will waive their rights to this proceeding only to establish maintenance on the Kitterman Consolidated joint drain in Chester Township, section 32, range 11E, and to retain the right for future representation. Mr. Vanover 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Lusk Open +Other Drains-Utility Drainage Easement-
Citizens Telephone Corp-100N Expansion Project:

Mr. Hahn presented to the Board a "Consent for Utility for Construction Project in a Drainage Easement" form from Citizens Telephone Corp. on Lusk open, and J.C. Raber #2, J. Falk, J. Hogg Prong, W.A. Redding Prong, P. Souerwine tile drains in Rockcreek Township, sections 34,35,36, range 11E Gramham watershed, and in Lancaster Township, section 31, range 12E Halls Creek watershed to install fiber optic broad band to service homes along 100N between 200W and 100E.

Hahn mentioned the 100N Expansion plans show mostly the install will be on the southside of 100N but talked to the contractor to suggested running a portion of the fiber optic on the north side of 100N for a ways due to the Lusk open drain runs along the south side so the plans may change some. Hahn mentioned the fee has been paid therefore recommends approving easement on the Lusk open +other drains on the 100N Expansion.

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve Citizens Telephone Corp. on Lusk open, and J.C. Raber #2, J. Falk, J. Hogg Prong, W.A. Redding Prong, P. Souerwine tile drains in Rockcreek Township, sections 34,35,36, range 11E and in Lancaster Township, section 31, range 12E 100N Expansion project to install fiber optic broad band to service homes along 100N between 200W and 100E as recommend. Mr. Vanover 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Continued December 4, 2023

IC 36-9-27-30 Professional License Qualified Deputy-Interim:

Mr. Hahn mentioned as the Drainage Board does not have a professional license engineer on staff at the moment under IC 36-9-27-30 states, whenever the county surveyor is not registered under IC 25-21.5 or IC 25-31 and that statute prohibits an unregistered person from performing any function that the county surveyor is directed to do under this chapter, the surveyor shall employ and fix the compensation of a person who is a professional engineer or professional surveyor in performing those functions. Hahn noted that the person employed by the county surveyor, who shall be known as a qualified deputy. Hahn mentioned he had talked with Joel Hoehn, PS of Stody Associates located here in Bluffton is a Professional Land Surveyor and is willing to take on the job as an interim and be pay if services are used on as needed bases. Attorney Ted Storer would like to review statute IC 36-9-27-30 to familiarize for an opinion. Hahn asked if the Drainage Board would approve the interim pending Mr. Storer review and opinion of statute IC 36-9-27-30. Discussion by the Board on how long for the interim services and to wait for Mr. Storer's review and opinion of statutes.

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve interim Joel Hoehn, PS of Stody Associates a Professional Land Surveyor service on as need bases and pending Attorney Ted Storer review and opinion of statute of IC 36-9-27-30. Mr. Vanover 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Update Drainage Project:

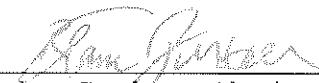
Harnish Tile Drain-Rockcreek Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that the contractor has completed replacing about 1700 feet of 15-inch on the Harnish tile drain in Rockcreek Township, section 24, range 11E starting 300N west side of Meridian Road.

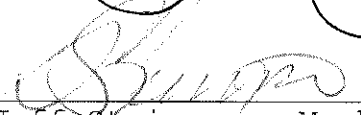
Adjournment:

Mr. Stringer motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board regular meeting at 4:40 pm. Mr. Vanover 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber motion carried 3-0

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Monday-December 18, 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