

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday- September 21, 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 September 8, 2020.

Dr. Robbins motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on September 8, 2020 as submitted. Mr. Woodward 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Citizens Telephone Corp. Mt Zion Project-
Chester and Jackson Townships:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that Citizens Telephone Corp. has reported they will begin to encase Fiber in existing line and boring in the easements of the Mt Zion and Morris tile drains in Chester Township, section 6 range 11E and Jackson Township, section 1, range 10E this week. Hahn noted that the Board gave permission to be in the drainage easement on July 20, 2020.

J.P. Mounsey Tile Drain-Liberty Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned he was contacted by County Highway Supervisor Josh Cotton about replacing the J.P. Mounsey tile that runs parallel with county road 450W just north of State road 218 in Liberty Township, section 32, range 11 and the tile crossing State road 218 into Chester Township, section 5, range 11E. Hahn noted this tile is an old concrete has been breaking every year for several years. Hahn also mentioned that there are about 5 landowners including the highway department that are affected. Hahn noted he will talk to the area landowners on any interest of replacement the tile.

Mutual Tile and Open drain:

Mr. Hahn mentioned he has been contacted by a few landowners who may be interested in petitioning mutual drains to become a regulated drain. Hahn noted one is an open drain and is in Lancaster Township that includes several landowners but is in early talks. Hahn noted the second is a tile and is in Liberty Township with only a few landowners that includes crossing State Road 218 into Chester Township. Hahn explained the process of either IC 36-9-27-18 which all landowners to sign the petition to assume jurisdiction, or IC 36-9-27-18 which only one landowner to sign the petition to start the hearing process. The landowners are considering their options. Hahn did ask Attorney Roy Johnson what the definition of "owner" is. Mr. Johnson believe it is anyone with interest in the land but will look it up and report back on the findings.

Geo. Bennett Tile Drain-Harrison Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned the contractor will be replacing Geo. Bennett tile in Chester Township, section 29, range 12E south of 450S between 100E and 200E after crops are harvested. Hahn noted the contractor will be replacing the existing 12-inch tile with 850 feet of 15-inch starting at the lower-end where it empties into the Neff open drain/watershed.

AIC Annual Virtual Conference 2020:

Mr. Hahn made mention that AIC Annual virtual conference is going on this week to view and will be available to watch until November 1st. Hahn noted of one session that has some interest on will be Planning and Zoning in Flood Plain preparedness. Mr. Gerber questioned are there many homes still in the flood zone in towns. Hahn noted there are a few but mentioned that Wells County and its residence has done a good job on making sure or not building homes in the flood plain area. Hahn noted of the homes dated back before the 1960s have been bought out torn down either through Army Corps and/or today through FEMA program grants.


Wells County Engineer Nate Rumschlag:

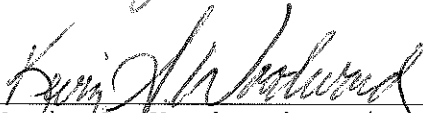
Mr. Rumschlag mentioned that he attended the INAFSM virtual Conference with one of the sessions having changes to and raises concerns on the Home rule 13, 5 and 6 which covers construction activities and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). Rumschlag said that Indiana has had these old rules since 2003, the new rule will be a general permit that has a 30-day public comment that is in effect now until end of October. Hahn noted that currently Soil and Water Conservation reviews the rule 5 on the constructions for Wells County. The new rule for MS4 counties is required to obtain a permit for constructions, easements, maintenance agreements to discharge storm water to inspect and maintain which will more than double the workload. Jarrod added he was invited to participate in a few focus group meetings on this new rule with questions; when you file an intent, and when the rules change you will have to re-file the intent again, will you be in non-compliance, and that may mean no permit. Hahn noted that the group also questions on, if an active permit fee has been paid will the person have to be paid again or will IDEM waive the fee. Wells County is not under a MS4 rule nor is the City of Bluffton but could be in the near future.

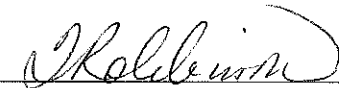
Adjournment:

Dr. Robbins motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board meeting at 8:54 a.m. Mr. Woodward 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Monday-October 5, 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