

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Tuesday - January 21, 2025 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; Attorney Ted Storer; Engineer Nate Whitacre; Surveyor Jarrod Hahn; Secretary Diana Collins. Jeff Stringer was absent.

Determination of Quorum:

A quorum was present for the meeting.

Minutes:

Mr. Gerber mentioned the first item to approve the Board's regular meeting minutes on January 6, 2025.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on January 6, 2025. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

Projects and Updates:

Casteel Tile Drain-Allen County Jurisdiction-Jefferson Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned the Casteel tile joint drain with Allen County and holds jurisdiction has started replacing the tile. Hahn reminded we (Wells County) waived our rights to the project due to only a few landowners are involved. Hahn noted the project is with the Allen County Highway Department through a ARPA grant resurfacing the Smith Road. Hahn noted the new Casteel 24-inch tile runs along the west side of Smith Road in Allen County crossing 1200N (county line) stopping in side ditch in Jefferson Township, section 6, range 12E. Hahn will keep the Board informed as the project moves forward.

Somers Open Drain-Lancaster Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that a contractor will be removing a couple of logjams and tree removal in the Somers open drain in Lancaster Township, section 18, range 21E between south of State Road 116, between Meridian Road and 300E. Hahn noted that the contractor will start as soon as possible and weather permitting.

Norwell Open Drain-Lancaster Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that contractor Kevin Linnimeier of Tri County Exc. has completed a bottom clean out and bank repair on the Norwell open drain in Lancaster Township, section 6, range 21E between Meridian Road and 100E on/between 500N and 550N.

2025 Legislature Bills:

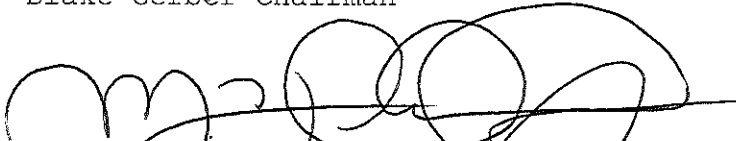
Mr. Gerber asked if any legislative bills are a concern in this session. Mr. Hahn mentioned there are not any direct to drainage but indirect there is one bill on watershed development commission on language that was changed specifically for the Maumee River Basin Commission, and other language may change and/or to include/exclude other basins as it moves forward. Mr. Gerber noted that he had contacted Representative Lehman and Senator Holdman on the Upper Wabash River Basin Commission to get funding through the Governor's Budget, and has not heard from either at this time.

Adjournment:

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

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting will be on Monday-February 3, 2025 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