

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Monday - April 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 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 April 6, 2026.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on April 6, 2026. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

Old Business:

Carl Helms Main and Prong 1 Tiles-Lancaster Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he has not received any updates from Habig Construction on the replacement of the Carl Helms Prong 1 or from the City of Bluffton on the video of the tree root removal on the Carl Helms main tile in Lancaster Township, section 33, Range 12E.

Carnes Open Drain-Chester Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that contractor Enyart has completed a bottom dip and now has completed leveling the spoil on the Carnes open drain in Chester Township, section 5 and 8, range 11E.

Jacob Johnson Joint Drain-Jurisdiction Allen County

Union and Jefferson Townships:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he, Mr. Gerber and Mr. Vanover attended the Jacob Johnson joint drain hearing with Allen County on April 16th at 9:00 a.m. Hahn noted that the Jacob Johnson joint hearing was approved to be increased to \$5.00 per acre with a \$25.00 minimum payable in 2027. Hahn noted that there was 1 letter of objection and there was no one that came to the hearing for or against the project. Hahn mentioned that there is a 20-day judicial review filing period of the joint board's "Findings and Order" after the hearing before it becomes conclusive.

New Business:

1-Additional Quote for On-Call and Emergency Drain Repair Maintenance Contracts:

Mr. Hahn mentioned he received 1 more contractor that has signed a contract for the On-Call Emergency Drain Repair and Maintenance.

Hahn mentioned that this contractor is Shafer Excavating LLC and has worked once for us and for a couple of area landowners who would like us to hire him to do some more work.

Mr. Storer asked if the original document that was sent out in December of 2025 have a cutoff date on it. Hahn said yes, but we did not send the original document out to this contractor or the other two contractors approved at the last meeting, and noted he will include them next year. Hahn mentioned that it just gives us more contractors to choose from in areas of the county. Mr. Vanover noted that having more to choose from would be a good thing as he and Mr. Gerber look over the list of costs on equipment and labor. Hahn recommends approving Shafer Excavating LLC.

Mr. Vanover motioned to approve Shafer Excavating LLC for the On-Call Emergency and Maintenance Drain Repair as recommended. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

Several Watersheds Hearings in One Day:

Mr. Gerber and Mr. Vanover noted that is was brought up after the Jacob Johnson hearing of holding one hearing for several watersheds in one day. Mr. Hahn mentioned that a county had hired a firm to do all the watersheds to increase maintenance, notices, reports and conducted the hearings on all drains in one day. Hahn noted that Adams County is discussing to do the same. Hahn mentioned that if they decide to do that, he will attend the hearing to see how it all goes. Hahn noted that we have increased several watersheds over the years and do have some watersheds to increase therefore it would be nice to have one hearing for several watersheds, one explanation, approvals, findings and order for all. Hahn will keep the board members informed if it progresses.

Regional Sewer District Supervisor Retiring:

Mr. Storer made note that the Regional Sewer District supervisor is retiring from his position and is asking all boards to consider maybe an employee or if they know of a person that would be a good people person with relations and interactions while representing Wells County that might be interested in the position.

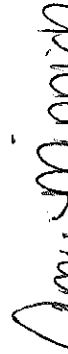
Mr. Vanover motioned to adjourn the regular Drainage Board meeting at 4:44 p.m. Mr. Gerber 2nd, motion carried 2-0.

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


Blake Gerber, Chairman


Michael K. Vanover - Vice Chairman


Jeff Stringer, Member


Diana Collins, Secretary