

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday - June 5, 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; Attorney Ted Storer, Engineer Nate Rumschlag, Surveyor Jarrod Hahn, Secretary Diana Collins. Jeff Stringer 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 May 15, 2023.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on May 15, 2023 as submitted. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

Project Update:

Kiser Tile Drain Replacement-Chester Township:

Mr. Hahn presented a detailed map of where the contractor has completed replacing the Kiser tile in Chester Township, section 11, range 12E south of 700S between Meridian Road and 100W. Hahn noted approximately 2,080 feet of 12-inch, and the landowners decided to add more footage to go to a property line with 1,350 feet of 8-inch tile. Hahn mentioned the very upper-end of the Kiser tile closer to 800S about 1,270 feet of 7-inch and 400 feet of a 6-inch prong on the upper-end was replaced and redirected to the east emptying into the Lambert open drain some years ago. Hahn mentioned that both of the directions of the Kiser tile all empty into the main Maddux open drain/watershed.

C.Geiger Tile Drain- Union Township:

Mr. Hahn presented a detailed map of the C.Geiger tile drain in Union Township, section 32, range 11E was put in 2005 and at one of the joints tree roots had entered and plugged most of the tile. Hahn noted the landowner has called last fall of the water not moving, so the tile was jetted out. The landowner called this spring to say there are still problems going on. Hahn mentioned the area is in an abandoned railway north of US224 just east of 400W where there are several cottonwood trees and other trees growing. Hahn had hired a contractor to investigate the tile and found several feet of the 12-inch tile was plugged with tree roots. Hahn had used the County Highway brush cutter to cut down most of the smaller trees and brush then replaced about 180 feet of 12-inch. Hahn mentioned there is a very large cottonwood tree left that the contractor is willing to come back and cut down. Hahn wanted to thank the County Highway Supervisor Shawn Bonar for letting him use the brush cutter. Hahn noted that this cost was paid out of the Griffin watershed.

O.Decker Tile Drain-Union Township:

Mr. Hahn presented a detailed map of the O.Decker tile drain in Union Township, section 32, range 11E is also in the abandoned railway north of US224 but west of 400W about a mile from the C.Geiger tile. Hahn mentioned there are several cottonwood trees and other trees growing that need to be debrushed, noting that this is an old 12-inch old clay tile therefore will be replaced too. Hahn also noted that this cost will be paid out of the Griffin watershed.

2023 Spray Program-North:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that spray notices went out in the mail last week to the affected landowners who borders a regulated open drain in the northern half of the County. Hahn noted that Chad Baker of Right-a-Way Management will be spraying this year and anticipates Mr. Baker to begin the week of June 12th weather permitting.

Detail Listing Sheet:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that the 2023 spring settlement amounts have been applied to the detail listing sheet watershed funds. Hahn mentioned he feels the watershed fund amounts are in good shape.

Tile Repair Reports-County Wide:

Mr. Hahn reported that this year there have been several reports of broken-down tiles with most repairs have been made with about 12+ repair reports still out but the contractor may have made those repairs done but has not turned in the invoices yet.

Continued June 5, 2023

Petition and Approval Drain Easement Form-Final Draft for Approval:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he received the final draft of "Petition and Approval to Locate Structures within County Drain Easement" document form from County Attorney Ted Storer. Hahn noted Recorder Carolyn Bertsch had one margin concern and was changed to be compliance of their regulations, and the document remained two-pages. Hahn mentioned that he is very happy with the new form as the Drainage Board members looked over the two-page document. Mr. Storer also mentioned the 2013-03 Ordinance "Establishing Certain Fees Pertaining to the Wells County Drainage/Office of the Wells County Surveyor" needs to be revised on the residential easement fee amount currently at \$150.00 lowered to \$50.00 due to the document made simpler and more cost effective by attaching the owner's deed. Mr. Storer will revise the Ordinance 2013-03 "Establishing Certain Fees Pertaining to the Wells County Drainage/Office of the Wells County Surveyor" lowering the fee changes and recommends being put on the Commissioners agenda on June 20th for approval. Hahn will contact Auditor Lisa McCormick to be put on the agenda.

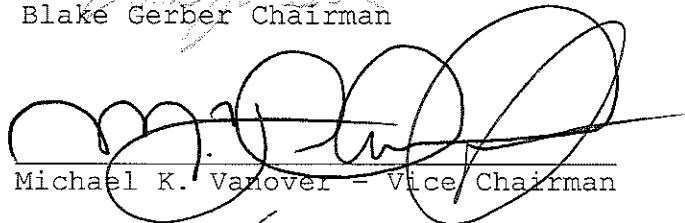
Mr. Vanover motioned to approve of the "Petition and Approval to Locate Structures within County Drain Easement" document form pending the approval from Commissioners to revise the 2013-03 "Establishing Certain Fees Pertaining to the Wells County Drainage/Office of the Wells County Surveyor" on the residential easement fee currently \$150.00 lowering to \$50.00. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

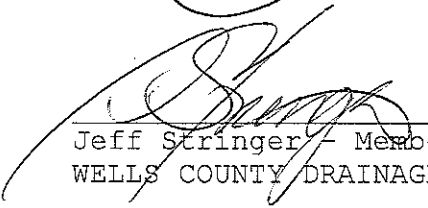
Adjournment:

Mr. Vanover motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board meeting at 4:46 p.m. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Tuesday-June 20, 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