

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday - October 7, 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 Blake Gerber, Michael K. Vanover, Jeff Stringer; Attorney Ted Storer; Engineer Nate Whitacre; 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 to approve the Board's regular meeting minutes on September 3, 2024.

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on September 3, 2024. Mr. Vanover 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Projects and Updates:

J.A. Miller Tile Drain Replaced:

Mr. Hahn mentioned the contractor has completed putting in 1200 feet of 18-inch on the J.A. Miller tile in Harrison Township, section 11, range 12E south of State Road 116 east of 450E. Hahn provided a detailed time-line map of tile portions replacement through the years starting in 2010 with 375 feet at the lower end, and 2017 with 700 feet was replaced upstream of a woods. Hahn mentioned in a few years would like to replace approximately 670 feet of tile through the woods but requires cleaning a pathway so the cost will be greater to do this next phase of the tile replacement project.

G.T. Markley Tile Drain:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he has talked to a landowner who will be systematically tiling his farm and would like to replace the G.T. Markley tile that is on the upper end of the Cotton Prong open drain in Bills Creek watershed. Hahn noted the current size is a 12-inch/14-inch that was put in 1892 and has served its purpose. Hahn provided a detailed map and mentioned the landowner wants to replace 1,000 feet with an 18-inch in Harrison Township, Section 20, range 12E on 350S between 100E and 200E. Hahn mentioned that he has received two competitive quotes from the following tile companies.

ADS: 1,000 feet of 18-inch tile-----total quote \$8,450.00

Baughman: 1,000 feet of 18-inch tile---total quote \$8,438.66

Hahn noted that both companies are great to work with and have quality materials therefore recommends going with the low quote from Baughman Tile Company of \$8,438.66. Hahn mentioned that the landowners will pay for the installation cost and Bills Creek watershed fund will pay for the tile. Mr. Gerber made note that the Bills Creek watershed fund currently has a negative balance. Hahn noted the annual assessment is \$33,947.76 and the fall collections have not come in which should be around a one-third of the annual assessment and anticipates being in the positive next year. Hahn noted that with the GDI fund is very healthy therefore is comfortable on taking funds out to pay for the tile, and then as Bills Creek watershed collect its funds it will repay GDI.

Mr. Stringer motioned to accept the low quote from Baughman Tile Company for \$8,438.66 out of Bills Creek watershed fund to replace 1,000 feet of 18-inch of the G.T. Markley tile as recommended. Mr. Vanover 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Rock Creek Proposed New Road Plans-Landowner's Tile:

Mr. Hahn noted that he was contacted by Jim McAfee on his tile outlet that drains into the Whitelock open would be destroyed by the proposed new road plans in Rockcreek Township, 15, Range 11E. Hahn mentioned that Mr. McAfee would like the proposed new road plans to include putting in a tile outlet to the Whitelock drain. Hahn noted that this would be a decision by the County Commissioners but wanted to bring it the Drainage Board members attention.


Stormwater Flood Plain Managers Conference-Report:

Mr. Hahn mentioned he attended the Stormwater Flood Plain Managers Conference reporting of a few possible changes being currently made that may involve working on any regulated drain that is in the updated floodway mapping may require a permit (LOMR) from FEMA and IDNR. MRBC Director Rod Renkenberger has reached out to FEMA on this language for a change. Hahn noted that it may also affect the county highway working the bridges over the Wabash or the Salamonie Rivers being "Waters of the US" may also require a permitting process.

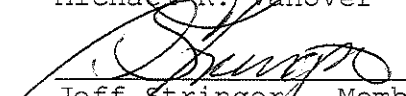
Adjournment:


Mr. Vanover motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board regular meeting at 4:45 pm. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting will be on Monday-October 21, 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