

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
 Tuesday - February 22, 2022 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, 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 February 7, 2022.

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

2022 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 contract for 2022 spray program for the southern portion of the county. Hahn noted that there is a .04 cent increase in the cost this year at \$0.14 cents per foot due to the rising cost of chemicals, insurance, wages, and new technological advancement. Hahn mentioned that he checked into previous spray contractors who have sprayed in our county before such as DWRS of Pennville, Shideler Spray Services of Eaton who are no longer in the spraying business. Hahn noted he contacted Aquatic Management here in Bluffton and they do not have the required licenses to spray or the equipment. Hahn also mentioned that he was contacted by a company out of Arkansas that spray over the ditches by using a helicopter, but Hahn believes that technic would not be good for this area due planted fields, woods, personal property and the twist and turns of our ditches. Hahn mentioned that Chadd Baker of Right-Of-Way Management has sprayed in our County for 20 years and is very pleased with his services, therefore recommends extending the contract for 2022.

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve to continue the extended spray contract for 2022 with Right-a-Way Management of Auburn Indiana at \$0.14 cent per foot to spray the south half of the county as recommended. Mr. Vanover 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Project Updates:

Mr. Hahn noted due to the weather conditions there are no project updates at this time.

2022 Legislature Bills:

Mr. Hahn mentioned the that only two legislative Senate bills that have interest to the Board are moving forward as follows:

SB-85 Authored by Sen. Jean Leising, Sen. Susan Glick, Sen. Jeff Raatz-Drainage task force. Establishes a drainage task force consisting of six members of the senate, six members of the house of representatives, and six other individuals. Hahn mentioned that he is watching this bill closely as he has testified to have at least one county surveyor on the board. Got a committee hearing and passed and on to the Governor's Desk.

Senate Bill 269- Authored by Sen. Stacey Donato. Regulation of dams. Provides that the laws regulating dams apply only to a structure that meets two or more of the following conditions. Hahn concerns are we have two low hazard dams in our county, one in the Quabache State Park and the other Moser Lake on 1100N and 100E area is privately owned by two owners and if this bill passes then no one will be inspecting these low hazard dams. Hahn does not believe there is any homes will be affected if the dams break or damage the road and a pipe could be destroyed. Got a hearing and is moving on.

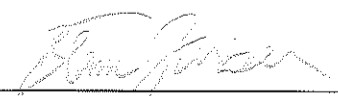

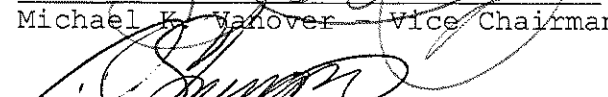
2022 Stormwater Conference:


Mr. Hahn mentioned that he and Nate Rumschlag went to the Stormwater conference last week that was very well attended. Hahn mentioned one of the sessions was on counties who are a MS4 county and those who will be getting a letter soon to prepare becoming a MS4 county. Hahn mentioned that he had talked to an individual who will be letting him know for sure if the City of Bluffton or Wells County will be included/excluded as a MS4. Hahn feels that Wells County will not be a MS4 due to our urban areas are less than 10,000 in population, and also feels that the City of Bluffton will become a MS4 due to its population is over 10,000. Hahn did note if that letter states we are included as an MS4 county there is a short period of time to appeal that decision. Hahn also mentioned for the counties/cities that get a letter to be classified as an MS4 have a 2-year preparation time before it is enacted as MS4.

Adjournment:

Mr. Vanover motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board meeting at 8:52 a.m. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber motion carried 3-0.

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Monday-March 7, 2022.


 Blake Gerber - Chairman

 Michael K. Vanover - Vice Chairman

 Jeff Stringer - Member
 WELLS COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

ATTEST: 
 Diana L. Collins