

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday- March 2, 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 February 18, 2020 as submitted. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0-1. Mr. Woodward abstained due to being absent.

INDOT-State Road 218 and 124 Road Closures-Projects:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that INDOT had contacted him on two State roads closure for 3-bridge projects. Hahn noted the first closure is on State road 218 east of Willow road in Jackson Township, section 3, range 10E over a mutual open ditch set for April 20, 2020 to resurface the deck. Hahn noted the next two closures is on State road 124, the first is east of Meridian road in Rockcreek Township, section 31, range 12E over a Halls Creek open ditch to resurface the deck is set for June 5, 2020; then the second closure set for June 29, 2020 (INDOT will open Halls Creek area) is east of 500W in Rockcreek Township, section 35, range 11E over the Rockcreek Conservancy ditch to resurface the deck.

Legislature Bills:

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

SB229-Maintenance of Regulated Drain. Hahn noted he will testify again but in the House this week with some added language. Hopefully will passed.

HB1218-Locating underground utility infrastructure. Passed-no change involving Regulated Drains.

SB46-Storm Water Fee Exemptions. Dead

HB1415-Regulated drains and environmental concerns. Dead

Schwartz Open Drain-Utility Drainage Easement-Bluffton Water Dept:

Mr. Hahn presented to the Board a "Consent for Utility for Construction Project in a Drainage Easement" form from City of Bluffton Jon Oman, Director of the Water Department is present this morning asking to be within the easement of the Schwartz open drain in Harrison Township, sections 9, range 12E to install water main extensions, division-2 between State Road and Ellingham pike. Hahn mentioned the paperwork filing is all in order therefore recommends the approval of easement on the Schwartz open drain.

Dr. Robbins motioned to approve City of Bluffton Water Department to be within the easement of the Schwartz open drain in Harrison Township, sections 9, range 12E to install water main extensions improvements, division-2 as recommend. Mr. Woodward 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Addington Tile Drain-Utility Drainage Easement-Bluffton Water Dept:

Mr. Hahn presented to the Board a "Consent for Utility for Construction Project in a Drainage Easement" form from City of Bluffton Jon Oman, Director of the Water Department is present this morning asking to be within the easement of the Addington Tile drain in Harrison Township, sections 9, range 12E to install water main extensions, division-2 between State Road and Ellingham pike. Hahn mentioned on the paperwork the name "unknown" of tile will be change to "Addington" with that all in order therefore recommends the approval of easement on the Schwartz open drain.

Dr. Robbins motioned to approve City of Bluffton Water Department to be within the easement of the Addington tile drain in Harrison Township, sections 9, range 12E to install water main extensions improvements, division-2 as recommend. Mr. Woodward 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Project Update:

Morris Tile Drain-Liberty Township:

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

Continued March 2, 2020

Derry Tile Drain-Liberty Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned the contractor has not started replacing the Derry Tile in Liberty Township, section 31, range 11E west of 500W and north of State Road 218 due to the ground being too soft. Hahn mentioned that the ground will probably not freeze up for a while, if at all this season, therefore will have to dry out some now.

Tappy Tile Drain- Liberty Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned the tile contractor has delivered the Tappy tile drain on site 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.

Landowner from Vera Cruz - Wabash River:

A landowner named Mitchell is concerned about the Wabash River's water level difference being 2-feet lower in Bluffton than Vera Cruz and feels there could be a logjam somewhere in between. Mr. Hahn noted that he has a \$10,000 fund to take out logjams in the Wabash and the Salamonie Rivers and has taken out logjams on the Wabash but have been on the lower reaches of the River. Hahn mentioned that he has a couple kayakers that goes down the river and reports back if any logjams. Mr. Jon Oman mentioned that he and several friends kayaked went down the river from Vera Cruz to Murray and did not find any logjams/obstructions along the way. Hahn wondered if changing the base stations around has created the difference. Landowner Mitchell noted he has checked, and everything was fine. Dr. Robbins asked what the footage per mile on the river is. Hahn mentioned that there is approximately 1 foot per mile through Wells County.


Nate Rumschlag Wells County Highway Engineer-Project

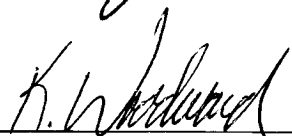
Mr. Rumschlag mentioned the contractor for Bridge project #303 has made the repaired on the Odle tile drain in Nottingham Township, section 19, range 12E on 1000S just east of Meridian road. Dr. Robbins questioned that there are still several tile pieces on site. Mr. Hahn noted those tile pieces came from the landowner to put in a field entrance.


Adjournment:

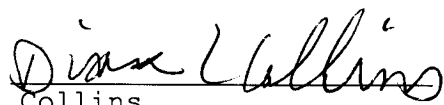
Dr. Robbins motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board meeting at 8:55 a.m. Mr. Woodward 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Monday-March 16, 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