

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
 Tuesday - February 20, 2024 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; Surveyor Jarrod Hahn; Secretary Diana Collins.
 Jeff Stringer and Attorney Ted Storer were absent.

Determination of Quorum:

A quorum was present for the meeting.

Minutes:

Mr. Gerber opened the Drainage Board meeting with the first item to approve the Board's regular meeting minutes on February 5, 2024.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on February 5, 2024. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

Loblolly Joint Drain-Jay County Surveyor Brad Daniels:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that Surveyor Brad Daniels from Jay County who holds the jurisdiction over the Loblolly joint drain watershed has increased the maintenance assessment by 25% (percent) which is allowed by law IC 36-9-27-42 without holding a hearing. Hahn mentioned the increase is from \$2.00 to \$2.50 per acre and \$20.00 to \$25.00 minimum that affects 81 parcels with about 2,709 acres in

Wells County's portion of the watershed. Hahn mentioned that it will be an additional \$1,300.00 increase totaling an annual assessment to \$7,009.00. Hahn noted that he had contacted the Auditor's Office to make sure that we can still put this rate in for collection this year and was fine to change the rate payable 2024. Mr. Gerber asked how many acres are affected in Jay County. Hahn mentioned he does not know for sure but it's a big watershed and Wells County has just a small portion contributing to the watershed.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve the request from Surveyor Brad Daniels of Jay County on the Loblolly joint watershed to increase by 25% (percent) from \$2.00 to \$2.50 per acre and \$2.00 to \$25.00 minimum payable 2024. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

J.H. Preskey Tile Drain-Union Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned he received a call from a landowner on water backing up in his basement. Hahn had a contractor go out to investigate where new poles were installed, and also to run a camera to see the condition of the nearby JH Preskey 10-inch tile in Union Township, section 34, range 11E in the Banner City at 600N and 200W. Hahn noted the contractor investigated the pole area and does believe it was the pole causing the problem, but when he ran the camera in the Preskey tile it stopped about 450 feet in a grove of trees.

Hahn mentioned a large tree is on top the tile, therefore believes tree roots are causing the problem. Hahn noted the contractor will be on site this week to jet out or open the tile to make the necessary repairs.

2024 Spray Contract Program-South:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he received a letter from Chadd Baker of Right-Of-Way Management who wants to extend our 2024 contract spray program for the southern portion of the county. Hahn noted that Mr. Baker has a small increase of \$0.0043 from last year's cost \$0.1456 per foot totaling this year's cost at \$0.1499 per foot to spray. Hahn mentioned that had checked in the past with Aquatic Management here in Bluffton and they are not interested in submitting a quote due to all the permits and licensing that is required by law. Hahn mentioned that Chadd Baker of Right-Of-Way Management has sprayed in our County for more than 20 years and is very pleased with his services, therefore recommends extending the 2024 spray contract.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve to continue the extended spray contract for 2024 with Chadd Baker of Right-a-Way Management from Auburn Indiana at \$0.1499 per foot to spray the south half of the county as recommended. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

Logjam State Road 1 Bridge-Bluffton:


Mr. Gerber mentioned that the logjam on the eastside of State Road 1 Bridge here in Bluffton has increased in size. Hahn mentioned in the past he had contacted INDOT Bluffton District Department who is over bridges mentioned they have changed their policy on not removing the logjams like they did in the past unless it becomes a public safety and/or structurally damaging to the bridge. Hahn also noted when the bridge is upgraded or replaced it was said that INDOT will put it in their project plans to take out the logjam if it is still there.

Adjournment:

Mr. Vanover motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board regular meeting at 4:45 pm. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Monday-March 4, 2024 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