

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Tuesday - February 17, 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 February 2, 2026.

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

Old Business:

2026 Spray Extension Contract:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he contacted Chadd Baker owner of Right-of-Way Management on his view of the signed 2025 Spray extended contract. Mr. Baker responded in a letter that it was under the belief that the extension was for a 2-year term, covering the north and south spray program that the county has historically done. Mr. Storer asked about if the price remains the same as in 2025 contract, Hahn replied yes. Mr. Storer recommends the board members to vote based on Mr. Baker letter on 2025 spray extended contract. Mr. Vanover stated he feels we should honor the signed 2025 as a 2-year contract, along with Mr. Gerber and Mr. Stringer agreeing as well. Attorney Mr. Storer suggest to write a letter back to Mr. Baker thanking him for the clarification of the 2025 agreement as a 2-year contract. Hahn will email Mr. Baker that the Drainage Board will honor the agreement signed in 2025 as 2-year contract that includes 2026 spray season.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve that the signed 2025 spray extended contract is a 2-year term which includes 2026 spray season. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

Carl Helms Tile Drain-Lancaster Township video Tree Roots:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that Culy Contracting from Winchester had sent a link of the video on the roots in the Carl Helms tile in Lancaster Township, section 33, Range 12E. Hahn noted that he sent the video to the City of Bluffton but have not received any comment as to date.

Carl Helms Prong 1-Lancaster Township:

Hahn mentioned that he has not received any updates from Habig Construction on the replacement of the Carl Helms Prong 1 in Lancaster Township, section 33, Range 12E. but will reach out to contractor before the next meeting.

Carnes Open Drain-Chester Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he had talked to the contractor Enyart on the Carnes open drain in Chester Township, section 5 and 8, range 11E who will start to bottom dip as soon as the weather permits.

Craven Tile Drain-Harrison Township-NIPSCO Permit:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he was contacted by a NIPSCO representative wanting some information on a future communication tower project that will require a drainage easement permit. Hahn emailed him back the answers, and added that there is an open permit with NIPSCO on the Craven tile drain south of Bluffton on State Road 1 project. Hahn mentioned that it prompted that representative to contact the representative on the Craven project, then in return, that representative will contact the legal department checking on why this project has not been resolved and closed. Hahn noted we have not heard back on that matter as to date.

Continued February 17, 2026

New Business:Neff Open, Goodspeed Prong, J. Bennett Tile Drains
Liberty and Harrison Townships:

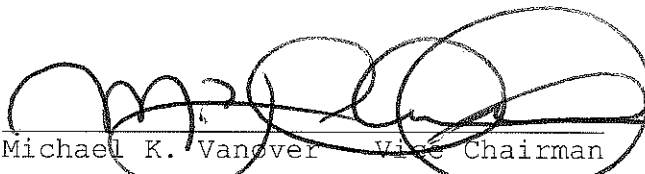
Mr. Hahn presented a "Consent for Utility for Construction Project in a Drainage Easement" form from Citizens Telephone Corp. called the Hoosier Highway project. Hahn mentioned this easement is to bore under the Neff open drain and the Goodspeed Prong and J. Bennett tiles drain in Liberty Township, Sections 24 and 25, Range 11E and in Harrison Township, Sections 16,17,19,30,31, Range 12E to install fiber optic broadband to service homes along the new Hoosier Highway road between 250S and 350S. Hahn recommends approving the drainage easement to bore under the Neff open drain and the Goodspeed Prong and J. Bennett tile to service homes.

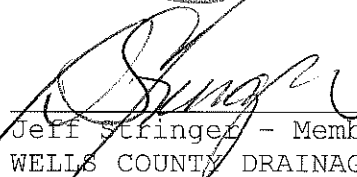
Mr. Vanover motioned to approve Citizens Telephone Corp.'s drainage easement permit for the Hoosier Highway project to bore under the Neff open, and the Goodspeed Prong and J. Bennett tile drains to service homes as recommended. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

Mr. Vanover motioned to adjourn the regular Drainage Board meeting at 4:40 p.m. Mr. Stringer 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried by roll call vote 3-0.

*Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting will be on Monday-March 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
WELLS DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday - March 2, 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 was absent, Jeff Stringer; 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 February 17, 2026.

Mr. Stringer motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on February 17, 2026. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

Old Business:
Carl Helms Prong 1-Lancaster Township:
Hahn mentioned that he has not received any updates from Habig Construction on the replacement of the Carl Helms Prong 1 in Lancaster Township, section 33, Range 12E. but will reach out to contractor before the next meeting.

Carnes Open Drain-Chester Township:
Mr. Hahn mentioned that he had talked to contractor Enyart on the Carnes open drain in Chester Township, section 5 and 8, range 11E should finish up this week weather permits.

Craven Tile Drain-Harrison Township-NIPSCO Permit:
Mr. Hahn mentioned that he was contacted by a NIPSCO representative wanting some information on a future communication tower project that will require a drainage easement permit. Hahn emailed him back the answers, and added that there is an open permit with NIPSCO on the Craven tile drain south of Bluffton on State Road 1 project. Hahn mentioned that it prompted that representative to contact the representative on the Craven project, then in return, that representative will contact the legal department checking on why this project has not been resolved and closed. Hahn mentioned that some correspondence was received and will send off on our current updated "Utility Application Easement Consent Form" that was revised in August of 2025 to the NIPSCO representative to seek approval with their legal department on the language. Hahn and Attorney Mr. Storer will hopefully have language resolved and ready to present the drainage easement consent form from NIPSCO at the next Drainage Board meeting.

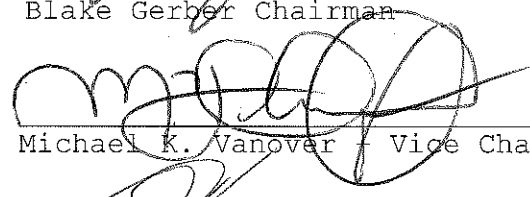
Jacob Johnson Joint Drain-Jurisdiction Allen County Union and Jefferson Townships:
Mr. Hahn mentioned the Jacob Johnson joint drain in Union Township, Sections 1 and 2, Range 11E, and Jefferson Township, Section 6, Range 12E with Allen County who is asking if April 16th would be a good date to hold a joint hearing. Hahn made mention that the time would be somewhere mid-morning. Mr. Gerber and Mr. Stringer are both the representatives to serve on the joint board and agree that April 16th date is open so far. Mr. Storer noted that Allen County Drainage Board is usually a long meeting and is a 5 board members made up with the 3 the Commissioners and 2 citizens. Hahn will contact Allen County to let them know that April 16th is a good date. Hahn will report back as soon as the time has been set.


New Business:
Mr. Hahn noted that he has no new business to report on.
Mr. Gerber asked if any drainage projects are in the works for this year. Mr. Hahn said yes that a portion of the Smith tile drain project will continue to be replaced this summer in Jefferson Township, section 34, range 12E. Hahn noted that there are two tiles running side by side, one is concrete that is in good condition, and the other is an old clay tile that breaks down every year. Hahn also mentioned that the Town of Tocsin in Jefferson Township, section 36, range 12E is in the process of putting in new sanitary system and has several tiles throughout the town and it would be a good time to replace the problem tiles. Hahn noted that there are many obstacles when replacing tile in a town. Hahn noted that both the Smith and Tocsin tiles are both in the 8-Mile watersheds.
Hahn finally mentioned that last year a portion of the Gaskill tile in Liberty Township, section 2, range 11E was replaced and landowners want to continue to replace another portion of the tile which is the Halls Creek watershed. Hahn did mention that there could be more projects coming forward as spring and summer approaches.


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

*Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting will be on Monday-March 16, 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 COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY