

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday - March 16, 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 February 18, 2020.

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

Project Update:
8-Mile Prongs #2, #3 Open Drains-Jefferson Township:
Mr. Hahn mentioned that a contractor has completed a bottom clean out on the 8-Mile Prongs #2 and #3 open drain in Jefferson township, section 24, range 12E and section 19, range 13E north of 800N and between 500E and 675E.

Derry Tile Drain-Liberty Township:
Mr. Hahn mentioned the contractor has completed replacing the Derry Tile in Liberty Township, section 31, range 11E west of 500W and north of State Road 218 replacing the 18-inch with 1,300 feet of 24-inch stopping at State Road 218.

Tappy Tile Drain-Liberty Township:
Mr. Hahn mentioned the contractor is ready to begin hopefully today to install the Tappy tile drain in Liberty Township, section 36, range 11E. Hahn noted he is continuing replacing a 22-inch tile with 800 feet of 24-inch bring it up to the railway and stopping.

Pigeon Roost Open Drain-Lancaster Township:
Mr. Hahn mentioned that he will soon have a contractor doing a bottom clean out on the upper end of the Pigeon Roost in Lancaster Township, section, 20, range 13E north of 400N and east of 750E.


Indiana Drainage Code 36-9-27-33d:
Mr. Hahn mentioned that a landowner called about placing a small shed structure on or near a regulated tile drain and asked Attorney Roy Johnson advise on portion of the Indiana Drainage Code 36-9-27-33d. Mr. Johnson mentioned the portion of "Permanent structures may not be placed on any right-of-way without the written consent of the board, then Temporary structures may be placed upon or over the right-of-way without the written consent of the board, but shall be removed immediately by the owner when so ordered by the board or by the county surveyor" is clear that "temporary structures" can be place without consent of the Board. Hahn expressed his concerns on the word "temporary" building structure be a more classified in a policy by the board going forward. The Board members suggest that maybe going case by case determination but also a written letter to the landowner to remove the temporary structure when maintenance or a reconstruction needs to may be given 14 days to remove. Hahn finally noted that he is not sure that the GIS property lines are correct but shows where the landowner would like to place the structure and it may not be their property, so has recommended to the landowner to get a land survey to know exactly where his property lines are.

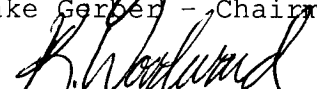
Legislature Bill ESB229:
Mr. Hahn mentioned that ESB229-Maintenance of Regulated Drain. Hahn in the House last week with some added, and passed again in the senate, now on to the Governor's desk for his signature. Hahn noted that most Envirmental agencies are opposed due to no permit is required from regulated drains construction in regulated wetlands and are sending letters to the Governor opposing. Hahn mentioned the Surveyors Association and County Surveyors from State are sending support letters to the Governor. Hahn read the ESB229 "The maintenance or reconstruction (as defined in IC 36-9-27-2) of a regulated drain in accordance with IC 36-9-27-29(2) as long as the work takes place within the current easement, and the reconstruction does not substantially change the characteristics of the drain to perform the function for which it was designed and constructed". Hahn encourages the Drainage Board to send a support letter today and suggest being signed by the Drainage Board President representing all board members. The Board members support the ESB229, therefore allows Mr. Gerber to sign the support letter representing all.

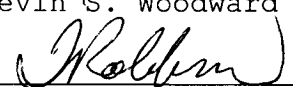
2020 Flood Safety Awareness Week:
Mr. Hahn mentioned that he will go before the Commissioners today for them to sign a proclamation to declare this week March 16th-22nd "Flood Safety Awareness Week".

Adjournment:
Dr. Robbins motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board meeting at 8:50 a.m. Mr. Woodward 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

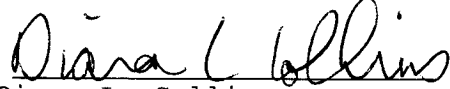
Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Monday-April 2, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.



Blake Gerber - Chairman


Kevin S. Woodward - Vice Chairman


Tamara Robbins - Member
WELLS COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

ATTEST: 
Diana L. Collins
WELLS DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY