

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday - May 1, 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 April 17, 2023.

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on April 17, 2023 as submitted. Mr. Vanover 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Newton R. Chalfant Open Drain-Jefferson Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that landowner's Jason & Casandra Meyer of Jefferson Township, section 09, range 12E got an approved drainage easement back in 2017 a 40-foot easement on the Newton R. Chalfant open drain to put in a building pad for a 60x100 foot pole barn. Hahn noted that Jason Meyer had recently called wanting to put his home in the pole barn as well. Hahn is asking, is the approved drainage easement permit back in 2017 for a pole barn still be good to incorporate his home into the pole barn. Hahn mentioned that he reminded Mr. Meyers that water stands in this low line area and suggested raising the building pad to the same height as State Road 1. Hahn mentioned the landowner is waiting for the Town of Ossian to extend the Sewer line to service a subdivision that may be built. The Board members noted that several pole barns have homes built into them and are fine with Mr. Meyer using the same easement permit approved in 2017, no new permit needed.

Tappy Tile Drain-Liberty Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned he went out to view and talked to the landowner in the Town of Poneto requesting a drainage easement on the Tappy tile in Liberty Township, section 36, range 11E. Hahn talked to the landowner that one corner of the lean-to is directly over the 24-inch tile and told him the Board members are not in favor of permitting an easement for this newly built structure. Hahn suggested to the landowner to move the lean-to to the other side of the existing structure, also mentioned that rerouting the large tile in a small area would be very costly and would not be an option. Hahn will keep the Board informed of the landowner's intentions.

Update Projects:

Bessie Porter Tile Drain: Harrison Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned landowner Lori Sliger lives near the newly construction of Harvest Acres (formerly Greenview Farms) in Harrison Township, section 9, range 12E, and where the Bessie Porter tile was replaced in 2021 but the section of tile where Ms. Sliger lives on the very upper end was not replaced, and she questions if the tile was hooked up to the new one or damaged. Hahn noted another landowner close by contacted the developer who contacted the engineer of the project that led all to meet on site. The engineer Kevin McDermit replied back suggesting the regulated tile drain may run along the north side of Ms. Sliger property line and found a patch of bare soil that was evidence of standing water frequently, also suggesting a small yard tile connected to the existing tile will help. Hahn noted the contractor did not find any old tiles when excavating in the sewers in that area. Hahn mentioned they also suggested the regulated tile location could be further north of where we have it on our GIS map. Hahn will keep the Board informed with information and/or any solutions that may come in.

Frank Mowery Tile Drain- Chester Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that a contractor opened up approximately 560 feet of the Frank Mowery 22-inch tile in Chester Township, section 22, range 11E south of 950S between 200w and 300W. Hahn noted that this tile was put in 1916 and has had multiple breakdowns and is along a woods which the tree roots add to the problem.

Continued May 1, 2023

The landowner was in favor of opening the tile to avoid any future breakdowns and tree root problems. Hahn noted that this is in the Scuffle Creek watershed.

Legislation Bills:

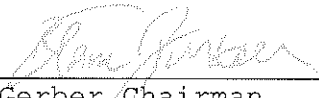
Mr. Hahn mentioned HB1639-Watershed development commissions proposed watershed development commission affecting surrounding counties in the Upper Wabash River Basin Commission and the Maumee River Basin Commission. Hahn noted the bill passed adding that all counties affected in a basin have to agree to participate to develop a commission to collect funds on those affected, which is good, noting that one county cannot develop a commission on its own. Becomes law July 1st.

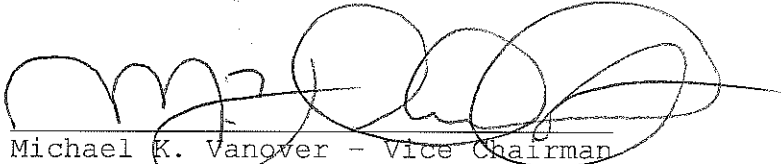
SB242-Floodplain mapping data using lidar mapping. Hahn mentioned the bill will be using lidar maps to determine a flood zone area, if landowner feels their property is not in a flood zone, then the landowner can request DNR to do a detailed hydrologic modeling study at no cost to the landowner. DNR will have 120 days to complete the study. Becomes law July 1st.

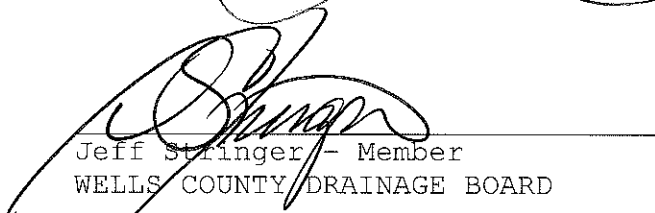
Adjournment:

Mr. Vanover motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board meeting at 4:56 p.m. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Monday-May 15, 2023 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