

**DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING**

June 27, 2024

**Drainage Commissioners Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

Tyler Lanning, Lead Survey Tech  
Shannon Kruse, Attorney  
Michelle Lassiter, Sec./Drainage Board Adm.Asst.  
Troy Bungard, Survey Tech

**Guests:**

Ken Dunn

**Absent:**

Glenn Crawford, County Surveyor

Chair Bruce Bell, II, called the June 27, 2024, regular DeKalb County Drainage Board meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Jim Miller motioned to accept the Minutes of June 20, 2024, as the standard minutes of the DeKalb County Drainage Board. Mike Watson seconded the motion, which carried with Bill Hartman abstaining, due to his absence from that meeting.

**PLAT AND DEVELOPMENT DRAINAGE PLANS****API CONSTRUCTION NEW OFFICE AND LAYDOWN YARD**

The Board reviewed the drainage plan for the Replat of the Replat of LaOtto Business Park Lot & and the API Construction Development Plans. The location is on Merchants Drive, off State Road 205 west of State Road 3. This development is located within the watersheds of the *Harvey Guthrie Regulated Open Drain No. 181-00-0* and the *Frank Yarde Regulated Open Drain No. 27-00-0*.

Ken Dunn of Engineering Resources Inc. was present to represent the project. Mr. Dunn explained that API would be purchasing the current Lot 6 and a farm field south of it, intending to replat it all as Lot 6. Mr. Dunn stated that there was a drainage swale that would be repaired as well as the detention pond restored.

The Drainage Board accepted the Surveyor's Report presented by Tyler Lanning, from the County Surveyor, who approved the plans after meeting and working with API Construction representatives and their engineering firm, Engineering Resources, Inc.

Mike Watson motioned to approve the drainage plan of the plat and development plans. The Replat of the Replat of the LaOtto Business Park Lot 6 drawings dated 06.12.2024, signed, and stamped by Brett R. Miller, Professional Land Surveyor of Miller Land Surveying, Inc. The API Construction development plans dated 06.10.2024, stamped, and signed by Mark Reinhard, Professional Engineer of Engineering Resources, Inc., with the Surveyor's recommendations, Jim Miller seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**CONTRACTS AND CHANGE ORDERS****ALBERT HIGBEA LATERAL 1 DRAIN NO. 268-01-0 RECONSTRUCTION**

The Board was presented with a contract for \$49,516.00 signed by Kevin Linnemeier, owner of Tri County Excavating for the reconstruction of the *Albert Higbea Lateral 1 Regulated Tile Drain No. 268-01-0*. The Board was also presented with a change order for Tri County Excavating regarding the

same drain's reconstruction, changing the completion date from April 30, 2024, to December 31, 2024. Mr. Lanning explained that the contract had been overlooked due to the workload in the office and that Mr. Linnemeier needed the time extension due to the soil issues he had found in reconstructing the *William Bickel Regulated Tile Drain No. 133-00-0*.

Ms. Kruse stated that the two documents could be covered under one motion if no concerns were discussed regarding the change order.

Jim Miller moved to approve the contract with Tri County Excavating for \$49,516.00 and the change order, changing the completion date to December 31, 2024, for the reconstruction of the *Albert Higbee Lateral 1 Regulated Drain No. 268-01-0*. Bill Hartman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

### **SURVEYOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Bell asked for the Surveyor's Report. The surveyor's staff provided the following information:

Mr. Lanning reported the following for the Surveyor's Office:

- Work on the *William Bickel Regulated Tile Drain No. 133-00-0* would restart the following week.
- The *Ernest Warner Regulated Drain No. 454-00-0*, located west of the County Road 13 and County Road 10 intersection, was causing substantial flooding for Logan Warner who had approximately eight acres of farm ground under water. The drain's maintenance account was negative by approximately \$7,000.00. It had gone negative when the tile outlet to the open portion of the drain was repaired. Mr. Lanning was to meet with Mr. Warner at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, July 1, 2024, to see if there was a certain spot repair that would offer Mr. Warner relief. Mr. Lanning stated that he had added the drain to the reconstruction list. Mr. Lanning had Mr. Warner's property brought up on the maps so the Board could see the location of the "lake" the tile failure was causing on the aerial photos. Mr. Lanning stated that Mr. Warner had planned to come to the Board meeting but decided to hold off until after he met with Mr. Lanning.
- Mr. Lanning informed the Board that other maintenance was ongoing. Mr. Lanning had not heard back from Elkhart County regarding how that county used a one-account drain maintenance system. Mr. Lanning stated that Ms. Kruse had mentioned that Steuben County had investigated the idea but backed away from it, as it would be considered a tax and come up against the State's two-percent tax cap. Mr. Bungard pointed out that the total of all the maintenance funds was just under \$6,000,000.00. Mr. Lanning stated that it would be helpful to be able to use that money as needed on any drain repairs.

### **DISCUSSION**

Mrs. Lassiter brought to the Board's attention that the Auburn American Legion with the assistance of the Auburn Main Street program had planned to put a war memorial on American Legion-owned property that sat between Ninth Street and Eighth Street on the west side of *Cedar Creek Regulated Open Drain No. 470-00-0*. Mr. Bungard brought the plan overlaid on the maps which showed the memorial right on the top-of-bank completely within the drain's 75-foot right-of-way. Mrs. Lassiter stated that the Cedar Creek Drainage Board would have to review the plan and determine if they would give a variance for the location. She just wanted the DeKalb Drainage Board members to be aware in case they received phone calls. The Legion owned two lots at the location that were narrow. Mr. Miller, Mrs. Harrison, and Mr. Hartman all stated that they would not be supportive of the location, and that the groups should find another location for the memorial.

There being no further business or discussion, Mr. Bell thanked everyone for attending the meeting and declared the meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

*Bruce M. Bell II*

Bruce Bell, II, Chair

Michelle Lassiter, Secretary

# DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

NO.	NAME	PHONE (HOME)	PHONE (CELL)	EMAIL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	PETITION OF INTEREST
1	KENDY JANK	(260) 451-9747		Ken@eri.consulting	4175 HENRIKSON DR FORT WASHINGTON	API HEADQUARTERS
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DATE

06/27/2024