

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes  
Tuesday - January 20, 2026 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; Surveyor Jarrod Hahn; Secretary Diana Collins. Jeff Stringer participated in the meeting by electronic means of communication, Zoom, which allowed Mr. Stringer to simultaneously attend and observe the meeting. Mr. Stringer was on zoom and all votes taken during this meeting were taken by roll call vote.

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 5, 2026.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on January 5, 2026. Mr. Stringer 2<sup>nd</sup>. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

Old Business:

Hahn noted that there are no old business to report on the ongoing projects for the Carnes open, Craven tile and the Carl Helms Tile.

New Business:

Utility Drainage Easements

Lane 2, E.S. McKinney, G.Dickason Tiles and the Sellers, Howdysshell, G. Warner, Templin Open Drains-Nottingham Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that Brightspeed of Indiana, LLC has filed a "Consent for Utility for Construction Project in a Drainage Easement" on several drains to place fiber optic to service homes in Nottingham Township. Hahn mentioned that Brightspeed representative had sent us their shape file of their design plans to incorporate in our GIS map that provides a detail map on all the drains affected.

In Nottingham Township, Sections 6,8,13,14,17,28, Range 12E.

Affecting Tile Drains on the W. Lane 2, E.S. McKinney, G.Dickason.

Affecting Open Drains on the Sellers, Howdysshell, G. Warner, Templin.

Attorney Ted Storer asked if the cross-section pages for tiles and open drain, if Mr. Hahn signs off on those two pages. Hahn said he will.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve Brightspeed of Indiana, LLC to be in the drainage easements to bore and on encroach all the drains mentioned above in Nottingham as recommended. Mr. Stringer 2<sup>nd</sup>. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

Whitelock Open Drain-Rockcreek 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 Stone Quarry Reroute. Hahn mentioned this easement is to bore fiber optic broadband under the Whitelock open drain in Rockcreek Township, 33, Range 11E along where the new 500W reroute road will be to service homes. Hahn also recommends approving the drainage easement to bore under the Whitelock open drain to install fiber band to service homes.

C. Starr Tile Drain-Chester Township:

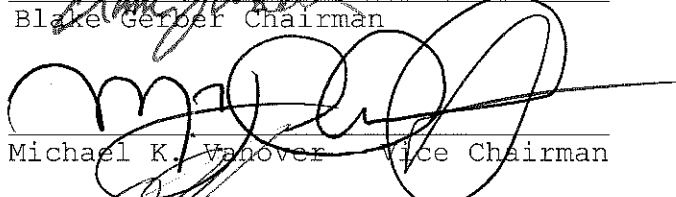
2. Hahn also presented a "Consent for Utility for Construction Project in a Drainage Easement" form project. Hahn mentioned this easement is to bore under the C. Starr tile drain in Chester Township, 3, Range 11E on 275W between State Road 218 and 700S to install fiber optic broadband to service homes. Hahn also recommends approving the drainage easement to bore under the C. Starr tile drain to service homes.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve both Citizens Telephone Corp.'s drainage easement permits to bore under on the 1. Whitelock open drain to install fiber optic broadband to service homes service homes in Rockcreek Township, 33, Range 11E; and 2. easement permit to bore under the C. Starr tile drain to install fiber optic broadband to service homes in Chester Township, section 3, range 11E as recommended. Mr. Stringer 2<sup>nd</sup>. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

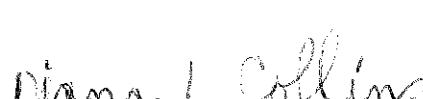
Mr. Vanover motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board regular meeting at 4:42 p.m. Mr. Stringer 2<sup>nd</sup>. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

\*Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting will be on Monday-February 2, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

  
Blake Gerber Chairman

  
Michael K. Vanover Vice Chairman

  
Jeff Stringer - Member  
WELLS COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

ATTEST:   
Diana L. Collins