

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes  
Monday - August 4, 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 was absent, 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 mentioned the first item to approve the Board's regular meeting minutes on July 21, 2025.

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on June 21, 2025. Mr. Gerber 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 2-0.

Old Business:

Carl Helms Tile System-Lancaster Township- Almco Steel Project Plans: Discussion on Transfer of Jurisdiction:

Mr. Storer has prepared some language for the Drainage Board to relinquish the Carl Helms tile system in Lancaster Township, section 33, range 12E. As the Board members viewed the document, Mr. Storer mentioned that there are some decisions to be made on the footage of tile and the cost to replace the tile. Hahn noted that he will get this information to Mr. Storer, and will get a price from the contractor who is doing the work for Almco project mainly for consideration of their timeline. Mr. Stringer would like to see 3 quotes from tile contractors. Hahn noted he will get three quotes and will get out hopefully to be awarded at the next meeting on August 18th. Mr. Storer asked where the funds would come from to pay for replacing the tile since there is no maintenance fund. Mr. Stringer and Hahn believes it would come of the CEDIT fund to be approved by the Commissioners which Auditor Lisa McCormick setting in the audience confirmed that is the CEDIT fund. Hahn mentioned he thought to have a joint document for the Drainage Board and the City of Bluffton to relinquish and to accept the along with signatures from both entities as one document. Mr. Storer questions if its the City of Bluffton or the Board of Works name on the document, and are they in favor of the transfer. Hahn believes it would be the City of Bluffton and from all the meetings that was attended they are in agreeance. Mr. Storer will revisit the document to make as a joint document, and for Hahn to get the information needed to complete the joint document to transfer from the Drainage Board and for the City of Bluffton accepting the Carl Helms tile system.

Craven Tile Drain- NIPSCO Utility-Harrison Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that Mr. Storer has prepared the proposed updated language change for "Consent for Utility for Construction Project in Drainage Easement". Mr. Storer noted that the language that NIPSCO's attorney came up with he would not be in favor of therefore would not recommend it to the Board for it puts the Drainage Board liable and responsible in our own easement that was given.

Hahn noted that he would like for proposed document to be approved today going forward. Hahn reminded the Board that NIPSCO Utility had sent in a Consent for Utility for Construction Project in Drainage Easement on the Craven tile drain in Harrison Township, section 16, range 12E and had crossed out some language and was not approved. Hahn noted he would like for the NIPSCO Attorney and Mr. Storer to continue their talk for a common language for the Craven tile consent easement form as a separate document.

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve the proposed updated language change for "Consent for Utility for Construction Project in Drainage Easement" going forward and for Mr. Storer to talk to NIPSCO Attorney to find a common language. Mr. Gerber 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 2-0.

B.F. Kain Tile Drain-Harrison Township:

Mr. Hahn reported that INDOT has completed replacing the B.F Kain tile across State Road 124 in Harrison Township, section 6, range 12E south of State Road 124 between Meridian Road and Adams Street(100E). Hahn mentioned he will move forward to replace through a yard approximately 280 feet with 18-inch tile, then as crops come off will continue south across the field towards 100S.

Continued August 4, 2025

New Business:Abraham Showalter Tile Drain Project-Chester Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that contractor Jarin Tucker has sent in a quote of \$42,575.00 to replace approximately 3,000 feet with 15-inch of the Abraham Showalter tile in Chester Township, section 12, range 11E north of 800S between 100W and Meridian Road. Hahn noted this is the contractor that the landowner uses for tiling, and this contractor has worked for the county before. Hahn mentioned on a previous project the board approved 80% (percent) of the total cost and the landowners to pay for the 20% (percent) and would like to do the same on this project. Hahn noted that the 80%(percent) will come out of the Maddox watershed. Mr. Stringer noted the cleaning up trees cost of \$1,500.00 should not be in the 80%(percent). Hahn noted that the landowners will bear that cost. Mr. Stringer asked how many landowners will be paying on this project. Mr. Hahn noted that there are a total of three (3) landowners to share the 20%(percent). Hahn recommends to approve the quote of \$42,575.00 and 80%(percent) of the total cost minus the \$1,500.00 but not to exceed \$32,000.00 out of the Maddux watershed fund.

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve the quote of \$42,575.00 and 80%(percent) of the total cost but not to exceed \$32,000.00 out of the Maddux watershed fund to contribute to the Abraham Showalter tile replacement in Chester Township, section 11, range 12E. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

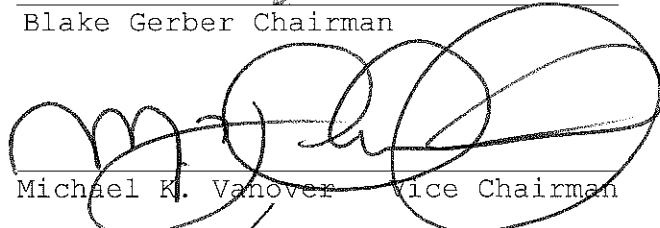
Adjournment:

Mr. Stringer motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board regular meeting at 4:55 p.m. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

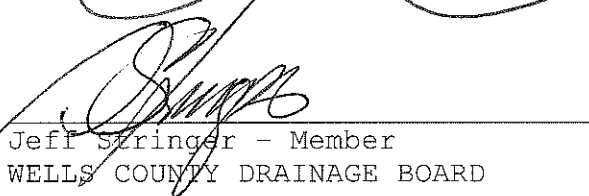
\*Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting will be on Monday-August 18, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.



Blake Gerber Chairman



Michael K. Vanover Vice Chairman

  
Jeff Stringer - Member  
WELLS COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

ATTEST:   
Diana L. Collins  
WELLS DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY