

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday - May 4, 2020 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 Woodward, Tamara Robbins; Attorney Roy Johnson; 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 16, 2020.

Dr. Robbins motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on March 16, 2020 as submitted. Mr. Woodward 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Pence-Colbert Open Drain-Harrison Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that landowners Jarod and Carissa Studebaker of Harrison Township, section 14, range 12E is requesting to be in the easement of the Pence-Colbert open drain to put in a framed building structure 24'x12'x13'h. Hahn presented the documents and detailed map of the area. Hahn noted the recording fee has been paid, therefore recommends to the Board allowing the structure to be in the easement no closer than 25 feet from the top of bank of the Pence-Colbert 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.

Dr. Robbins motioned to approve Jarod and Carissa Studebaker of Harrison Township, section 14, range 12E to be no closer than 25 feet from the top of bank on the Pence-Colbert open drain drainage easement for a framed building structure 24'x12'x13'h. Mr. Woodward 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Craigville Telephone Co-Utility Easement 300N/St.Rd. 1 to 800E:

Mr. Hahn presented to the Board a "Consent for Utility for Construction Project in a Drainage Easement" form from Craigville Telephone Company Co. on several tile and open drains named Apple-Jack, Wisner, Drum, Reed, Gallivan open drains, and the Randall West Branch, K. Miller, Clara Garton, RP Wisner, Apple-Jack, Reed, Stewart, Melching, Hedges Tile drains in Lancaster Township, sections 13, 14, 23,24, range 12E and sections 17,18,19,20, 20, range 13E to install fiber optic cable line along the county roads on 300N between State Road 1 and 800E. Hahn has provided a map of the area showing the drains that are located.

Hahn mentioned Craigville Telephone Company has paid their fee as one project, therefore recommends the approval of easement on the Apple-Jack, Wisner, Drum, Reed, Gallivan open drains, and the Randall West Branch, K. Miller, Clara Garton, RP Wisner, Apple-Jack, Reed, Stewart, Melching, Hedges Tile drains.

Mr. Woodward motioned to approve Craigville Telephone Company to bury a Fiber Optic cable line in the Drainage easement Apple-Jack, Wisner, Drum, Reed, Gallivan open drains, and the Randall West Branch, K. Miller, Clara Garton, RP Wisner, Apple-Jack, Reed, Stewart, Melching, Hedges Tile drains in Lancaster Township, sections 13, 14, 23,24, range 12E and sections 17,18,19,20, 20, range 13E as one project and recommend. Dr. Robbins 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Bills Creek and Ehle Open Drain-Harrison Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that landowner Adam Neuenschwander of Harrison Township, section 10, range 12E is requesting to be in the easement of the Bills Creek to put in a framed building structure, and in the Ehle open drain easement to put in a pond. Hahn presented the documents and detailed map of the area. Hahn noted the recording fee has been paid, therefore recommends to the Board allowing the structure in the Bills Creek easement no closer than 35 feet from the top of bank, and the pond to be in the Ehle easement no closer than 50 feet from the top of bank. Hahn made mention that a portion of this property is in a flood zone but not in the area of the building or the pond. 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 Adam Neuenschwander of Harrison Township, section 10, range 12E to be in the Bills Creek open drainage easement for a building structure, and the Ehle open easement for a pond no closer than 50 feet from the top of bank. Dr. Robbins 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

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Preston Johnson Tile Drain-Chester Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned a contractor has started replacing the Preston Johnson tile in Chester Township, section 24, range 11E north of 900S and between Meridian road and 100W. The contractor is replacing the existing 14-inch and 16-inch with 1,800 feet of 15-inch. Hahn mentioned that the cost of the tile will come from the Maddux watershed and a group of landowners will pay for the installation.

Breckenridge Tile Drain-Jackson Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned a contractor will be replacing the Breckenridge tile in Jackson Township, section 20, range 10E south of 900S between 1000W and 1100W. The tile company has delivered the tile on site ready for the contractor to replace the existing 12,10,8-inch to 15, 12 and 10-inch. Hahn mentioned that the cost of the tile will come from the Owl Creek watershed and a group of landowners will pay for the installation.

Project Update:

8-Mile Prongs #2 and #3 Open Drains-Jefferson Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that a contractor has completed a bottom clean out on the 8-Mile Prongs #2 and #3 open drain in Jefferson township, section 24, range 12E and section 19, range 13E north of 800N and between 500E and 675E.

Tappy Tile Drain- Liberty Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned the contractor has completed the Tappy tile drain project in Liberty Township, section 36, range 11E north of State Road 218 between Meridian and 100W. Hahn noted the contractor replaced the existing 22-inch tile with 800 feet of 24-inch bring it up to the railway and stopping. Hahn mentioned that the cost will come the Poneto Watershed fund.

Sarah Smith Tile Drain-Jackson Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned the contractor has completed the Sara Smith tile drain project in Jackson Township, section 22, range 10E south of 900S between 900W and State Road 3. Hahn noted the contractor replaced the existing 27-inch tile with 674 feet of 36-inch. Hahn mentioned that cost will come the Custard Watershed fund. Hahn made mention his intentions were to install 30-inch tile, but the tile company did not have enough but offered 36-inch at the 30-inch price so 36-inch was installed.

Valentine Joint Drain-Jefferson Township-Allen County Jurisdiction:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that Allen County Surveyor's office has set the Valentine Joint Hearing for Thursday-May 14th at 10:30 to establish the Valentine watershed maintenance assessment. Hahn ask the board members if anyone has received a notice from Allen County if the hearing's been cancelled, no notice had been received.

*NOTE: An email was received by Allen County Surveyor's office the Valentine Hearing had cancelled.

Simmerman Joint Drain-Jefferson Township-Allen County Jurisdiction:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that Allen County Surveyor's office has set the Simmerman Joint Hearing for Thursday-May 14th 11:00 to establish the Simmerman watershed maintenance assessment. Hahn ask the board members if anyone has received a notice from Allen County if the hearing's been cancelled, no notice had been received.

*NOTE: An email was received by Allen County Surveyor's office the Simmerman Hearing has cancelled.

North Oaks-Lancaster Township:

Mr. Gerber asked Hahn if anyone has called him about the water issues in the North Oaks area. Hahn noted that he was contacted by a few landowners and businesses out in that area and have tried to help as much as possible but there are no regulated drains in that area. Hahn mentioned that a watershed of that area was created with the acreage being around 100. Hahn noted there are two petitions that can be filed, one being all affected landowners to sign with no cost and no public hearings, and the other petition is one landowner can sign but will have to hire an attorney and pay for those cost and there will be public hearings.

2020 Spray Program-South:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that spray notices will be going out in the mail starting this week to the affected landowners who borders a regulated in the south half of the County. Hahn noted the dividing line between north and south spraying is the Wabash Central railway. Hahn noted that Chad Baker of Right-a-Way Management will be spraying this year to begin by end of May around Memorial Day and weather permitting.

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Spring Tile Repairs Reports and Meeting Landowners:

Hahn noted his office has been very busy the past 6 weeks with approximately 30 tile repairs notices went out to our 4 tile repair contractors, have had several meetings with individual landowners on various current projects and future projects throughout the county, including 2 bottom cleans out and 5 tile replacement projects currently going on.

Monnot Open Drain-Lancaster Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he will be doing a bottom clean out on the Monnot open drain in Lancaster Township, section 8, range 12E along 175E starting at 500N. Hahn and Engineer Nate Rumschlag have been working with a landowner to put in a driveway pipe in the Monnot open and along 175E.

Legislature Bill ESB229:

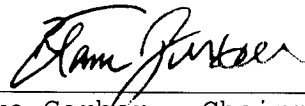
Mr. Hahn mentioned that ESB229-Maintenance of Regulated Drain. Went to the Governor's office to be signed and at the last hour it was signed. ESB229 on Isolated wetlands "The maintenance or reconstruction (as defined in IC 36-9-27-2) of a regulated drain in accordance with IC 36-9-27-29(2) as long as the work takes place within the current easement, and the reconstruction does not substantially change the characteristics of the drain to perform the function for which it was designed and constructed no permit is needed. Hahn thanked the Board for the added support of ESB229.

Hahn noted that he has not received any e-mails from the public for this morning's meeting.

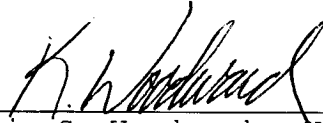
Adjournment:

Mr. Woodward motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board meeting at 8:59 a.m. Dr. Robbins 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Monday-May 18, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.



Blake Gerber - Chairman



Kevin S. Woodward - Vice Chairman



Tamara Robbins - Member
WELLS COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

ATTEST:



Diana L. Collins
WELLS DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY