

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday- November 3, 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 October 20, 2025.

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on October 20, 2025. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

Old Business:

Carl Helms Tile Drain Replacement-Lancaster Township:

Mr. Hahn reported that contractor Habig Trucking has not started replacing the Carl Helms tile in Lancaster Township, section 33, Range 12E because he is doing other site work. Hahn mentioned that the Water Department had put a camara in the 39-inch Carl Helms tile and found tree roots in a portion of the tile. Hahn noted he has viewed the video of the tile and mentioned that a portion of the main 39-inch tile is 50% plugged with tree roots. Hahn noted that he had called a company out of Winchester that hopefully can jet out a 39-inch tile, but they have not returned my call so will try to call them again. Mr. Vanover asked do you know what type of trees that are causing the problem. Hahn noted he believes he does. Mr. Vanover mentioned that he has a contact who may know of a company who jets out large tiles and if they do, he will send their contact information.

Newton Chalfant Tile Drain-Jefferson Township:

Mr. Hahn reported that 3D Company Inc. was awarded last Drainage Board meeting to excavate dirt to complete a 2-stage ditch on the Newton Chalfant open drain in Jefferson Township, section 9, range 12E north of Ossian. Hahn noted that they may need some more riprap which the INDOT project will cover that cost, also possibility to haul 3 loads of dirt off site. Hahn mentioned the last step is to seed the area for completion of the INDOT bridge project. Hahn mentioned that INDOT's plans are to open the State Road 1 this Friday.

Craven Tile Drain-NIPSCO-Harrison Township:

Mr. Hahn asked Attorney Ted Store if he had talked to the Attorney from NIPSCO on the Craven tile drainage easement language. Mr. Storer replied that there has not been a connection to report.

New Business:

Utility Drainage Easement

Mr. Hahn mentioned that Surf Air Wireless Internet Fiber Optic Project was to file a utility drainage easement on several drains in Jackson and Chester townships but have not received the drainage easement forms. Hahn noted that Surf Internet did get the county road permit, but did not realize that they needed a drainage permit too. Hahn mentioned that Surf Internet has sent us a shape file to put in our GIS map, and a link to their design plans that are over 120 pages. 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.

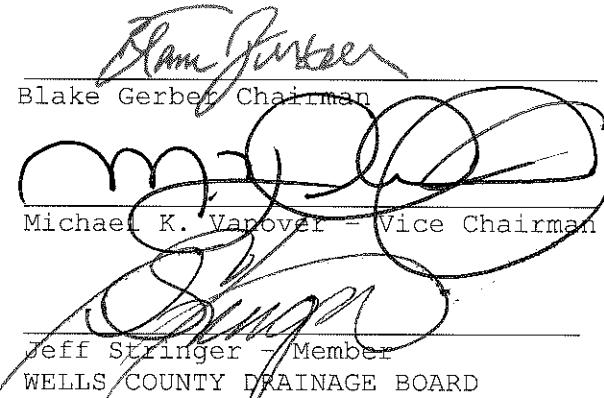
Tile Projects:

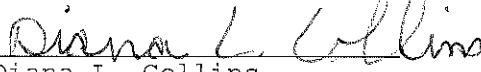
Mr. Hahn mentioned that he is working on several tile replacements projects throughout the county and hopes to have the quotes ready by the next meeting on November 17th. Hahn noted that he will be contacting the Wells County Regional Sewer District superintendent LA Brown to discuss the sanitary sewer layout plans in the Town of Tocsin. Hahn mentioned that he like to work with the sewer contractor because there are several regulated tiles running throughout the town and are along streets, therefore it would be a good time to replace those tiles. Hahn noted the cost would come out of the 8-Mile watershed which have the funds to work with. Mr. Gerber asked how many feet that would be. Hahn noted the main tile is an 18-inch tile with a couple of small laterals so anticipates over 2,000 feet of tile to replace plus installing catch basins or tees. Attorney Ted Storer noted that the Regional Sewer District will need to apply for drainage easements. Hahn said yes, and that has not been done yet. Mr. Storer noted that RSD has asked for easements on county owned property in Tocsin and maybe that would be a good time to bring up drainage easements as well.

Adjournment:

Mr. Stringer motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board regular meeting at 4:44 p.m. Mr. Vanover 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

*Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting will be on Monday-November 17, 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