

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday - March 20, 2023 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, 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 March 6, 2023.

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on March 6, 2023 as submitted. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

Kloppenstine Tile Drain Continued Group Project-Harrison Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he was contacted by a landowner who is getting ready to systematically tile his farm and with the Kloppenstine tile is the main outlet for his farm in Harrison Township, section 36, range 12E east of 500E north of 550S. Hahn mentioned the Kloppenstine tile is a continuing replacement project. Hahn noted first phase in 2005 replacing 800 feet with 24-inch, phase #2 was in 2017 of 1080 feet with 24-inch and phase #3 in 2019 replacing 1,400 feet with 24-inch. Hahn mentioned a few landowners are willing to help with the cost to replace 2,700 feet with and 18-inch and 700 feet with 15-inch with a possible option to shave 400 feet off a hill and to save about 400 feet of tile if we have to go around the hill. Hahn noted the Landowners would like to use the contractor Landis and Son's Drainage who is put in their tile system to replace the Kloppenstine while the contractor is on site. The Board discussed options on how much the 6-Mile should contribute to the project and the landowners to pay for their connections. Hahn also mentioned he would like to go on across county road 500E with a 15-inch pipe. Mr. Rumschlag mention that he feels this can be a possibility to replace this year, noting will discuss this tile replacement with the County Highway Supervisor Shawn Bonar when he could fit this in his schedule and when the backhoe can be available in that part of the county. The Board's decision to use the same contractor Landis and Son's Drainage to install approximately 3,400 feet of the Kloppenstine tile and to contribute 75 percent of the quote cost \$59,045.00 to install and with some of materials from the 6-Mile watershed fund. Hahn recommended the landowners to contribute to pay their own hook-up cost.

Mr. Stringer motion to approve contractor Landis and Son's Drainage quote of \$59,045.00 to install approximately 3,400 feet of the Kloppenstine tile project in Harrison Township, section 36, range 12E to contribute 75 percent of the quote out of the 6-watershed fund. Mr. Vanover 2nd, Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0

Maple Creek Open Drain- Jefferson Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that notices went out to affected landowners to bottom dip approximately 4,500 feet of the Maple Creek open drain in Lancaster Township, section 01, range 12E and section 6, range 13E located on 600E between US 224 and 500N. Hahn noted the contractor will begin as soon as weather permits.

Project Update:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he has no project update to report.

Bills Creek Notices of Hearing to Landowners:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that Bills Creek notice of hearing letters on the proposed increase maintenance assessment went out last week. Hahn noted that we have received a few calls, and a few landowners have come in the office, with no letters of objections at this time. Hahn reminded the Board members of the hearing is at our next Drainage Board meeting on April 3rd at 4:00 p.m.

Drainage Board Meeting April 3rd Change Starting Time:

Mr. Hahn also would like to start the Drainage Board meeting on April 3rd at 4:00 P.M. then go right into the hearing, and then after hearing we will finish up the Drainage Board meeting as time allows.

Mr. Stringer motioned to change the Drainage Board regular meeting time on April 3rd to 4:00 p.m. as recommended. Mr. Vanover 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Vanover mentioned on April 3rd of a possibility he may not be able to attend the hearing in person and suggested using the electronic video system. Mr. Storer asked if the Drainage Board had signed a resolution on establishing the policy by which members of the Wells County Drainage Board may participate by electronic means of communication. Mr. Hahn said he was not sure for we have never had to use it, but

Continued March 20, 2023

Petition and Approval Drain Easement Form-Discussion to Modify:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that more time is needed on the "Petition and Approval to Locate Structures within County Drain Easement" document form to make the document simpler and more cost effective. Hahn noted that the next meeting is a scheduled hearing so there may not be time for discussion but hopes by the April 17th meeting there will be an update to report.

HB 1639- Watershed Development Commissions:

Hahn mentioned that he will be going to Indianapolis to the State House tomorrow at the request of State Senator Travis Holdman to testify on HB 1639 which is "Watershed development commissions" that provides that the executives of one or more counties may adopt ordinances designating their counties as members of a proposed watershed development commission and that the proposed commission is established as a legal entity with the counties as its members, if it is recognized by the natural resources commission. Hahn mentioned this may affect the Upper Wabash River Basin Commission and the Maumee River Basin Commission which we are a part of both basins.


Wells County Engineer Nate Rumschlag Report:

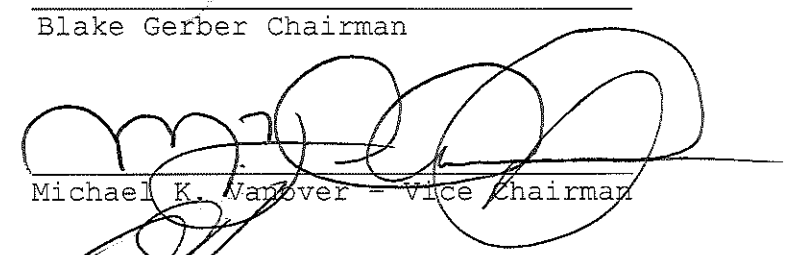
Mr. Rumschlag mentioned that he had received a notice of hearing on the Bills Creek proposal increase assessment. Mr. Rumschlag noted that there is road right-of-way fund for the drainage assessments. Rumschlag also noted on the Kloppenstine tile crossing project on 500E may propose a riser on the east side of 500E, and mentioned will take both of these items to the Commissioners meeting today for further discussion.

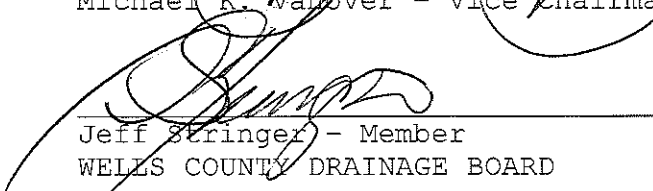
Adjournment:


Mr. Vanover motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board meeting at 4:55 p.m. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber motion carried 3-0.

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Monday-April 3, 2023 at 4:00 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