

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday - February 7, 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 January 18, 2022.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on January 18, 2022 as submitted. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber motion carried 3-0.

Fryback Tile Drain-Union Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he asked 4 contractors to give quotes to replace 1,200 feet of the Fryback tile drain in Union Township, section 12, range 11E south of 1100N on Meridian Road. Hahn noted he received two quotes, one from Bolinger Agricultural Drainage LLC of North Manchester for \$21,380.00 and the other quote is from Gruss Ag, LLC of Ossian for \$18,700.00 to replace 1,200 feet of 18-inch tile that includes #8-stone and connections. Hahn mentioned that both of these price does not include the road cut across Meridian Road. Hahn noted that not only is Gruss Ag, LLC have the low quote but also is the tenant of the land so is very familiar with the land, therefore recommends awarding Gruss Ag, LLC to replace the Fryback tile project for the low quote of \$18,700.00.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve Gruss Ag, LLC of Ossian to replace 1,200 feet of 18-inch tile for \$18,700.00 as recommended. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Hahn mentioned that Gruss Ag, LLC will try the get the Fryback tile in before spring planting.

Project Updates:

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

2022 Legislature Bills:

Mr. Hahn mentioned of legislative language from the House and Senate bills are halfway through this session with a couple of bills that may be important but with no hearing as of yet 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.

NO COMMITTEE HEARING SET AS OF YET.

House Bill 1139-Authored by Rep. Daniel Leonard, AND 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.

NO COMMITTEE HEARING AS OF YET.

House Bill 1080- Authored by Rep. David Abbott. Co-Authored by Rep. Anthony Cook. Public meetings. Provides that a member of a governing body may participate but may not vote in a meeting of the governing body by electronic communication if the governing body is attempting to take certain final actions. NOT MOVING FORWARD

Continued February 7, 2022

Right-of-Way on Open Drains:

Mr. Hahn asked the Board members if a landowner puts in driveway parallel along an open drain's right-of-way they currently need to file for a permit and is classified as a permanent structure or just a structure in the easement of an open drain. Hahn noted in the past a lot of landowners would put in a gravel and grass driveway parallel with the open drain with no easement was given, and most are not really a big deal, but a paved driveway is a concern. Hahn also noted that when there is a driveway on one side of the ditch and the other side someone puts in a driveway or there could be a woods will create a problem to dip out the ditch. Hahn is asking do we need a policy for those that are not permitted and how to handle the situation if it arises. The Board's discussion is that a permit is still needed just in case the driveway is damaged by working on the ditch, and not necessarily a permanent structure but a structure in the easement as long as language is in place of damage could occur and it is the landowner's responsibility and cost to make the repair. Hahn noted that the APC permit for home being built that includes a driveway along a regulated ditch they then will involve the Surveyor's office for a right-of-way easement. Mr. Vanover would like to see some language of an easement permit to see the pros and cons of what we are facing.

Recognizing a Past County Official:

Mr. Hahn made mention of a former county surveyor and commissioner John Studebaker who passed away this past weekend who served the community of approximately 20 years.

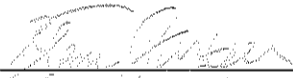
Wells County Engineer Nate Rumschlag Stormwater Report:

Mr. Rumschlag reported that the Town of Murray stormwater improvement project plans will be going out for bids this Thursday. Mr. Rumschlag noted once the project is finished and if there is any interest on making these an urbanized tile system that process can begin.

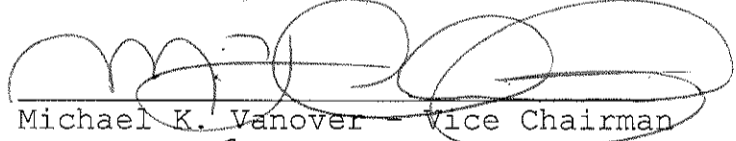
Adjournment:

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


Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Tuesday-February 22, 2022.




Blake Gerber - Chairman



Michael K. Vanover - Vice Chairman



Jeff Stringer - Member
WELLS COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

ATTEST: 
Diana L. Collins
WELLS DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY