

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
 Tuesday - September 3, 2024 4:47 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 August 19, 2024.

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on August 19, 2024. Mr. Vanover 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Projects and Updates:

Goodspeed Prong Tile 2023 Replacement-Preparation of Hoosier Highway Federal Road Project:

Mr. Hahn mentioned he has met with Butler, Fairman, Seufert Inc contractors, supervisors, and engineering inspectors several times along the new Hoosier Highway Federal Road project on the spec plans. Hahn noted the most concern is along the newly installed (2023) Goodspeed Prong tile for the location of hook ups, cut offs and culvert pipes so everyone is on the same page. The location of the area is in Harrison Township, section 17, range 12E west of the existing Hoosier Highway between 200S and 300S.

Indiana Water Summit-The White River Alliance:

Mr. Hahn mentioned he attended the Indiana Water Summit on The White River Alliance. Hahn mentioned in one breakout sessions discussion was 2-stage ditches that had been studied, and the benefits it has on the drain. Hahn noted he was surprised that our county was the featured showcased as having the most 2-stage ditches in the State.

AIC-The Nature Conservancy Meeting:

Mr. Hahn mentioned he attended the AIC-The Nature Conservancy meeting on the importance of understanding the challenges and what work The Nature Conservancy and others are doing to ensure the river remains a healthy and robust asset into the future.

2023- HB1639 Watershed Development Commissions.

Mr. Hahn mentioned is on a study committee group for Watershed Development Commissions on last year's HB-1639. Hahn noted that Maumee River Basin Commission was not happy with the bill's current language. The MRBC committee is discussing some written amendments to send to the study committee that the HB 1639 may be more suitable for the MRBC needs if is passed in this year's coming session.

2024 Farm Bureau Drainage School Seminar:

Mr. Hahn mentioned he attended the 2024 Farm Bureau Drainage School that was well attended by the County Surveyor's through-out the State. Hahn noted the topics was on the Army Corp and Waters of the US which was highly informative.

New Flood Plain Maps-90 Days Appeal Period:

Mr. Gerber asked Mr. Hahn to explain the updated Floodplain Data mapping that is in the 90-day appeals process. Hahn mentioned that if a landowner feels their property is not in a flood zone can write a letter expressing their thoughts. The updated Floodplain Data mapping was based on Lydar data model the is more accurate on the ground elevation and incorporated LOMAs that had been done over the years. Landowners also can get a LOMA (Letter of Map Amendment) which is a detailed hydrologic modeling study at the landowner's expense and is very costly. Hahn noted information on the statutory 90-day appeals period, as well as a complete listing of the communities affected, and the locations are available on FEMA's website. Hahn also mentioned appeals process notification was in the News-Banner last week. Hahn anticipates that the updated Floodplain Data mapping will be certified in about 3 to 4 months.


Adjournment:

Mr. Vanover motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board regular meeting at 4:58 pm. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Cancelled-September 16, 2024 regular meeting due to Street Fair and no drainage matters.

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting will be on Monday-October 7, 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