

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes  
Monday - February 5, 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, Jeff Stringer; Attorney Ted Storer, 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 to approve the Board's regular meeting minutes on January 16, 2024.

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on January 16, 2024. Mr. Vanover 2<sup>nd</sup>. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Update Drainage Project:

Halls Creek Open Drain:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that a contractor has completed repairing a large washout with riprap and taking out sandbars on the Halls Creek open drain in Lancaster Township, section 29, range 12E between 100E and State Road 116 on the northside of 100N(SR124-Extended).

Kitterman Consolidated Joint Drain-Proposed Watershed-Chester Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that Blackford County Surveyor Paul Schriver who holds jurisdiction on the joint Kitterman Consolidated watershed had their hearing on January 2, 2024 to establish a maintenance at \$4.00 per acre and \$20.00 minimum and passed, payable in 2024. Hahn noted that Wells County waived their rights on this proceeding and the 20-day judicial review period is over. 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 over 3,000 acres in Blackford County. Hahn mentioned a notice to establish the Kitterman Consolidated watershed has been sent to the Auditor's office for collection payable 2024.

Casteel Tile Drain-Allen County Jurisdiction-Jefferson Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that Allen County Surveyor Mike Fruchey who holds jurisdiction on the joint Casteel tile drain/Smith Road grant fund project has asked for a watershed map and landowner information. Hahn noted that Wells County waived their rights on this proceeding which no date has been set at this time. Hahn will keep the Board informed as the project moves along.

Landowner Bill Kelly-Harrison Township:


Landowner Bill Kelly of 1954S 300E Bluffton in Harrison Township, section 9, range 12E was present to discuss a standing water issue that has been going on since 4 homes were built, a water main and sewage utilities was put in a couple of years ago. Mr. Kelly presented photos of the standing water and his adjacent neighbor's property who has standing water issues too. Mr. Kelly noted that their used to be a grate to the east across the extended Wayne Street (300E) but is now gone. Mr. Hahn mentioned there are no legal drains in that area, the land was individually sold off as lots, not platted as a subdivision. Mr. Gerber asked if the water stood before, and how long the water stands now. Mr. Kelly noted that may have stood for a little while but went away a day or two, but now it may be a week depending on how much water we get. Mr. Gerber and Mr. Stringer along with the Wells County Highway Shawn Bonar will look at this and will call Mr. Kelly to setup a time to meet on location.


Adjournment:

Mr. Stringer motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board regular meeting at 4:55 pm. Mr. Vanover 2<sup>nd</sup>. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Tuesday-February 20, 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