

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday - July 18, 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; Attorney Colin Andrews, 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 July 5, 2022.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on July 5, 2022 as submitted. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

Goodspeed Tile Drain Replacement Quotes-Harrison Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned he has sent out 3 quotes packages to tile contractors to replace 1,650 feet with 18-inch tile, 2200 feet of 15-inch, and 1240 feet of 12-inch in Harrison Township, sections 17,18,19, range 12E located south of the City of Bluffton between 250S and south of 300S, west of the Hoosier Highway. Mr. Hahn noted that he received two sealed quotes and was opened in his office at 1:00pm, one from Landis & Sons Drainage Corp of Craigville for \$139,408.00 the start date of August 1st, and the other from Jarin Tucker Drainage of Poneto for \$96,941.00 with the start date of August 15th. Hahn mentioned the quotes are for the tile and installation and does not include tile connections for existing tile laterals and connection materials. Hahn mentioned that he, Engineer Nate Rumschlag and Brett Pfister was on site last week to collect data and stake certain areas, and also found at the 250S that there is not new tile going across the road so this project will need to go across to hook into a new tile on the north side of 250S. Hahn noted that the completion date is by September 30th Hahn mentioned Mr. Tucker has done smaller tile replacement projects in the county but this is his first major replacement and is confident he can manage this replacement therefore recommends going with the low quote from Jarin Tucker Drainage of Poneto for \$96,941.00. Hahn and Mr. Rumschlag have not heard back from Engineer Mathieu Doyle to provide a total amount of project savings from being removed as a federal INDOT highway tile project to a county drainage project, and also have not received word of INDOT's official approval.

Mr. Gerber motioned to approve the low quote from Jarin Tucker Drainage of Poneto for \$96,941.00 to replace 1,650 feet with 18-inch tile, 2200 feet of 15-inch, and 1240 feet of 12-inch in Harrison Township, sections 17,18,19, range 12E as recommended. Mr. Vanover 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he received written documents from landowner representative Brett Pfister on total acre, crop summary of yield and productivity of the field that is affected by the tile replacement. Also included are the crop damage compensation amount with a contract agreement to be signed by Wells County and Pfister Farms. Hahn will give these forms to the Wells County Attorney Collins Andrews for further review and recommendations for the Drainage Board and Commissioners. Hahn mentioned that there is another farm affected by the tile replacement route that the landowner may request crop damage as well. Hahn noted the Commissioners will be funding this tile project through the highway funds. Mr. Rumschlag mentioned the funding is an INDOT-301DN Local Trax project using state, local, Federal funds on the Hoosier Highway Project, and this is where the Commissioners will pay for the tile replacement through the County Highway fund project. Hahn suggested in today Commissioner's meeting they approve a funding amount to cover all the tile/installation, connections, road crossing and the crop damage project cost in today's meeting. Mr. Rumschlag also thanked the Hahn and his office for helping on making this project all possible and saving the county money.

Project Update:

Prairie Creek Extended Joint Drain-Logjams-Jackson Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that the contractor had completed removing another 2-logjams on the Prairie Creek Extended in Jackson Township, section 27, range 10E in the area of State Road 3 between 1000S and 1100s. Hahn noted that there was some clearing done to get the logjams. Hahn also mentioned of a few down trees close to State Road 3 where INDOT will be replacing a bridge deck soon and will wait until there project is done to see what their project will take out.

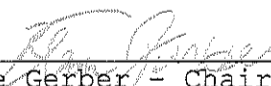
Discussion on MS4-Virtual Meeting:

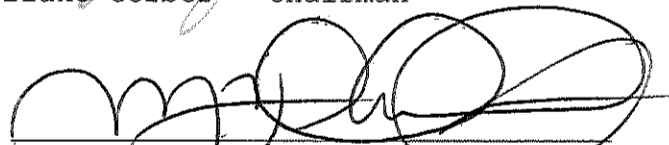
Mr. Hahn mentioned that he had a team's meeting with Lori Gates, Senior Project Manager of Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC to discuss the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Stormwater Quality to get answers on where the county would stand on drains, the timeline, general permits information relation with the City of Bluffton who that will need to comply by the rules of an MS4. Hahn noted the meeting was informational but still have some questions that cannot be answered at this time until the City of Bluffton draws up the language for an ordinance. Hahn did learn the language in the ordinance to be drafted in April of 2023, then to be enforced in 24 months from the April 2023 date. Hahn also noted that Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC is currently just setting up a timeline schedule only at this time for the City of Bluffton. Hahn also learned and suggest whatever the language is in the City of Bluffton ordinance that Wells County's ordinance language should be similar so when Wells County becomes an MS4 in 10 years or so it will be implemented and simpler to comply with all involved. Hahn mentioned that there is going to be another meeting with the City of Bluffton, departments with Christopher B. Burke Engineering soon for discussion of the timeline and with more information to the City of Bluffton and others. Hahn noted that he will keep the Board members informed as information is gathered.

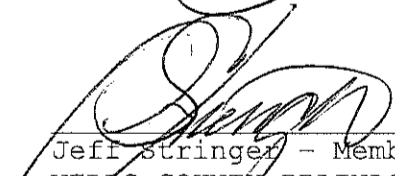
Adjournment:


Mr. Vanover motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board meeting at 4:50 p.m. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Monday-August 1, 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