

DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

August 15, 2024

Drainage Commissioners Present:

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

Others Present:

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

Guests:

Jeremiah Bradtmueller
Joe Gabet
Joe Herendeen

Absent:

Chair Bruce Bell, II, called the August 15, 2024, regular DeKalb County Drainage Board meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bill Hartman moved to approve the minutes of August 8, 2024, meeting as the standard minutes of the DeKalb County Drainage Board. Sandy Harrison seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Mike Watson abstained from the vote because he did not attend the meeting.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Mr. Bruce Bell introduced the next item of business, the approval of the development plan for Mike's Car Wash on SR 8 and the William Peckhart Watershed Drain No. 22-00-0, the John Diehl Watershed Drain No. 45-00-0, and the Cedar Creek Watershed Drain No. 470-00-0. Joe Gabet, a representative from Mike's Car Wash introduced the project and added that it was part of the development on the west side of I-69, south of SR 8. Mr. Bungard projected a map to clarify the location for all in attendance. Mr. Gabet explained that the area was being replatted and was in the approval process. He said that all their drainage was treated and contained within an original detention basin within the development. The basin lies along I-69. Mr. Gabet said an area along Shook Drive would be the easement access for all utilities. He explained that the proposal was marked for a 100-year overflow in a way that wouldn't endanger any of the proposed buildings and invited questions.

Mr. Crawford pointed out that the proposed plan had less hard surface than the existing site. He said there was an overflow retention basin. Mr. Lanning added that the board approved the Four Willy's replat a few weeks earlier that was part of the same development. Mr. Bell asked for a motion to approve the project for Mike's Car Wash and William Peckhart Watershed Drain No. 22-00-0, John Diehl Watershed Drain No. 45-00-0, Cedar Creek Watershed Drain No. 470-00-0. Jim Miller made the motion, Mr. Mike Watson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PLATS

Mr. Bell moved the meeting forward to plats and subdivisions and introduced a combined project: the vacation of Riverside Acres Plat on CR 75A and the J. L. Boltz Watershed Drain No. 209-00-0 and the Wildwoods Farm Subdivision at the same location. Joe Herendeen with Sauer Land Surveying introduced the project and Troy Bungard projected the map of the project for clarification. Mr. Herendeen explained that the overall plat area was getting a bit larger, but they were basically shifting some property lines. Mr. Bungard showed what the property will become after the vacation and Joe Herendeen explained how the property lines would shift to include the wetlands.

Mr. Crawford asked about the possibility of rebuilding, and Mr. Herendeen said he did not believe they had plans for new construction. Mr. Hartman asked about the acreage on lot 2 after the shift of property lines.

Mr. Bell asked for a motion to approve the Riverside Acres plat vacation. Sandy Hartman made the motion, Mike Watson seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Mr. Tyler Lanning explained that Riverside Acres was becoming Wildwoods Farm. Mr. Bell asked for a motion to approve the subdivision of Wildwoods Farm on CR 75A and the J. L. Boltz Watershed Drain No. 209-00-0. Ms. Hartman asked about the acreage for the purposes of future construction, and Joe Herendeen responded that the lot was “two net” from the right of way. Sandy Harrison made the motion to approve the Wildwoods Farm subdivision on CR 75A and the J.L. Boltz Watershed Drain No. 209-00-0. Bill Hartman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Finally, Bruce Bell introduced the V. L. E. Riverside Farm subdivision on CR 75 and the John Lyons Watershed Drain No. 169-00-0. Jeremiah Bradtmueller with Miller Land Surveying presented this project. He explained that this was a one-lot subdivision for a potential homestead. Mr. Crawford approved the project and explained that there were 35 acres and the proposed building site had appropriate drainage as well as a wetland that could be used for drainage if necessary. Mr. Bell asked for a motion to approve the V. L. E. Riverside Farm subdivision on CR 75 on the John Lyons Watershed Drain No. 169-00-0. subdivision. Mike Watson made the motion, Jim Miller seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

UTILITY PERMITS

Surf Internet applied for a utility permit for CR 23 between SR 4 and CR 10 crossing the Paul Reinoehl Watershed Drain No. 349-00-0, Charles Conrad Watershed Drain No. 3004-00-0, and the Henry Wilsey Watershed Drain No. 09-20-0. Mr. Bell asked for a representative to introduce the project. Mr. Tyler Lanning explained that the project was to cross three drains along the west side of CR 23. Troy Bungard projected a map to show where the project would cross the drains. Mr. Lanning emphasized that he would make sure Surf Internet was in contact with The Surveyor’s Office before they started work. Drainage Board Members expressed concern over approving a project with a new partner because a representative was not present to answer questions. Mr. Lanning explained that Surf Internet had applied for a second utility permit to cross thirteen drains. The Office would be bringing that for approval when Surf Internet had finished the paperwork.

Bruce Bell asked if there was a motion regarding the Surf Internet Utility permit on CR 23 and the Paul Reinoehl Watershed Drain No. 349-00-0, Charles Conrad Watershed Drain No. 3004-00-0, and the Henry Wilsey Watershed Drain No. 09-20-0.

Mike Watson made the motion to approve stipulating that if there were problems with the project, the terms of the next utility agreement could change. Bill Hartman seconded the motion.

Sandy Harrison voted not to approve the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Crawford said that the Board had approved permits for other companies when they did not attend meetings, but Ms. Kruse wanted to emphasize that a company was responsible for their contractors. The Board noted that it would not approve projects that involved many drains without contractor representation.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Tyler Lanning began the surveyor's report saying the Higbea Drain (Drain No. 268-01-0) reconstruction was all done. Contractors were working on leveling and spoils. Mr. Lanning explained that .1 acres were destroyed outside of the right-of-way. Mr. Bungard added that the crops were destroyed because the maps showed the drain a bit south of where it was. Mr. Lanning explained that invoices were coming in and the office would wait to certify the reconstruction until all invoices were received.

He continued and said that work on the Ketchum Ditch (Drain No. 334-00-0) continued to move. He reported that the Surveyor's Office was at the point where INDOT was responsible for the rest of the work. Mr. Lanning explained the billing process between INDOT and the county residents. He said he was communicating with the auditor about the process. Shannon Kruse asked Mr. Lanning to communicate with INDOT that the invoice for the crossing would not be the total of their responsibility in the project. He agreed he would.

Mr. Hartman asked if the Bickle Reconstruction (Drain No. 133-00-0) would be billed this year. Mr. Lanning said it would. Mr. Bungard added that he had started totaling the Fred Groscup Reconstruction (Drain No. 352-00-0) and several others were still in collection, so there should be notifications going out in the Spring. Mr. Hartman asked if landowners could pay early, even before the notices went out. Shannon Kruse said they could, and Mr. Bungard said the accounts were established when the hearing for the project occurred.

Mr. Bell asked about maintenance accounts and Mr. Lanning explained the revenue in the account and when property tax statements were sent which impacted how and when drainage projects could be scheduled. Mr. Lanning added that the Surveyor's Office had enough funding for the Levi Dennison Reconstruction Drain No. 317-00-0 and the Melissa Kelly Drain No 30-00-0.

Mr. Lanning explained that the Mary Metcalf Ditch (No. 261-00-0) was being dipped. We were working with Buckeye Pipeline as a pipe came through it. There were some culverts that were not put in at the proper elevations, so they would need to be fixed after the work was finished. He said Frye Brothers were completing the work.

DISCUSSION

Sandy Harrison introduced a problem a landowner brought to her attention. After some discussion, the board established that the area in question was not a regulated drain or ditch. The Surveyor and Ms. Kruse offered Ms. Harrison some suggestions for the landowner.

Ms. Shannon Kruse made the board aware that the Coalition of Concerned Neighbors of DeKalb County filed a records request. She explained the nature of the request. Members of The Surveyors Office reported they had already gathered the requested information and were waiting on instructions from The Board as to how and when to proceed.

There being no further discussion, Bruce Bell adjourned the meeting at 9:38 AM.

Bruce Bell, II, Chair

Rebecca Wright, Drainage Board Secretary

DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

NO.	NAME	PHONE (HOME)	PHONE (CELL)	EMAIL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	PETITION OF INTEREST
1	Jeremiah Brantmiller	(260) 692-6166		Jobeyenlswebsite.us	221 Tower Dr. Monroe, IN 46772	V.L.E. Riverside Farm
2	Joe Gabert	260-760-3873		joe@43fe.biz		Car Wash
3	Joe Herendeen	260-469-3300		JOE.SAERSURVEYING.COM	7605 Emmer Rd Ft Worth	Wilsons Farm
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DATE
08/15/2024