

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes  
Monday - March 4, 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 February 20, 2024.

Mr. Stinger motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on February 20, 2024. Mr. Vanover 2<sup>nd</sup>. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

IC 36-9-27-30 Professional License Qualified Deputy-Interim:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that the Drainage Board appointed Joel Hoehn, PS as an interim professional surveyor service on staff as under IC 36-9-27-30 in December of 2023 and is currently on medical leave. Hahn noted he had asked Corey McKinney, PS also a Professional Surveyor if he would be interested in being the Qualified Deputy interim for drainage projects on an as needed basis. Hahn noted that Mr. McKinney is qualified as to IC 36-9-27-30 and is willing to fulfill as the interim Qualified Deputy. Hahn mentioned that Mr. McKinney owns his business located in the southern part of the County west of Petroleum. Also, Hahn mentioned Mr. McKinney's pay will be the same as what Mr. Stody services per hour rate at \$120.00 on an as needed basis. Mr. Storer went over the statute IC 36-9-27-30 to make sure all legalities were in place according to code. Hahn noted the interim position is just temporary and when the County hires an engineer that person will be the drainage engineer as in the past for drainage project.

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve Corey McKinney, PS of McKinney Land Survey as the interim Professional Surveyor service on an as needed basis at the rate of \$120.00 per hour for drainage projects according to IC 36-9-27-30. Mr. Vanover 2<sup>nd</sup>. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Update Drainage Project:

Mr. Hahn mentioned there have been a few tile repairs reported so far and anticipates more to come as spring weather approaches and conditions improve.

J.H. Preskey Tile Drain-Union Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned he had a contractor run a camera to see the condition of the J.H. Preskey 10-inch tile in Union Township, section 34, range 11E in Banner City at 600N and 200W a couple weeks ago. Hahn noted when the contractor ran the camera it stopped in a location of a large tree therefore believes tree roots are causing the problem, so the contractor called in locates to mark utilities. Hahn received a call from the contractor who said the locations have not been marked and will have to call 811 again to get them marked in hopes of being on site this week to make the necessary repairs.

Ferguson Prong 4-Jefferson Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he will be meeting this Wednesday with a couple of landowners on the Ferguson Prong 4 tile drain in Jefferson Township, section 17, range 13E on 750E and 1000N who are wanting to replace a portion or all of the Ferguson Prong 4 tile. Hahn noted he is to receive a quote from a contractor before today's meeting to let the landowners know the estimated cost which will include a couple options to replace. Hahn will keep the Board informed as the project moves along.

Blake Gerber-BZA 200S/300E:

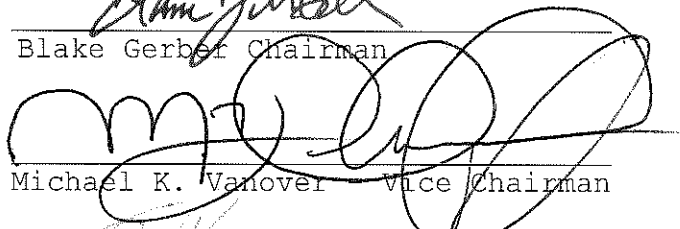
Mr. Gerber asked Mr. Hahn about road frontage and the driveway access to the lots east of 300E and north of 200S having any effect on the drainage in the area west of 300E located in Harrison Township, section 10, range 12E. Hahn noted that he is not on the BZA board but knows of the area and believes those lots have no effect on the drainage on the west side of 300E area. Hahn also mentioned the some of the lots have no road frontage for a driveway but are either a private, common, or mutual drive entry. Hahn believes these lots are connected to the City of Bluffton but not sure if their water is a well or on the City's water.

Adjournment:


Mr. Vanover motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board regular meeting at 4:43 pm. Mr. Vanover 2<sup>nd</sup>. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Monday-March 18, 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