

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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> is a good date. Hahn will report back as soon as the time has been set.

New Business:

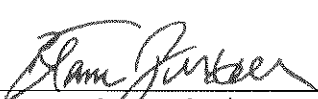
Mr. Hahn noted that he has no new business to report on.

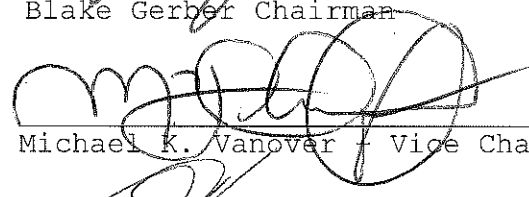
Mr. Gerber asked if any drainage projects are in the works for this year. Mr. Hahn said yes that a portion of the Smith tile drain project will continue to be replaced this summer in Jefferson Township, section 34, range 12E. Hahn noted that there are two tiles running side by side, one is concrete that 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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