

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday - August 7, 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, Jeff Stringer; Attorney Ted Storer, 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 20, 2023.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on June 20, 2023 as submitted. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber motion carried 3-0.

Project Update:

J.C. Bell Tile Drain:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that the contractor has completed replacing 2657 feet of the J.C. Bell tile in Lancaster Township, section 19, range 13E west side of Craigville. Hahn noted the original quote of \$28,860.00 from Landis and Sons Drainage Corp to replace 2,200 feet main tile with 15-inch and 12-inch. Hahn mentioned it was later found a section of the tile was in another spot not where the contractor first thought which added 457 feet of tile, labor, and crossing the county road 700E increasing the final bill to \$38,297.55. Hahn is asking the same 85% (percentage) figure be applied to the new increased billing being \$38,297.55 which would be approximately \$8,500.00 added on to the first Board approved of \$25,000.00 now being \$33,500.00 out of the 8-Mile watershed with the landowner's cost-share would be \$4,797.55.

Mr. Vanover motioned to accept 85% of \$38,297.55 adding \$8,500.00 now totaling \$33,500.00 paid out of the 8-Mile watershed replacing 2,657 feet of the J.C. Bell tile in Lancaster Township, section 19, range 13E. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

B.F. Kain Tile Drain-Lancaster Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned the contractor has completed replacing the B.F. Kain tile drain in Lancaster Township, section 31, range 12E off of State Road 124 between Meridian Road and 100E. Hahn mentioned the contractor replaced a total of 760 feet with 18-inch which includes adding 40 feet of tile to the project. Hahn noted that he worked with INDOT on lining up the tile at State Road 124 so when INDOT resurfaces the road the cut will be straight across the state road instead of an angle as is currently.

Craven Open/Tile Drain-Harrison Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he had contractor Fifer Services of Portland to remove/mulch trees in the Craven open drain and the tile waterway in Harrison Township, section 15, range 12E east of State Road 1 south between 200S and 300S. Hahn noted that the new landowner had known this contractor from his previous location and wanted to use Mr. Fifer Services. Hahn mentioned he did very good work.

Stotts Prong #3 Tile Drain-Jackson Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned on INDOT's State Road 3 project the right-of-way locates were finally completed so that INDOT construction crews could continue to replace the Stotts Prong #3 tile on across State Road 3 with a 15-inch in Jackson Township, sections 34/35, range 10E between 1100S and 1200S. Hahn made mention that the INDOT construction crews work into the evening hours busting up old hard cement from the 1930's era which is best quality cement that was made, the crews completed the crossing project the next day.

Continued August 7, 2023

Ehle Open Drain-Harrison Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that landowner Adam Neuenschwander of Harrison Township, section 10, range 12E is wanting to be in the Ehle open drain easement to put in a pond and this area is in a flood zone. Hahn presented a drawing of the area that shows the harvest soil area and the pond location. Hahn noted that he suggested to Mr. Neuenschwander to do 2-stage the ditch that could help compensating fill in a flood zone and noted that would need to involve Michael Lautzenheiser who is the Flood Manager for the County. Hahn asked if the Board would allow the pond to be in the Ehle easement no closer than 25 feet but from the original top of bank or the 2-stage bank. Wells County Engineer Nate Rumschlag noted that there is a curve in the ditch that runs along 200S and he would like to see that part of the ditch straightened before/part of the 200S road project, also mentioned how narrow the lot area is. Mr. Stringer was concerned about how close the pond would be to the 2-stage, or can the pond be moved back, then would be close to the neighbor's property line. The Board members agree they would like to see more final details on the dimensions of what Mr. Neuenschwander's exact project plans are before they decide. Hahn will contact Mr. Neuenschwander to get more specifics on his project.

Bills Creek Property Claim-Out of Watershed:

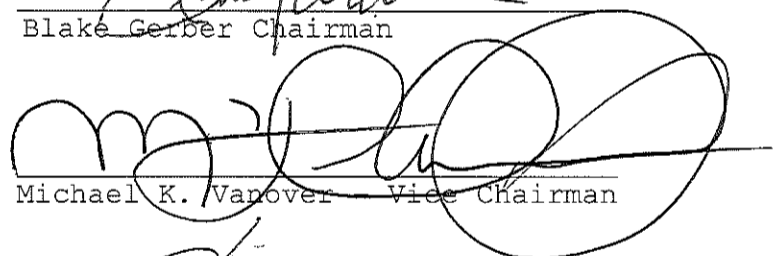
Mr. Stringer asked Mr. Hahn, in the Bills Creek hearing if he had looked into Mr. Roehs claim that he had no water going into Bills Creek along with a couple other neighboring properties that received notices too. Mr. Hahn said he did talk to the City of Bluffton Stormwater Department head who said they had put in two catch basins both draining into Bills Creek therefore will stay in the Bills Creek Watershed. Hahn noted he will be contacting the landowner to let him know his findings.


Adjournment:

Mr. Vanover motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board regular meeting at 4:55 pm. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber motion carried 3-0.

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Monday August 21, 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