

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes  
Monday-May 3, 2021 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 S. Woodward; Attorney Roy Johnson, Engineer Nate Rumschlag, 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 on the agenda to approve the Board's regular meeting minutes on April 19, 2021.

Mr. Woodward motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on April 19, 2021 as submitted. Mr. Gerber 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 2-0.

Newton R. Chalfant Tile Drain-Jefferson Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that landowner HREMC Jefferson Sub-Station of 2700E 1050N Ossian in Jefferson Township, section 9, range 12E is requesting to be in the easement of the Newton R. Chalfant tile drain to put in a 12x14 concrete pad and 10x12 thermonbond pre-build communication shelter for TWN Communications. Hahn presented a detailed map of the area and recommends approving of the easement allowing the structures to be in the easement no closer than 25 feet from the top of the open drain. Drainage Board Attorney Roy Johnson has prepared the documents to be signed by the Drainage Board members then to be recorded in the Recorder's office.

Mr. Woodward motioned to approve HREMC Jefferson Sub-Station of 2700E 1050N Ossian in Jefferson Township, section 9, range 12E to be in the easement of the Newton R. Chalfant tile drain to put in a 12x14 concrete pad and 10x12 thermonbond pre-build communication shelter structures as recommended. Mr. Gerber 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 2-0.

Utility Easement-Citizens Telephone Corp.

Owl Creek and Davids + others 1100W in Jackson Townships and also Owl Creek+ others 1000W in Jackson Townships:

Mr. Hahn mentioned he has received two "Consent for Utility for Construction Project in a Drainage Easement" form from Citizens Telephone to install new Fiber line in the easements to service homes. Hahn noted of the first is in the area of 1100W between 700S and 1100S on the East G. McClelland, Davids, S. Brechenridge, Owl Ck, D.Bricker open drains, and the East G.McClelland, G.Howell, S.Brechenridge Prong, J.James, J.Rogers, J.Kilander Prong, tile drains in Jackson Township, Sections 7,8,17,19,20,29,30,31,32, Range 10E.

Also, the second consent easement is in the area of 1000W between 700S and 1000S over to State Road 3 on the Davids, Owl Ck, Custard, Shadle, Prairie Ck open drains, and on the Carmin Prong, H. Manring, Wm McClelland, Foust, S Smith, Runkle tile drains in Jackson Township, Sections 4,5,8,9,13,14,16,22,23,24,27,28, Range 10E.

Hahn noted that both project recording fees have been paid therefore recommends approving both Citizens Telephone Corp. on projects 1100W and the other on 1000W to put in a fiber line to service homes.

Mr. Woodward motioned to approve both easements for the Citizens Telephone Corp projects on 1100W for the East G. McClelland, Davids, S. Brechenridge, Owl Ck, D.Bricker open drains, and the East G.McClelland, G.Howell, S.Brechenridge Prong, J.James, J.Rogers, J.Kilander Prong, tile drains in Sections 7,8,17,19,20,29,30,31,32,

and the other project on 1000W includes the Davids, Owl Ck, Custard, Shadle, Prairie Ck open drains, and the Carmin Prong, H. Manring, Wm McClelland, Foust, S Smith, Runkle tile drains in sections 4,5,8,9,13,14,16,22,23,24,27,28, both in Jackson Township as recommended. Mr. Gerber 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 2-0.

Bender open Drain-Rockcreek Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that landowner Jeffrey L. & Candas J. Dehoff of 2548N 100W Bluffton in Rockcreek Township, section 23, range 11E is requesting to be in the easement of the Bender open drain for a 24x15 rebuilt and to extend an existing structure. Hahn presented a detailed map of the area and explained the 15-foot easement due to the existing building pre-dates the 1966 when the Drainage Board was formed, and also due to bank erosion, and then 30 feet for the new extension which is at the other end of the existing building that is further away from the ditch. Hahn recommends approving of the easement allowing the structure to be in the Bender easement no closer than 15 for existing structure rebuild and 30 feet for the new extension building. Drainage Board Attorney Roy Johnson has prepared the documents to be signed by the Drainage Board members then to be recorded in the Recorder's office.

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Mr. Woodward motioned to approve Jeffrey L. & Candace J. Dehoff of 2548N 100W Bluffton in Rockcreek Township, section 23, range 11E to be in the easement of the Bender open drain for a 24x15 rebuilt and to extend the existing building structure as recommended. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

State Road 218 Resurfacing Project 2022-Tile Drain Replacement:

Mr. Hahn attended a INDOT field check last Thursday over various projects through-out the County with one of the projects was on State Road 218, which led Hahn to ask about the status on the tile crossing project plans before the resurfacing project in 2022. Hahn mentioned the plans were sent by email late on Thursday. Hahn noted after reviewing no tile crossing replacements was labeled but is confident that this will be addressed and resolved. Hahn also mentioned of another INDOT project on State Road 1 that includes a regulated tile crossing that is needing addressed as well. Hahn will keep the board members informed.

Drain Update:

Valentine Joint Drain and Simmerman Joint Drain

Jefferson Township-Allen County Jurisdiction:

Mr. Hahn noted that he and Mr. Gerber attended the Valentine Joint and Simmerman joint hearings last Thursday-April 22, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. in Allen County Citizens Square. Hahn noted that both the Valentine Joint and Simmerman joint was approved to establish an assessment at \$5.00 per acre with a \$25.00 minimum payable in 2022.

Michael Dailey Tile Drain- Liberty Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned the contractors from (ADI) has started replacing the Michael Dailey tile in Liberty Township, sections 34 and 35, range 11E in the area of 200W and 500S. Hahn noted the group is increasing the current size from a 10-inch to a 12-inch, 8-inch to a 10-inch and 8-inch with an 8-inch. Hahn noted this tile is in the Jamison Watershed.

Bessie Porter Tile Drain-Harrison Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that on the Bessie Porter tile in Harrison Township, sections 8 and 9, range 12E east of the Hoosier Highway and north of 200S more tile was delivered, but now the contractor is waiting for the ground to dry up some. Hahn noted this tile is in Bills Creek Watershed.

Nate Rumschlag Wells County Highway Engineer:

Mr. Rumschlag asked Mr. Hahn on SB389-Wetlands that the Governor had signed to become law effective on July 1<sup>st</sup>, what that means for permitting on wetlands. Mr. Hahn explained that a lot of language was added/changed from its original version. Hahn mentioned it eliminates protection for Class I with no permit, and Class II significantly reduces protection up to 3/8 acre no permit but more than 3/8 requires general permit if conditions are met with site specific approval, no permits if farmland has been farmed in the last 5 years and/or sold for development, and Class III in municipality 3/4 acre less no permit. Hahn mentioned that regulated drains are exempt from permits to make repairs and/or replacement. IDEM is required to issue or deny individual permits no later than 90-days. Federal projects a permit is it is a requirement. Since IDEM estimates Class I and II together make up more than 90% of the state-jurisdictional wetlands, cropland and ephemeral streams out of wetlands. Hahn noted it reduces the wetland mitigation ratios and it increases the amount of wetland that can be destroyed when there are several wetlands involved in the same development project. Hahn noted that there is much to learn about on this bill.


Adjournment:

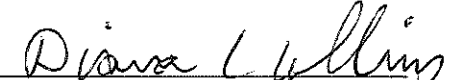
Mr. Woodward motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board meeting at 8:50 a.m. Mr. Gerber 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 2-0.

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Monday-May 17, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

  
Blake Gerber - Chairman

  
Kevin S. Woodward - Vice Chairman

  
Michael K. Vanover - Member  
WELLS COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

ATTEST:   
Diana L. Collins