

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes  
Monday - November 4, 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, Jeff Stringer; Attorney Ted Storer; Surveyor Jarrod Hahn; Secretary Diana Collins. Michael K. Vanover and Nate Whitacre were absent.

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 October 21, 2024.

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on October 21, 2024. Mr. Gerber 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 2-0.

2025 Drainage Board Meeting Dates and Times:

Mr. Hahn presented the schedule for the 2025 Drainage Board meetings dates and times for approval. The Drainage Board meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 4:30 p.m. except as noted. Dates are as follows:

|          |             |           |              |
|----------|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| JANUARY  | 6-21 (Tues) | JULY      | 7-21         |
| FEBRUARY | 3-18 (Tues) | AUGUST    | 4-18         |
| MARCH    | 3-17        | SEPTEMBER | 2 (Tues) -15 |
| APRIL    | 7-21        | OCTOBER   | 6-20         |
| MAY      | 5-19        | NOVEMBER  | 3-17         |
| JUNE     | 2-16        | DECEMBER  | 1-15         |

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve the 2025 Drainage Board meetings dates and times as presented. Mr. Gerber 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 2-0.

Ferguson Open Drainage Easement- Jefferson Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that landowner Neil L Stinson 7576 E 1000 N Ossian in Jefferson Township, section 17, range 13E has filed a "Petition and Approval to Locate Structures within County Drain Easement". Hahn mentioned that Mr. Stinson is requesting to be in the Ferguson open drain's easement to put in a 5\8's area pond, septic and a 40x60 home. Hahn presented a detailed map of the area of where the structures will be placed on the property but is not to scale. Mr. Gerber asked how many acres are in this property. Hahn noted 3.04 acres. Mr. Stringer concerns are the pond may be close to the property line to the north than allowed. Hahn mentioned that Mr. Stinson's parents live there, and the Area Plan Commission office will go over the setbacks with Mr. Stinson. Hahn recommends approving of the easement allowing Mr. Stinson the mentioned structures in the Ferguson open drain easement no closer than 25 feet from the top of the bank.

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve Neil L Stinson 7576 E 1000 N Ossian in Jefferson Township, section 17, range 13E to be in the easement of the Ferguson open drain to put in a 5\8's acre pond, septic and a 40x60 home no closer than 25 feet from the top of the bank as recommended. Mr. Gerber 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 2-0.

Flat Creek Open Drain-Union Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that contractor Tri-County Exc. has done erosion repair and removed a large rock in Flat Creek open drain near Marzane Road in Union Township, Section 17, Range 11E.

8-Mile Open Drain-Jefferson Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that contractor Tri-County Exc. has done bank repair and removed sandbars in the 8-Mile drain near Ossian in Jefferson Township, Section 16, Range 12E.

Projects and Updates:

William Day Tile Drain- Liberty Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that contractor Jarin Tucker has put in 540 feet of 24-inch tile of the William Day tile south of State Road 124 and 500W in Liberty Township, section 5 and 6, range 11E. Hahn noted he has met with the landowners who would like to replace more tile and will keep the Board members informed as details are decided on.

Gaskill Tile Drain-Liberty Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that contractor Jarin Tucker has started replacing the Gaskill tile group project in Liberty Township, section 2, range 11E south of State Road 124W between 100W and 200W. Hahn noted that a couple of truckloads of tile and materials will be delivered today or tomorrow.

Continued November 4, 2024

Gabriel T. Markley Tile Drain-Harrison Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that the contractor Landis and Son Drainage has completed replacing 1000 feet with 18-inch tile on the G.T. Markley drain in Harrison Township, Section 20, range 12E 350S between 100E and 200E. Hahn noted that the contractor should be finishing up crossing 350S today. Attorney Mr. Storer asked if the road crossing permit was obtained from the County Highway. Hahn noted yes, the contractor did get the permit.

Day Joint Watershed Discussion-Liberty Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned as he met with some landowners on the Day watershed, the annual assessment is currently at \$1.00 per acre with a \$25.00 minimum bring in approximately \$1,000.00 annually. Hahn noted an option to get more funds would be to have an increased hearing to raise the assessment on the Day watershed. Hahn also mentioned that the Day watershed is in Liberty Township in Wells County, and in Salamonie Township in Huntington which becomes a joint board hearing. Hahn mentioned that there needs to be a 5-board member board that includes 2-board members from Wells County and 2 from Huntington County and a 5<sup>th</sup> member that is not from either county. Hahn noted he would like the increase to take effect payable in 2025 if possible. Hahn is asking the Board members to think over who will serve on the joint board and will bring it back to the board later when figures, date and time are researched further. Hahn noted that he has contacted the Surveyor's office in Huntington County about his intentions.

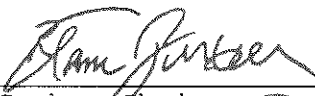
Bills Creek Drain-Landowner Edward Maller:

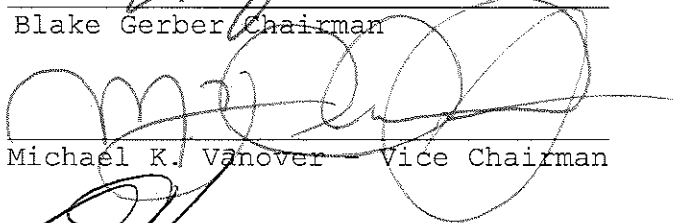
Landowner Edward E. Maller of 1432 Parlor City Drive, Bluffton IN 46714 in Harrison Township, Section 10, Range 12E came in to mention that the Bills Creek open drain has some down trees along his property and would like to see them taken out. Mr. Maller noted that he has called a few times, but nothing has been done to date. Mr. Hahn mentioned that he was aware of his calls and were during the time of INDOT replacing a bridge on State Road 116 and no contractor needed to be in INDOT's way. Hahn noted that he has called a contractor Blake Johnson to remove the trees as soon as he can.

Adjournment:

Mr. Stringer motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board regular meeting at 4:50 p.m. Mr. Gerber 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 2-0.

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting will be on Monday-November 18, 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  
WELLS DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY