

## **DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING**

August 7, 2025

### **Drainage Commissioners Present:**

William L. Hartman, Member  
James A. Miller, Vice-Chairman  
Kellen Dooley, Member

### **Appointed Members Serving**

**Jan 2025- Dec 2027**

Steve Kelham, Member  
Bruce Bell, II, Chairman

### **Others Present:**

Glenn Crawford, County Surveyor  
Tyler Lanning, Lead Survey Tech  
Troy Bungard, Survey Tech  
Katie Rutan, Office Clerk  
Shannon Kruse, Attorney  
Rebecca Wright, Drainage Board Secretary

### **Guests:**

Pat McCauley, Surf Internet

Chairman Bruce Bell called the DeKalb County Drainage Board Meeting for August 7, 2025, to order at 8:29 a.m.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The first order of business was the approval of minutes from the July 17, 2025, meeting. Mr. Bell asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Jim Miller motioned to approve the minutes as presented, and Mr. Steve Kelham seconded the motion. Commissioner Kellen Dooley abstained from the vote because he did not attend the meeting. Having a motion and a second, Mr. Bell asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, he called for a vote, and the motion carried.

### **APPROVAL OF AUGUST ATTORNEY CLAIM**

Chairman Bell asked for a motion to approve the August attorney claim for \$1295.00. Commissioner Kellen Dooley motioned to approve the claim, and Commissioner Jim Miller seconded the motion. Mr. Bell asked if there was any discussion, but hearing none, he called for a vote, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **UTILITY PERMIT**

Mr. Bell introduced the Surf Internet Utility Permit Agreement at CR 24 and CR 35, which involved the Cedar Creek Open Ditch No. 470-00-0, and Pat McCauley with Surf Internet introduced himself to the Drainage Board. He stated that Surf would be completing more grant work, extending services along County Road 35, and would bore under Cedar Creek.

Surveyor Glenn Crawford added that Surf would cross Cedar Creek on the west side and go under Cedar Creek on County Road 35. He asked that Surf maintain a minimum depth of 48" under the open ditch and asked that Surf alert the Office before starting the work. Mr. McCauley stated that work would begin on a project in Corunna in another week.

Chairman Bell requested a motion to approve the Surf Utility Permit Agreement WTRLIN01.SA04B at CR 24 & CR 35 in Waterloo, IN, and Section 4 of Grant Township on the Cedar Creek Open Ditch No. 470-00-0.

Commissioner Bill Hartman motioned to approve the utility permit agreement, and Commissioner Kellen Dooley seconded the motion. Mr. Bell asked if there was any discussion, but hearing none, he called for a vote, and the motion was carried. He thanked Mr. McCauley for his time.

#### **VARIANCE**

Mr. Bell next asked if someone was present to speak on behalf of the Eric and Rebecca Thomas Variance. Mr. Tyler Lanning explained that the Board had looked at the area before for the possibility of reconstructing the drain. However, the office decided that a variance would be more advisable and cost-effective than a reconstruction. Mr. Lanning continued that field inspectors had visited the parcel and noted that the barn would be 25' from the drain.

Commissioner Bill Hartman asked why the barn could not be placed on the opposite side, which would not need a variance, as it was out of the drainage right-of-way. Mr. Lanning did not know why the family had chosen the selected location. Surveyor Glenn Crawford answered that the barn would come off the driveway to create the corner of the barn. Given the location of their home and driveway concerning the tile, Mr. Lanning and the Office had approved a 25' distance from the tile for the location of the pole barn.

The Board, Surveyor Crawford, and Lead Survey Tech Tyler Lanning discussed the position of the proposed barn, the distance from the tile, and possible locations for the barn on the parcel at length. They decided they needed more information before they could approve the variance. Chairman Bell asked if anyone would like to make a motion regarding the variance for Eric and Rebecca Thomas at 0548 County Road 45 in Waterloo, IN, and Section 12 of Smithfield Township on the G.B. Collins Lateral 5 Regulated Drain No. 87-05-0.

Commissioner Kellen Dooley motioned to table the decision for the variance for Eric and Rebecca Thomas, and Commissioner Bill Hartman seconded the motion. Bruce Bell asked if there was further discussion, but hearing none, he called for a vote, and the motion carried.

#### **SURVEYOR'S REPORT**

Moving to the Surveyor's Report, Tyler Lanning stated that the county wanted to raise the Grosscup Pond Outlet because it was not adequate to maintain fish or deter unwanted growth. He said they had discussed the issue before, as the pond was shallow. The County would like it to be aesthetically pleasing; however, Mr. Lanning stated that since the reconstruction was recently completed, the Office had not collected maintenance. He was seeking guidance from the Board about funding.

Commissioner Jim Miller asked for a cost estimate. Surveyor Crawford responded that he thought the project could cost \$3,500, as some of the existing infrastructure could be utilized.

Commissioner Kellen Dooley suggested that the Surveyor present the item at a commissioner's meeting. Mr. Lanning said he would.

Tyler Lanning continued the Surveyor's Report and told the Board that the Office was working on the drains that were not on maintenance. The purpose was to ensure that drains had money when maintenance issues arose. He informed the Board of a larger plan to invest the money in the maintenance accounts and work off the interest from invested funds, which could ease the burden on landowners and help underfunded drains.


Mr. Lanning explained that the Office was working on a chart and database to compile data that would build maintenance assessments based on the size of the tile, so increases were fair and objective. He stated that the Office would schedule hearings in the future to put drains on maintenance and to increase maintenance rates to reflect relevant costs. Attorney Shannon Kruse asked if the Auditor's Office had been involved, and Commissioner Kellen Dooley said the Auditor and Treasurer had both been involved. The situation was time-sensitive, as the Office wanted to take advantage of interest rates.

#### DISCUSSION

Commissioner Jim Miller stated he received a message from a landowner that corrected testimony at Tuesday night's informational meeting. The landowner had spoken to the contractor who performed work to install 18" tile between two properties, and the tile that was installed was 18" rather than 24". There was no 24" tile, as the testimony had emphatically stated. Mr. Miller wanted the record to be factual.

Bruce Bell reminded everyone that the Erwin Selke hearing began at 9:30 AM, before adjourning the meeting at 8:54 AM.

  
Bruce Bell, II, Chairman

  
Rebecca Wright, Drainage Board  
Secretary



### Petition of Interest

Name & Contact Information	Petition of Interest
Port McAnley	Surf