

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday - October 21, 2024 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, Michael K. Vanover, Jeff Stringer; Attorney Ted Storer; Engineer Nate Whitacre; Surveyor Jarrod Hahn; Secretary Diana Collins. Blake Gerber was absent.

Determination of Quorum:
A quorum was present for the meeting.

Minutes:
Mr. Vanover opened the Drainage Board meeting with the first item to approve the Board's regular meeting minutes on October 7, 2024.

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on October 7, 2024. Mr. Vanover 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

Projects and Updates:
William Day Tile Drain- Liberty Township:
Mr. Hahn mentioned he is meeting with a group of landowners tomorrow morning for final details on replacing 1,000 feet of the William Day tile south of State Road 124 and 500W in Liberty Township, section 5 and 6, range 11E. Hahn noted he purchased 540 feet of 24-inch tile for \$6,588.00 earlier in the year to be used on the Miller tile project with the expense out of the 6-Mile watershed fund. Hahn noted that he will be using that 540 feet of 24-inch tile on the W. Day tile project therefore will be transferring that \$6,588.00 expense to the Day watershed fund. Hahn noted that we are also adding approximately 480 feet of 24in tile that the Day watershed has already paid pay for, with the landowners to pay for the installation and some materials.

Gregg Open Drain-Liberty Township:
Mr. Hahn mentioned that contractor Kevin Linnimeier of Tri County Exc. will do a bottom clean out on the Gregg open drain in Liberty Township, section 10, range 11E south of 100S and west of 200W area. Hahn noted a written notice has been sent the landowner who owns the land that the ditch runs through.

McBride Open Drain-Union Township:
Mr. Hahn mentioned that contractor Kevin Linnimeier of Tri County Exc. will do a bottom clean out on the McBride open drain in Union Township, section 15 and 16, range 11E 300W North of 900N. Hahn noted that notices have been sent to several landowners.

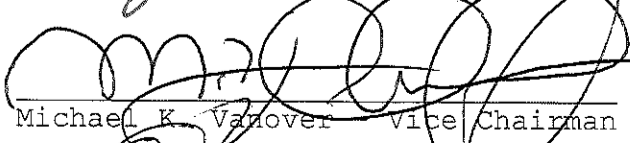
Gaskill Tile Drain-Liberty Township:
Mr. Hahn mentioned that the tile will be delivered this week on site to replace the Gaskill tile group project in Liberty Township, section 2, range 11E south of State Road 124W between 100W and 200W. Hahn noted most all the landowners have given their support and some landowners will pay others cost-share to install 2,200 feet of 30-inch tile, and Halls creek watershed will pay for the tile and materials.


2-Stage Ditch Project-Drainage Easement:
Mr. Hahn mentioned that he was questioned about the drainage easement when you go from a regular ditch to a 2-stage ditch on where to begin measuring twenty-five (25) feet left in the easement. Hahn noted that it may be a landowner, business, utility, development, or a town asking for a two-stage ditch for various reasons, and would like the board's thoughts and opinions, also should there be a standard policy to determine what easement is to be left once the 2-stage ditch is built. Mr. Stringer asked what do you do now. Hahn noted that first reviews design, meets on site with owner, then the owner signs an easement document and 2-stage for Drainage Board approval, the easement is recorded attached to deed, go out on site to collaborate closely with the contractor who is putting in the 2-stage ditch. Hahn also mentioned that each easement involving a 2-stage ditch is different and depends what the needs are. Mr. Vanover noted that it would really need to be a case-by-case easement given. Hahn said yes, and noted that all the entities that have built a 2-stage ditch have been cooperative for us to maintain the ditch for spraying, and the bottom clean out, also noted a 2-stage really keeps itself with no drainage issues. Mr. Storer noted that he is willing to meet with Mr. Hahn to discuss this further on creating a standard policy or guidelines.


Adjournment:
Mr. Stringer motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board regular meeting at 4:42 pm. Mr. Vanover 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting will be on Monday-November 4 2024 at 4:30 p.m.


Blake Gerber Chairman


Michael K. Vanover Vice Chairman


Jeff Stringer - Member
WELLS COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

ATTEST: 
Diana L. Collins