

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday- November 17, 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, 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 November 3, 2025.

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on November 3, 2025. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

Old Business:

Carl Helms Tile Drain-Tree Roots-Lancaster Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned he did talk to contractor Culy Contracting from Winchester on jetting out a portion of the Carl Helms tile in Lancaster Township, section 33, Range 12E. Hahn noted the 39-inch tile had tree roots blocking 50 percent of the tile. Hahn noted contractor Culy Contracting had started working last week on jetting out the tile and was making headway until their truck broke down, and then had to take it back to the shop for repair. Hahn noted that they will call him when they are ready to come back to continue jetting out the tree roots.

New Business:

Utility Drainage Easement

Mr. Hahn mentioned that Surf Air Wireless Internet Fiber Optic Project has filed a "Consent for Utility for Construction Project in a Drainage Easement" drainage easement on several drains in Jackson and Chester Townships. Hahn provided a detail map on all the drains are as follows:

In Jackson Township, Sections 25,26,27,34,35,36, Range 10E Kelly, Stotts and Shadle Open Drains; and with the Alexander and Stotts that are tile Drains.

In Chester Township, Sections 3,4,8,9,10,11,15, 16,17,19,20,21,22, 26,28,30,31,32,33, RangellE are Moorman, Markley, Crosbie, Brickley, Scuffle creek, Keystone, Maddox Slusher, Shadle and Geiger Open drains; and with the Sills Prong, Greg, Moore, Crosbie, Mowery, Cassell, Irvin, Foust, and Keystone Prong that are tile Drains.

Hahn mentioned that Surf Internet had sent us a shape file to incorporate in our GIS map, and they sent us a link to their design plans that are over 220 pages. Mr. Gerber asked if the railroad requires a permit from the utilities. Hahn said no. Attorney Ted Storer asked if these crossing are an encroachments. Hahn said yes.

Mr. Gerber asked if there is other internet providers in the area.

Hahn mentioned that Citizens Telephone Corp has a lot of the area in Jackson Township and some in Chester Township, but Surf Air Wireless got a grant to install and service this large area. Hahn noted that Surf Air Wireless has already put in some of the fiber cable in the easement of the regulated drains therefore they will have to verified and locate the depth to make sure they bored down far enough(5-feet).

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve Surf Air Wireless to be in the drainage easements permit to bore and encroach all the drains mentioned above in Chester and Jackson Townships as recommended. Mr. Vanover 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Hahn mentioned that there is another utility company that will be working in Nottingham Township that will be also filing a utility drainage easement soon.

Wm. Pace-McClain Open Drain-Nottingham Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that a tenant and contractor are repairing bank erosion and placing riprap on several areas on the Pace-McClain open drain in Nottingham Township, sections 11 and 12, range 12E around 500E north and south of 800S.


Carnes Open Drain -Chester Township:

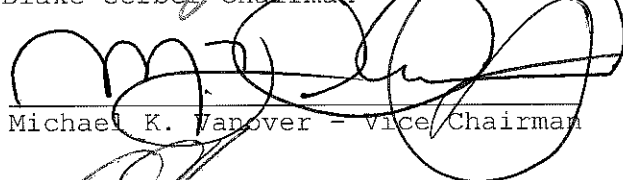
Mr. Hahn mentioned that contractor Enyeart Construction has started a bottom clean out on the Carnes open drain in Chester Township, sections 4,7 and 9, Range, 11E starting at 500S going north to the upper end on 400 west.

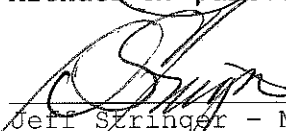
Adjournment:

Mr. Vanover motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board regular meeting at 4:43 p.m. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

*Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting will be on Monday-December 1, 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