

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes  
Tuesday - September 8, 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 August 17, 2020.

Dr. Robbins motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on August 17, 2020 as submitted. Mr. Woodward 2<sup>nd</sup>. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Gerber Opened Maple Creek West Branch Tile Drain Public Hearing:

Lancaster Township, section 12, range 12E. Cause 2020-1

Mr. Hahn mentioned that Douglas Nash has filed a petition to vacate 300 feet of the upper end of the Maple Creek West Branch 22-inch tile drain in Lancaster Township, section 12, range 12E north side of 400N and east of 500E. Hahn presented the petition, description of the proposed tile to vacate, and a detailed map. Hahn mentioned that notices were sent out to affected landowner Mr. Nash (petitioner), and the County Highway Department, and with no landowners present for any testimony and/or no evidence received. Hahn noted the Mr. Nash wants to vacate the upper end because he is building a home and will be rerouting all drainage tiles to the Maple Creek West Branch open drain. Hahn did mention the Maple Creek West Branch tile on the south side of 400N does not cross the road anymore for was rerouted a few years ago to go directly in the open. Hahn mentioned the fee for the easement has been paid, therefore recommends vacating 300 feet of the upper end Maple Creek West Branch tile 22-inch drain. Attorney Roy Johnson has prepared an order to vacate the Maple Creek West Branch tile drain.

Dr. Robbins motioned to vacate 300 feet of the upper end of the Maple Creek West Branch 22-inch tile drain on Douglas and Crystal Nash farm in Lancaster Township, section 12, range 12E on 400N east of 500E. Mr. Woodward 2<sup>nd</sup>. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

The Wells County Drainage Board now publicly finds that 300 feet of Maple Creek West Branch Tile Drain 22-inch tile drain will not be detrimental to the public's welfare, and the benefit for vacating the tile outweighs the benefit that are made by the landowner.

If judicial review of the findings and order of the board is not requested under section 106 of this chapter within twenty (20) days after the date of publication of the notice, the findings and order become conclusive. Maple Creek West Branch Tile Drain Hearing Adjourned.

Wm. Smith Open Drain-Structure Drainage Easement-OD, Inc:

Mr. Hahn presented to the Board a "Petition of Approval to Locate Structures within a County Regulated Drain Right-Of-Way and Approval by County Drainage Board" form from owner Robert Honegger of OD, Inc. for the Regional Detention Pond on the Wm. Smith open drain and to be no closer than 25 feet from the top of the bank in Jefferson Township, section 21, range 12E south of 850N(Industrial Road) west of SR 1. Hahn has provided a drainage and a design map of the area showing the location of the Ossian Regional Detention Pond (Phase 1 and 2). Hahn mentioned the fee for the permit has been paid, therefore recommends the approval of structure within the Wm. Smith open drainage easement.

Dr. Robbins motioned to approve owner Robert Honegger of OD, Inc. for the Ossian Regional Detention Pond (Phase 1 and 2) in the Wm. Smith open drainage easement in Jefferson Township, section 21, range 12E south on 850N(Industrial Road) west of SR 1 no closer than 25 feet from the top of the Wm. Smith open drain as recommend. Mr. Woodward 2<sup>nd</sup>. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

King Prong Tile Drain- Jefferson Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned a landowner replaced the existing 12-inch tile with 855 feet of 15-inch on the King Tile Prong in Jefferson Township, section 28, range 12E west of State Road 1 and south of 800 north. Hahn noted that last winter the lower end of the King Prong tile on the east side of State Road 1 was replaced and this is just a continuous tile replacement of the lower end. Hahn also mentioned that the State Highway will be replacing culvert pipe under State Road 1, and the County Highway will replace the pipe under 800N in the future. Hahn mentioned this King Prong tile project was a share-cost between the landowner to pay the installation and the 8-Mile watershed fund to pay for the tile.

Valentine Joint Drain and Simmerman Joint Drain

Jefferson Township-Allen County Jurisdiction:

Mr. Hahn noted that he received an e-mail from the Allen County Surveyor's office who has cancelled the Valentine Joint and Simmerman joint hearings was tentatively set for Thursday-September 24th due to heavy construction in the area.

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Wells County Engineer Nate Rumschlag:

Mr. Rumschlag mentioned that he asked the Surveyor's office to pull watersheds for 14 small structures for future pipe projects. Rumschlag noted a few of the structure's watershed revealed for a pipe downsize. Rumschlag noted he does not like to downsize a pipe but will keep the existing size. Rumschlag further stated he will review his findings with Surveyor Hahn and then send his report to the Wells County Highway Supervisor Josh Cotton on the small structure's future.

Adjournment:

Mr. Woodward motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board meeting at 8:45 a.m. Dr. Robbins 2<sup>nd</sup>. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Monday-September 21, 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