

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday - December 5, 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 November 7, 2022.

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on November 7, 2022 as submitted. Mr. Vanover 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Leavell-Redding Joint Drain-Rockcreek Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned he was contacted by Huntington County Surveyor Drainage Board who is asking for Wells County to approve to raise the Leavell-Redding (Joint) drain rate from \$2.50 per acre and a \$35.00 minimum increased to \$3.12 per acre with a \$43.75 minimum. Hahn explained what a joint board is, it's members, meeting and what the Drainage Code will allow without going to a hearing. Hahn noted that the Huntington County drainage Board has already approved the increase on their landowners, we just need to approve the increase for our landowners, therefore recommends the increase.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve a 25% (percent) assessment on the Leavell-Redding joint drain with Huntington County from \$2.50 per acre and a \$35.00 minimum increased to \$3.12 per acre with a \$43.75 minimum payable in 2023. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Project Update:

Geo. Essnor Tile Drain Lancaster Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that the contractor has completed replacing the George Essnor tile in Lancaster Township, section 6, range 13E south of US 224 and east of 600E south of Tocsin. Hahn mentioned the contractor replaced 70 feet of 18-inch, 1239 feet of 15-inch and 760 feet of 12-inch tile. Hahn mentioned that the landowner and the 8-Mile fund will contribute to the replacement cost.

King Prong Tile Drain- Jefferson Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that the contractor has completed replacing the upper end of the King Prong tile in Jefferson Township, section 28, range 12E west of State Road 1 and south of 800N. Hahn also mentioned that the State Highway will be replacing the culvert pipe under State Road 1, and the County Highway will replace the pipe under 800N in the future. Hahn mentioned the landowner and the 8-Mile fund will contribute to the replacement cost.

Bessie Porter Tile Drain-Harrison Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that Bessie Porter tile in Harrison Township, sections 8 and 9, range 12E east of the Hoosier Highway and north of 200S was replaced over 1 year ago but the road crossing on the Ellingham pike was not done at that time. Hahn noted that crossing has been put in and completed by the home-builder's contractor.

J.C. Bell Tile Drain:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that a landowner has contacted him on continuing to replace the J.C. Bell drain in Lancaster Township, section 19, range 13E west side of Craigville. Hahn mentioned the landowner has hired Landis and Sons Drainage to systematically tile his farm and is still waiting for a quote to replace a portion of the J.C. Bell tile. Hahn mentioned that the J.C. Bell is in the 8-Mile watershed and will keep the Board informed as details come in.

Maddux Open Drain-Chester Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he had a contractor remove a large tree in the Maddux open drain in Chester Township, section 14, range 11E on 100W between 800S and 900S.

Continued December 5, 2022

Drum Open Drain-Lancaster Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he had a contractor remove a logjam in the Drum open drain in Lancaster Township, section 20, range 13E south of 300N near the railway bridge. Hahn also had the contractor bottom dip from the railway back to 300N.

Johnson Tile Drain- Liberty Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned a landowner had contacted him wanting to replace a portion of the Johnson tile in Liberty Township, section 21, range 11E on 300S between 300W and 400W. Hahn noted the Marshall tile was replaced a couple of years ago and under the railway where the Johnson tile empties into the Marshall. The Johnson tile is over 100 years old and currently has several holes, and the tenant farmer will be systematically tiling a portion of the farm and is willing to replace a portion of the Johnson tile. Hahn noted the Johnson tile is in the Spake watershed which has a negative balance by a half of year's collection, therefore will join in the cost-share to get replaced and will keep the Board informed as details come in.

County Highway Fees-Regulated Drains:

Mr. Hahn is asking that the proposed County Highway fee structure plan be exempt for the county regulated drains on all fees whether it be a landowner or contractor putting in the regulated drain. The Board members agree the regulated drains whether it be a landowner or contractor to install be exempt from all fees. Attorney Colin Andrews will put the language in the ordinance and set up a meeting to consult Mr. Hahn on the language.

County Highway Engineer Nate Rumschlag Report:

Nate Rumschlag reported he will be putting up weight restrictions on culvert #1059 located on the River Road west of 400E where Bills Creek enters the Wabash River. Also Mr. Rumschlag mentions the 200S Federal Road Project that a landowner may take actions to stop surface water from draining into their old stone quarry, they say it needs to go east to Bills Creek.

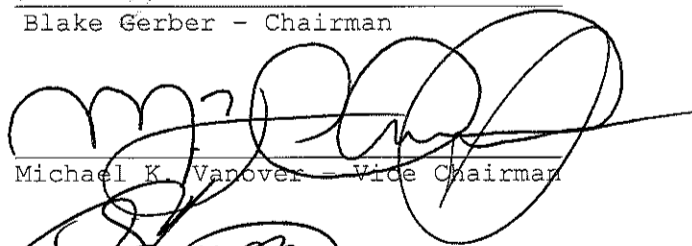
Adjournment:

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-December 19, 2022.



Blake Gerber - Chairman



Michael K. Vanover - Vice Chairman



Jeff Stringer - Member
WELLS COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

ATTEST:



Diana L. Collins
WELLS DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY