

The Rush County Drainage Board met in the Commissioner’s Room of the Courthouse on August 17th, 2020 at 10:35 a.m. with the following present: Mark Bacon, Paul Wilkinson, Bruce W. Levi, members: Marvin L. Rees, Surveyor; Ashley Perkins, Secretary. Landowners: Jerry Stevens and Kevin Geise were also present.

Levi made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting with a 2nd by Wilkinson. Motion carried and the minutes were approved and signed.

Geise/Stevens Hearing

Surveyor read his report and then read a written response from Jerry Stevens. The Surveyor then read his response to Stevens’ letter. Bacon recorded with a phone audio. Desmond Stevens spoke to the board concerning wetland areas being disturbed and stated that they hired a private firm Davey Resource Group, to locate wetlands in the tile area. This documentation was sent to the US Army Corps of Engineers. Surveyor asked for copies of those documents in which Stevens was unwilling to share documents. Leigh Morning then stated we have no documents of the wetlands and that we would need documents. Stevens then proceeded to give partial evidence of wetlands to the Surveyor to keep. Leigh Morning stated the statute says the tiles can be put on wetlands and Surveyor would need to do more research. Geise addressed the Board as drains are now regulated and urges the Board to get it done. Bacon suggested the Hearing be recessed until Rees can obtain documentation from the US Army Corp of Engineers. Rees stated he will notify both parties when he obtains documentation. Motion was made by Wilkinson with a 2nd by Levi to recess. Hearing will be continued at a later date. Levi made a motion to close the hearing with a 2nd by Wilkinson. Motion carried.

County Farm Drain

Rees reported to the Board that Joe Niedenthal wants a larger tile installed to get all surface water underground to keep him from losing topsoil in a large rain event. He showed pictures of the waterway that was there a few years ago. Levi said that he has visited the area in the recent past. Bacon stated that it definitely needs a waterway. Niedenthal wants a storm drain but Wilkinson stated the County doesn’t install storm drains and that the loss of soil is the result of a loss of waterway. Bacon told Rees to send him a letter stating his issued has been reviewed.

The Board was reminded that August 31, 2020 would be our third meeting this month, therefore there will not be a Drainage Board meeting that day.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Levi made a motion to adjourn with the 2nd by Wilkinson. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Mark Bacon

Paul Wilkinson

Bruce W. Levi

