

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday - February 2, 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; 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 January 20, 2026.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on January 20, 2026. Mr. Gerber, motion carried 2-0.

Old Business:

Hahn noted that there are no old business to report on the ongoing projects for the Carnes open and the Carl Helms Tile. Hahn did mention that the projects will proceed as soon as the weather permits.

New Business:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that there is no new business to report but does have a couple of questions on the Board's view;

1. On the 2026 Spray extended contract, did we have a 2-year contract with the contractor for 2025 and 2026. Hahn noted that the contract that we based off of was a two-year contract, but it was not written in the 2025 contract's language. Mr. Storer suggested to contact the contractor for their view of the contract and bring that information back to the drainage Board at the next meeting on February 17th.

2. On Existing driveways, if a landowner wants to widen or extend the driveway and is in the 75-foot drainage easement would there be a need to issue a permit. Mr. Gerber and Mr. Vanover feels there is no need to issue a permit for an existing driveway that is already in the drainage easement. Hahn mentioned on a new driveway we would have to look at it.

North and South Schoeff Drain-Union Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he got a call from the Huntington County Surveyor Jerry Meehan Jr. wanting information on the division of the North Schoeff drain and the South Schoeff drains in Union Township, sections 18 and 19, range 11E.

Hahn noted that he found a letter in the file pertaining to spraying that stated the northside of county road 900N is the North Schoeff and all is Wells County's jurisdiction. Southside of county road 900N is all Huntington county jurisdiction north and South Schoeff drains. Hahn noted that there will be a joint board hearing to increase maintenance assessment soon and will need 2 representatives to serve on the joint board.

Mr. Vanover motioned to appoint Mr. Gerber and himself to serve on the joint board with Huntington County. Mr. Gerber, motion carried 2-0.

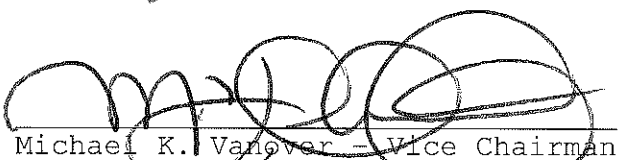
Jacob Johnson Joint Drain-Jurisdiction Allen County Union and Jefferson Townships:


Mr. Hahn mentioned the Jacob Johnson joint drain in Union Township, Sections 1 and 2, Range 11E and Jefferson Township, Section 6, Range 12E the hearing is to increase the assessment that will be in sometime March. Hahn noted that we have sent our landowners information to Allen County who holds jurisdiction and will send out the notices.

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

*Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting will be on Tuesday-February 17, 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
WELLS DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY