

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes  
Monday - April 1, 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, Jeff Stringer; Attorney Ted Storer; Surveyor Jarrod Hahn; Secretary Diana Collins. Michael K. Vanover was absent.

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 March 18, 2024.

Mr. Stinger motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on March 18, 2024. Mr. Gerber 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 2-0.

Johnson Prong 2 Tile Drain-Harrison Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he will be getting quotes from tile contractors to continue replacing the Johnson Prong 2 tile in Harrison Township, section 7, range 12E near Meridian Road and south of 100S. Hahn presented a detailed map of what previous tiles were replaced and what will be done this year. Hahn will be getting tile quotes for approximately 1300 feet of 24-inch, 300 feet of 18-inch, 190 feet of 15-inch and will bring them at the next board meeting on April 15th. Hahn did note that a neighboring county are using ARPA funds (Americans Rescue Plan Act) as a joint project in the surveyor's office and highway department to help with the cost of a tile/road project but explained that there are limits and conditions to how the county can purchase materials and their use therefore would not work for our projects. Hahn also mentioned that contractor John Brickley of Brickley Exc. will be putting in the tile as a portion of the tile runs through his property. County Attorney Ted Storer questioned the assorted sizes of tiles verse just keeping it a uniform size. Mr. Hahn explained the cost may play a factor because the larger the tile the higher the cost is, so the landowners put in distinct size that will take the water away in a timely matter. Hahn also mentioned the grade of the land is particularly important along with the length of the tile are all factors in getting the water to the open drain or to the river in a timely matter as well.

Gaskill Tile Drain-Liberty Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he was contacted by a landowner wanting to continue replacing the Gaskill tile in Liberty Township, section 2, range 11E between 100W and 200W and south of State Road 124W. Hahn presented a detailed map of what previously was replaced and what the landowner would like to replace is approximately 1000 feet of the 24-inch with a 30-inch to replace yet this summer. Hahn will be getting tile quotes to bring to the board at the next meeting on April 15th.

William Day Tile Drain- Liberty Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned he was contacted by a landowner who would like to replace a portion of the William Day tile near State Road 124 and 500W in Liberty Township, section 5 and 6, range 11E. Hahn will keep the board members informed as details are known.

Newton R. Chalfant Open Drain-Jefferson Township-  
Well Encroachment:

Mr. Hahn gave a timeline on property owner Jason & Casandra Meyer of Jefferson Township, section 09, range 12E who got a Drainage Board approval for 40-foot drainage easement back in 2017 on the Newton R. Chalfant open drain to put in a 60'x100' pole barn building pad. Hahn noted in May of 2023 Mr. Meyer had asked to put his home in the pole barn under the same 2017 permit, and the Drainage Board approved it. Hahn mentioned that brings us here today that Mr. Meyer's new well is encroaching 10 feet from the top of the Newton R. Chalfant open drain. Hahn noted as far as the 2017 permit there was no Drainage Board talk or approval for the well to be placed in the easement of Newton R. Chalfant open drain. Hahn wanted to bring this information to the Drainage Board's attention, and what to do at this point. Mr. Gerber asked if this situation had happened before, Hahn stated that he is not aware of any, and not since he has been in office. Hahn noted a structure in the easement for an open drain is not less than 25-feet from the top of the bank. Mr. Stringer asked what some options would be. Hahn mentioned to have the landowner go through the process to fill out the Easement Request form for a permanent structure at 10 feet, or to pull the well and move it. Attorney Mr. Storer asked if it will impact us by leaving it there. Hahn noted not today, but we will not be able spray the ditch there due to the law spraying near a well, and the contractor's equipment will have a challenging time cleaning out the ditch and working around the well being so close.

Continued April 1, 2024

Mr. Stringer asked if the contractor could cross over in the ditch or work from the other side. Hahn said no that the ditch is very steep and on the north side of the ditch there is an existing home.

Mr. Gerber mentioned how much does it costs to move a well or put one in. Hahn noted he did not know but property owner Jason Meyer is in the audience, and he would know. Mr. Meyer mentioned it is \$18,000.00 to put in a well. Mr. Gerber and Mr. Stringer both want more time before deciding, and to wait until after the Commissioners' meeting because this same property is on the agenda for a zoning amendment.

Mr. Gerber motioned to table the well encroachment decision on the Newton R. Chalfant open drain until the next Drainage Board meeting due to today's Commissioners meeting being with the same property. Mr. Stringer 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 2-0.


2024 Spray Program-South:

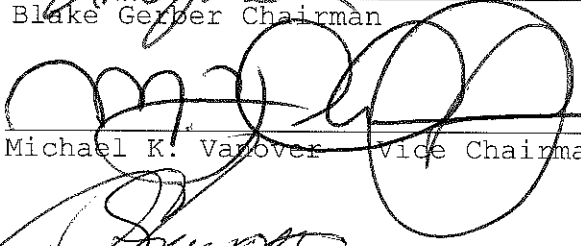
Mr. Hahn mentioned that he is working on the spray maps for the southern half of the county for any changes to this year's map. Hahn noted notices will go out in a couple of months anticipating the contractor Chad Baker of Right-a-Way Management to begin spraying in the middle of June.

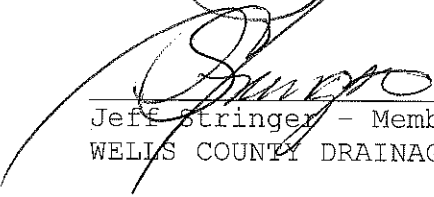
Adjournment:

Mr. Stringer motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board regular meeting at 4:50 pm. Mr. Gerber 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 2-0.

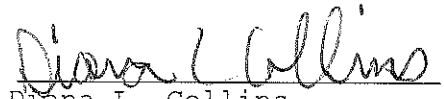
Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Monday-April 15, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

  
Blake Gerber Chairman

  
Michael K. Vanover Vice Chairman

  
Jeff Stringer - Member  
WELLS COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

ATTEST:

  
Diana L. Collins  
WELLS DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY