

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Tuesday - June 21, 2022 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 Colin Andrews, 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 June 6, 2022.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on June 6, 2022 as submitted. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber motion carried 3-0.

Utility Easement-Citizens Telephone Corp.

Stotts Open Drain-Jackson Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned he has received a "Consent for Utility for Construction Project in a Drainage Easement" form from Citizens Telephone to install new Fiberline in the Stotts open drainage easements to service homes. Hahn provided a detailed map of the drainage easement of the Stotts open drain in Jackson Township, section 23, range 10E on 1000S west of 700W. Hahn noted that the recording fee have been paid therefore recommends approving Citizens Telephone Corp. drainage easements on the Stotts open drain on 1000S to put in a fiber line to service homes.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve the drainage easements for the Citizens Telephone Corp on the Stotts open drain in Jackson Township, section 23, range 10E on 1000S just west of 700W as recommended. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Goodspeed Tile Drain-Harrison Township-
DLZ Design Adams Street Extension/100E:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he received the design plans for the Hoosier Highway (Adams Street Extended/100E) project from engineer Mathieu Doyle of DLZ in Harrison Township, section 17-18, range 12E. Hahn mentioned the design shows the Delong 30-inch tile will be increased to a 36-inch tile closer to county road 200 South and has no problem with that crossing at this time. Hahn also mentioned as he reviewed the plans that includes to reconstruct and relocate the Goodspeed prong tile between 250S and just south of 300S west side of the Hoosier Highway and has concerns with the drainage design. Hahn noted the DLZ plan design includes only replacing some of the Goodspeed Prong then we would have to get to and connect the DLZ new tile, and the watershed already has a negative balance. Hahn suggested an alternative using a different tile path and for the Commissioners to pay for the project instead of tile going through the Federal Fund project, as it would allow for few local contractors to give a quote at a much cheaper cost then we could use that cost as an in-kind match for the Federal project. Hahn gave a detail map showing DLZ projected plans of the Goodspeed tile and Hahn's new projected route that would save the county money and be tailored to the needs of the farm landowners at the same time. The county's engineer Mr. Rumschlag also has raised concerns and agrees with Hahn's design plan that this plan is most affective for drainage for all involved. Mr. Rumschlag praised the Surveyor's office of the time and qualifications it takes to design and planning of this plan and the cost it would be to hire an outside firm. Mr. Cortney Pfister and Mr. Brett Pfister are both in attendance as they represent their family's land on the project due those lands are already systematically tiled and had already resolved their drainage issues and also have concerns with DLZ design as well. Brett Pfister is the family's spokesman who gave a history of the land dating back to his great grandfather and wants to make sure the drainage on these farms are adequate tile sizes and will get the full benefit to take the water away. Brett Pfister also raised their concerns are based on a Federal funds project timeline for the land purchase agreement. Mr. Hahn mentioned his concerns of the DLZ plan are the tile path, its sizes, private tile inlets, no culvert in place and the Eastern Panhandle pipeline that the tile will have to cross. With much discussion by all it was decided to set up a meeting with engineer Mathieu Doyle of DLZ to go over the concerns and suggest the alternative design plan. Also, the Drainage Board members are concerned as well over the timeline and need to get this project ironed out for the Pfister family farms. Mr. Rumschlag will set up a meeting and time as soon as possible for to coordinate the possibilities and consult with the INDOT project engineers to include the affected landowners. The Drainage Board members also mentioned to get the tile project design solved and bring back to the

Continued June 21, 2022

Wm Smith Open Drain-Jefferson Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he received an email from Engineer Jim Breckler from Engineering Resources Inc. representing the Town of Ossian's on a pipe replacement in the Smith open drain on Wood Creek Drive just off of State Road 1 in Jefferson Township, section 21, range 12E southwest edge of Ossian. Hahn noted the project includes replacing the existing 8 ft diameter CMP culvert with a 12'Wx8'H box culvert with wingwalls and headwalls. Hahn presented a detailed map and design plans all to view. Hahn also noted that the pipe is undersized and with a heavy rainfall water is over the road in this area. Hahn mentioned the Town of Ossian requests the Drainage Board authorization/consent for permanent structures permanent structures include the culvert, headwalls, wingwalls, riprap, reconstructed roadway, concrete curb and gutter, sidewalk, storm sewer outfalls, and lowered water main within the regulated drainage easement. Hahn noted that the Town of Ossian would only need a verbal permission since they are replacing an old structure that is currently there, but the utilities company would need to fill out the consent form being in the right-of-way to relocate an existing line would waive the fee. The Board members would like for give permission and approve of the consent form at the same time. Hahn mentioned the consent forms will be sent out today in hopes to be received by the next regular meeting on July 5th.

Prairie Creek Extended Joint Drain-Logjams-Jackson Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned the contractor has removed both logjams on the Prairie Creek Extended in Jackson Township, section 34, range 10E and the other is ¼ mile south of the county line into Blackford County. Hahn noted that he and the contractor will be meeting with another landowner to take another logjam out that will require some clearing of trees to get to it.

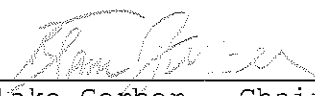
2022 Spray Program-South:

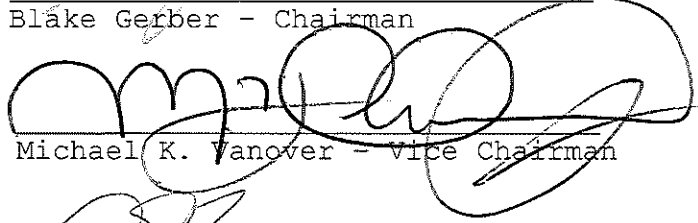
Mr. Hahn mentioned that he had talked to spray contractor Chad Baker of Right-a-Way Management should finished spraying the southern part this past weekend. Hahn noted Mr. Baker still has one spray rig in the county but feels that there may be some touch-ups in the northern portion of the county or the rig is just setting there waiting to be moved out.

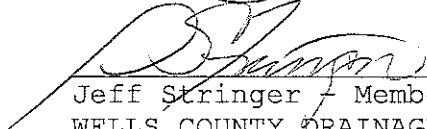
Adjournment:

Mr. Vanover motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board meeting at 5:12 p.m. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Tuesday-July 5, 2022 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