

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday - August 18, 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 was absent; 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 August 4, 2025.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on August 4, 2025. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

Old Business:

Carl Helms Prong 1 Tile Drain Replacement-Lancaster Township-Quotes Award:

Mr. Hahn mentioned he had sent out 3 quotes to area contractors Brickley Exc., Jarin Tucker and Habig Trucking to replace the Carl Helms Prong 1 with 320 feet of 24-inch tile in Lancaster Township, section 33, range 12E on Lancaster Ave. west side of City of Bluffton. Hahn noted he received two quotes back on replacing the Carl Helms Prong 1 tile drain 1. was from Jarin Tucker for \$19,500.80 (tile connection cost not included in price); and 2. Habig Trucking for \$14,800.00 (tile connection cost not included in price). Hahn mentioned that both contractors are qualified, and both can start by September 1st, therefore recommends to go with the low quote from Habig Trucking, and made note that Habig Trucking is the contractor currently doing dirt work for Almco Steel for their project. Hahn mentioned that since the tile connections are not included in the quoted price when attending the Commissioner's meeting today will need to add about a 10% (percent) increase of \$1,480.00 totaling \$16,280.00 for the approval of CEDIT fund to pay for the tile replacement cost.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve Habig Trucking with the low quote of \$14,800.00 to install 320 feet of 24-inch tile on Carl Helms Prong 1 tile replacement project Lancaster Township, section 33, range 12E pending approval of funding from Commissioners as recommended. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

Attorney Ted Storer mentioned that he is working on the Resolution language between the City of Bluffton who will be receiving and Drainage Board who will be relinquishing the Carl Helms tile system, and as soon as the tile is done we can move forward on having a meeting with all involved parties agreeing to the Resolution.

New Business:

Maddux, Elm Creek and Moorman,+Others Drains-Chester Township:

Mr. Hahn noted that there are 2 (two) drainage easements to present to the Board from the from Citizens Telephone Corp. 1. "Consent for Utility for Construction Project in a Drainage Easement" form project called "700S & 100W". Hahn mentioned the easement is to bore under the Maddux, Elm Creek and Moorman open drains and to include the J.M. Moffett and J. Ulmer tile drains in Chester Township, sections 3 and 11, range 11E along the north side of 700S and on the west side of 100W to fiber optic broadband to service homes. Hahn recommends approving the drainage easement on the Maddux, Elm Creek and Moorman open drains and J.M. Moffett and J. Ulmer tile drains.

P.Gaskill, P.Barwiler WM. E. Bowman Tile Drains-Liberty Township:

Mr. Hahn also presented to the Board 2. "Consent for Utility for Construction Project in a Drainage Easement" form project called "Corning". Hahn mentioned this easement is to bore under the P.Gaskill, P.Barwiler, WM. E. Bowman Tile Drains in Liberty Township, sections 1,2 and 11, range 11E along the north side of 100S and on the west side of 100W to install fiber optic broadband to service homes. Hahn also recommends approving the drainage easement on the P.Gaskill, P.Barwiler WM. E. Bowman Tile Drains.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve both Citizens Telephone Corp.'s drainage easement permits to bore under on the 1. Maddux, Elm Creek, Moorman open drains along with J.M. Moffett and J. Ulmer tile drains in Chester Township, 3 and 11, Range 11E, and 2. easement permit to bore under the P.Gaskill, P.Barwiler WM. E. Bowman tile drains in Liberty Township, section 1,2 and 11, range 11E as recommended. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

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Attorney Ted Storer mentioned he noticed that Citizens Telephone Corp. does not have an easement footage written down on their design maps in relation to the drains. Hahn noted that Citizens Telephone Corp will be boring under the bed line of an open or under the tile line. Hahn noted that most utility companies bore at least 4 to 10 feet under the bed for either an open or the tile and would not need a footage from the top of drain, but possible to fill in blank with N/A (not applicable), but a great catch and question.

Flat Creek Open Drain-Union Township:

Mr. Hahn noted that there are 2 (two) drainage easements to present to the Board from US Signal 1. "Consent for Utility for Construction Project in a Drainage Easement" form project called "USS GOOGLE-FW-MAR-2". Hahn mentioned the easement to 10 feet under Flat Creek drain in Union Township, section 7, Range 11E along the west side of 500W to install fiber optic broadband service to a home. Hahn recommends approving the drainage easement on Flat Creek open drain.

Rebecca Knight Open Drain-Huntington Co Joint Drain-Union Township:

Mr. Hahn also presented to the Board 2. from US Signal "Consent for Utility for Construction Project in a Drainage Easement" form project called "USS GOOGLE-FW-MAR-2". Hahn mentioned the easement to bore 10 feet under Rebecca Knight joint drain in Union Township, section 6, Range 11E along the west side of 500W to install fiber optic broadband to service a home. Hahn noted that the Rebecca Knight drain is a tri-county drain with Allen, Huntington and Wells, which Huntington holds the jurisdiction and funding. Hahn noted he had talked with Huntington Surveyor with understanding since the drainage easement is needed in our county we give the easement. Hahn recommends approving the drainage easement on Rebecca Knight open joint drain.

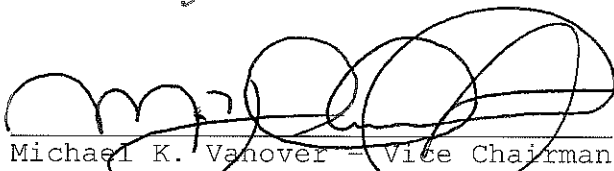
Mr. Vanover motioned to approve both US Signal drainage easement permits on the 1. Flat Creek drain in Union Township, section 7, range 11E; and the 2. Rebecca Knight joint drain in Union Township, section 6, range 11E as recommended. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

Adjournment:

Mr. Vanover motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board regular meeting at 4:47 p.m. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

*Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting will be on Tuesday-September 2, 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