

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday-February 3, 2020 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 January 21, 2020.

Dr. Robbins motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on January 21, 2020 as submitted. Mr. Woodward 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

8-Mile Open Drain-Structure Drainage Easement-Town of Ossian:

Mr. Hahn presented to the Board a "Petition of Approval to Locate Structures within a County Regulated Drain Right-Of-Way and Approval by County Drainage Board" form from the Town of Ossian Sewage Treatment Plant on 8-Mile open drain in Jefferson Township, sections 16, range 12E south on Lafever St. west of Jefferson St./SR 1. Hahn mentioned in 2005 the Drainage Board gave permission to the Town of Ossian to be in the easement of the 8-Mile drain, but it was never recorded. Hahn noted that he talked to the engineer of the project and decided to include all existing and new structures in today's petition. Hahn has provided a drainage and a design map of the area showing the location of the sewage treatment plant, existing and new structures, existing drive, pipes, and the 8-Mile open drain. Hahn mentioned the fee for the permit has been paid, therefore recommends the approval of structure with in the 8-Mile open drainage easement.

Dr. Robbins motioned to approve the Town of Ossian Sewage Treatment Plant existing cement structures, piping and drive in the 8-Mile open drainage easement in Jefferson Township, sections 16, range 12E south on Lafever St. west of Jefferson St./SR 1 as recommend. Mr. Woodward 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Stuckey Joint Tile Drain Assessment-Jackson Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned on the Stuckey joint watershed to establish maintenance was set at \$33.10 per acre and was asked to collect payable in 2020. Hahn mentioned that Wells County had waived their rights to the hearing with Blackford County who holds jurisdiction. Hahn noted that the Blackford County Surveyor Paul Schriver mentioned that the plans are to replace the Stuckey tile possible this year located in Jackson Township, section 35, range 10E.

Mr. Woodward motioned the approval to collect on the Stuckey joint watershed maintenance assessment established at \$33.10 per acre payable in 2020 as recommend. Dr. Robbins 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

2020 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 2020 spray program for the southern portion of the county. Hahn noted that there is no increase in the cost this year to remain at .10 cents per foot. Hahn mentioned that the price is still very good and lower than most counties cost per foot and is very pleased with his services, therefore recommends extending the contract for 2020.

Dr. Robbins motioned to approve to continue the extended contract for 2020 at .10 cent per foot from Right-a-Way Management of Auburn Indiana to spray the south half of the county as recommended. Mr. Woodward 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Keystone Open Drain-Chester Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he was contacted by Area Plan Director Michael Lautzenheiser to see if the Drainage Board is ok if the Plan Commission would waive the minimum acre requirement not including area inside of a 75 foot drainage easement for the Keystone drain on a 2 acre split for a pre-existing house and barn on property parcel number 90-11-27-100-012.000-001 in Chester Township, section 27, range 11E. Hahn mentioned the 2 acre survey includes the Keystone open drain with the 75-foot right-of way, and is asking the Drainage Board to waive the acreage requirement outside of the drainage right-of-way that is required by ordinance. Drainage Board members expressed their concern of, "would there be enough room if the property would need a new septic in the future". Hahn noted that he believes that the septic system is current because the house was built in 1993 and feels it will not impact the Keystone drain's easement. Joel Hoehn, PLS of Stody Associates mentioned there would be room south of the house and east of the Barn to install a septic, if need be, therefore will not affect the Keystone drain's right-of-way then noted this property in not in a flood zone.

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Mr. Woodward motioned the approval to waive the minimum acre requirement not including area inside of the Keystone drain's 75-foot drainage easement on a 2-acre split for a pre-existing house and barn on property parcel number 90-11-27-100-012.000-001 in Chester Township, section 27, range 11E as recommend. Dr. Robbins 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Project Update:

Wolf Tile Drain-Liberty Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned a contractor has completed replacing the Wolf Tile in Liberty Township, section 34, range 11E east 300W and north of State Road 218. The contractor replaced the existing 18-inch with 1800 feet of 24-inch stopping at State Road 218.

Morris Tile Drain-Liberty Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned a contractor has started replacing the Morris Tile in Liberty Township, section 31, range 11E east of 600W and north of State Road 218. The contractor will replace the existing 20-inch with 1,700 feet of 24-inch stopping at State Road 218.

Shoemaker Open Drain-Chester Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he had a contractor bottom dip 3,700 feet of the Shoemaker open in Chester Township, section 13, range 11E in the area of 900S and east of 100W.

Odle Tile Drain/Bridge#303 Project-Nottingham Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he had a company camera down the Odle tile drain who found the exact location of the blockage in Nottingham Township, section 19, range 12E on 1000S just east of Meridian road. Mr. Rumschlag mentioned that he has contacted with the contractor who done the bridge #303 work to make repairs.

Compromise Tile Drain- Liberty Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned he had the company to camera down a portion of the Compromise tile drain that was put in 2013 who found tree roots blockage in Liberty Township, section 30, range 11E. Hahn noted the landowner has agreed to take the trees down.

Legislature Bills:

Mr. Hahn highlighted on some legislative language from the House and Senate bills that are important to the Board members as follows:

SB229-Maintenance of Regulated Drain. No required permit from IDEM concerning wetland on regulated drains for reconstruction or maintenance. Passed.

SB46-Storm Water Fee Exemptions. If county has user and stormwater fees not to collect on drainage fee for School corporation used for education or where religious services are held. No Vote/In Committee.

HB1218-Locating underground utility infrastructure. Concerning of locating underground utility if installed after June 2020. Hahn noted that so far no mention of regulated drains but one to watch. Passed.

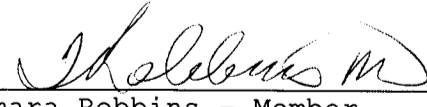
Adjournment:


Mr. Woodward motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board meeting at 8:56 a.m. Dr. Robbins 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Tuesday-February 18, 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