

## DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

August 10, 2023

**Drainage Commissioners Present:**

Bruce Bell, II, Chair  
Sandra M. Harrison, Vice-Chair  
William L. Hartman, Member  
James A. Miller, Member  
Michael V. Watson, Member

**Others Present:**

Glenn Crawford, County Surveyor  
Tyler Lanning, Lead Survey Tech.  
Michelle Lassiter, Secr. /Drainage Board Adm.  
Shannon Kruse, Attorney

**Guests:**

Joe Gabet

**Absent:**

None

Chair Bruce Bell, II, called the August 10, 2023, regular meeting of the DeKalb County Drainage Board to order at 8:30 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Jim Miller to accept the Minutes of August 3, 2023, as presented as the standard minutes of the DeKalb County Drainage Board. The motion was seconded by Sandy Harrison, and the motion carried. Bill Hartman abstained due to his absence from the August 3, 2023, meeting.

**PLATS & DEVELOPMENT PLANS****SEVEN 15 DEVELOPMENT – WEST 15<sup>TH</sup> STREET, AUBURN, EAST OF TOURING DRIVE, WEST OF GRANDSTAFF DRIVE**

The Board reviewed the drainage plan for the plat and development plans of Seventh 15 Development, on West Fifteenth Street, in Section 31, Union Township, and within the watersheds of Auburn Industrial Park Drain No. 256-00-0, the John Diehl Open Regulated Drain No. 45-00-0, and the Cedar Creek Open Regulated Drain No. 470-00-0.

Joe Gabet of ForeSight Consulting presented the plans explaining this plat had three lots planned. There were no current buyers for the lots. There were also two common areas for both drainage and detention. The southwest common area would be a large swale that would be dry most of the time. The southeast common area would hold a wet basin. There would be a 24-inch pipe between the areas so that they functioned as one drainage structure. The southwest dry pond would be quite a bit oversized due to the site being very flat, almost bowl-shaped, and would require a lot of dirt to build it up. The dirt would come from this dry basin. The southeast pond would be deep but would be filled with water. This site would eventually tie into the reconstructed *John Ketcham Tile Regulated Drain No. 334-00-0*, but would at first be tied temporarily in the City of Auburn's storm system at Fifteenth Street by a 12-inch pipe. The wet pond would be below shown capacity at first as the temporary connection to the city's system would not be as deep as the connection to the Ketcham Drain.

Mr. Crawford stated that the discharge rate would .298 cfs, that there was plenty of storage proposed for the site, there would be plenty of storage as the site is currently grass, and that the timing should be okay regarding the reconstruction of the *John Ketcham Tile Regulated Drain No. 334-00-0*. The Ketcham plans were moving along and there was to be a meeting with the Indiana Department of Transportation regarding the structures to be placed in the State Road 8 right-of-way. Ms. Kruse reminded everyone that there would need to be a public hearing for the reconstruction of the *John Ketcham Tile Regulated Drain No. 334-00-0*.

The Board accepted the Surveyor's Report, which stated "In regards to the development plan for Seven 15 Development, I approve under the following conditions, no hard surfaces are to be installed on the property over the area of where the John Ketcham Tile Regulated Drain No. 334-00-0 reconstruction is to take place. Since the John Ketcham Tile reconstruction goes under areas of proposed pavement for the Seven 15 Development areas of pavement 40 feet on either side of the proposed John Ketcham Tile cannot be paved until the John Ketcham Tile reconstruction is completed through that portion of the development."

Mike Watson moved to approve the drainage plan, Plat drawings dated March 23, 2023, and Development Plans Dated August 8, 2023, stamped by Todd R. Bauer, Registered Land Surveyor and Professional Engineer, of ForeSight Consulting, with the County Surveyor's recommendations and condition That no hard surfaces are to be installed in the area of the installation of the John Ketcham Tile Regulated Drain No. 334-00-0 or within 40 feet of either side of the location. The motion was seconded by Sandy Harrison, and the motion was carried.

### **UTILITY PERMITS**

INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER CO. (IMP) – IN A FIELD SOUTHEAST OF THE COUNTY ROAD 4 & COUNTY ROAD 63 INTERSECTION, WEST OF COUNTY ROAD 65

Mr. Crawford presented the Board with a Utility Letter of Agreement for the removal of infrastructure within the right-of-way of the *Lemuel Nelson Tile Regulated Drain NO. 128-20-0* in the Northwest Quarter of Section 11, of Franklin Township. IMP was removing older infrastructure no longer needed after the installation of upgraded infrastructure.

Jim Miller moved to accept and approved the Utility Letter of Agreement from IMP for the removal of old infrastructure within the right-of-way of the *Lemuel Nelson Tile Regulated Drain NO. 128-20-0* in a field southeast of the County Road 4 & County Road 63 intersection, and west of County Road 65. Sandy Harrison seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

### **SURVEYOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Bell asked for the Surveyor's Report and Mr. Crawford and his staff provided the following information:

#### **DEVELOPMENT PLANS – PANDA EXPRESS – VERTAS DRIVE, AUBURN**

Mr. Crawford presented development plans for a Panda Express restaurant to be located in the City of Auburn on the under-construction Veritas Drive within the Auburn Crossing commercial subdivision, northwest of the State Road 8 and Touring Drive intersection. Mr. Crawford stated that he could not see a reason this project could not be approved given that the plans for the *John Ketcham Tile Regulated Drain No. 334-00-0* were moving forward and there had been no stormwater issues in the area recently. Mr. Crawford asked the Board if they would consider the plans at this meeting or if they would prefer to wait until the next meeting when a project representative could be present. The Board was willing to hear the plans at this meeting.

The Board reviewed the drainage plan for the Development Plans for Panda Express, on Veritas Drive, in Section 25, Keyser Township, and within the watersheds of Auburn Industrial Park Drain No. 256-00-0, the John Diehl Open Regulated Drain No. 45-00-0, the John Ketcham Tile Regulated Drain No. 334-00-0, and the Cedar Creek Open Regulated Drain No. 470-00-0.

The Board accepted the Surveyor's Report, which stated "In regards to the development plan for Panda Express, I approve as the plans for the John Ketcham Tile Regulated Drain No. 334-00-0 are moving forward. There have been no water issues or complaints in the area since the reconstruction of Pizza Hut and the beginning of construction of other businesses in the Auburn Crossing

commercial subdivision, and the Auburn Crossing development was designed to handle the stormwater from this lot, Lot 2.”

Jim Miller moved to approve the drainage plan on the development plans dated April 24, 2023, stamped by Keri Williams, Professional Engineer, of NORR Architect, Engineers, and Planners, with the County Surveyor’s recommendations. The motion was seconded by Mike Watson, and the motion was carried.

#### C.B. KAGEY TILE REGULATED DRAIN NO. 225-00-0

Mr. Lanning informed the Board that he and Field Inspector Mike Gustin had conducted a site visit to the field farmed by Brechtbill Farms that had the *C.B. Kagey Tile Regulated Drain No. 225-00-0* running through it. He did find a few areas where a contractor was going to be hired to spread the remaining spoils from the drain’s reconstruction. There were other areas that Mr. Lanning had determined the farming staff could disc through to spread.

#### CEDAR CREEK OPEN REGULATED DRAIN NO. 470-00-0

Mr. Crawford informed the Board that Mr. Lanning and Mr. Gustin had kayaked the creek to clear logs out for the upcoming Cedar Creek cleanup. There were several small logs they were able to remove. However, there was one larger log that a contractor would need to remove.

Mr. Crawford also explained to the Board that the current method and contractor being used was eating up the fund for this drain and other larger open drains as well. There would need to be a more cost-effective way found for log removal. One thing that would help would be to catch the log jams before they became very large.

Mr. Crawford and Mr. Lanning had some ideas on the log removal. One idea was for County Surveyor staff who were interested to sign a contract as a county contractor to remove logs after regular work hours. Another idea was for the Surveyor’s Office to purchase equipment and field inspectors to remove smaller logs as they were found. A third idea was to hire contractors to inspect the open drains periodically for smaller log jams. Yet another idea was for the Surveyor to purchase a drone to fly the open drains. The drone could also be used for other facets of the Surveyor’s responsibilities regarding elevations. It was stated that the open drain assessments for log jams would only need to be done three or four times a year.

Mr. Watson cautioned that there were legal issues with the Surveyor’s staff working as contractors on county projects and that the work could *only* be done outside of normal business hours. He stated that County Attorney Andrew Kruse would be better able to explain those issues and how they would need to be addressed.

It was determined the Surveyor could purchase power tools out of his office budget if there were enough funds to do so. The Surveyor could check with the Auditor to see if there was a chance to add a request for funding for a drone in the 2024 budget year. The first budget meeting was on a Tuesday in two weeks.

Ms. Kruse cautioned that if the staff were to do the work to remove log jams there may be worker’s compensation insurance policy issues to be addressed and it may raise the county’s insurance rates as it would change the county’s risk profile. It just might be easier to continue to have outside contractors remove the log jams.

The Board asked if the office had heard anything more regarding the Indian Springs Campground’s bridge. The staff stated there had been no further communications regarding the bridge. Mr. Lanning stated the “temporary” bridge was looking pretty rough already.

Mr. Hartman stated he had some questions and thoughts regarding the decision made at the August 3, 2023, Board meeting to send a letter of objection to the DeKalb County Board of Zoning Appeals regarding Ben Krafft's variance request for outdoor storage and construction material staging at the northwest corner of County Road 60 and County Road 55. Mr. Hartman wanted to know what the contaminants might be that was concerning. It was stated that the construction materials could have asbestos in them and other chemicals as well. Mr. Hartman did not feel that was a valid reason for an objection to the use. Mr. Hartman stated that there had been accusations against Mr. Krafft in the past regarding the discharge of human excrements being dumped that had proven false. Mr. Hartman didn't feel the Board should have issued an objection letter regarding someone, who he felt was trying to come into compliance with county ordinances. Mr. Hartman stated he was disappointed with the decision. Mr. Hartman stated he felt the berm on the property would stop any contaminants from reaching the county regulated drain's waters. The berm was wide enough to hold contaminating water back.

Mr. Watson state the Drainage Board would not be the deciding body for the variance it would be the County's Board of Zoning Appeals that would be the deciding body.

Mr. Crawford stated there were no drainage issues with the use, only concern for possible contamination of waters.

#### DISCUSSION

There being no further business or discussion, Mr. Bell thanked everyone for attending the meeting and declared the meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

  
Bruce Bell, II, Chairman

  
Michelle Lassiter, Secretary