

DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

May 1, 2025

Drainage Commissioners Present:

Bruce Bell, II, Chair
Kellen Dooley, Member
James A. Miller, Vice-Chair
Steve Kelham, Member
William L. Hartman, Member

Others Present:

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

Guests:

Derryl Scoville, Newcomer Culvert
Carolyn Bierlein, Newcomer Culvert
Doug Bierlein, Newcomer Culvert
Chad Foster, CSU

Absent:

Chairman Bruce Bell called the Drainage Board Meeting for May 1, 2025, to order at 8:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The first item of business was the approval of minutes from the April 17, 2025, meeting. Mr. Bell asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Bill Hartman motioned to approve the minutes as presented, and Kellen Dooley seconded the motion. Mr. Bell asked if there was any discussion about the minutes. Commissioner Jim Miller asked about a name on page 26 under the heading "Development Plans." Members of the Surveyor's Office said they would check the recording for the correct name and correct the minutes if necessary. Mr. Bell called for a vote to approve the minutes per the correction, and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF ATTORNEY CLAIM

Mr. Bell then requested a motion to approve the May claim for the Drainage Board Attorney, Ms. Shannon Kruse, for \$1295.00. Mr. Steve Kelham motioned to approve the claim, and Commissioner Jim Miller seconded the motion. Chairman Bell called for a vote, and the motion carried. The Board thanked Ms. Kruse for her service.

VARIANCE

Bruce Bell asked if anyone was present to discuss the variance for Catherine Newcomer on County Road 40. Ms. Newcomer stood and introduced herself. Daryll Scoville stepped to the podium as he also wanted to install the culvert. He said he'd been in contact with the Surveyor's Office, which had recommended roughly a 14-foot diameter culvert to access the backside of the property. He said they might use a Harvester grain silo due to their size, bolt style, and reinforced edges. He added they would bed the culvert in gravel.

Lead Survey Tech Tyler Lanning stated Mr. Scoville had worked with the Office to find a workable solution, as the ditch conveyed a substantial amount of water. He complimented Mr. Scoville's cooperative nature and ingenuity in looking at options for what could be utilized. Mr. Lanning clarified that the culvert was so that Mr. Scoville could access the east side of the ditch.

Commissioner Bill Hartman asked if a bridge would better serve the purpose, but Mr. Scoville answered that, since the span was so wide, he felt safer using a culvert as they mostly drove heavy equipment. Surveyor Glenn Crawford, Mr. Scoville, and Commissioner Hartman discussed the culvert and grain silo at length. Mr. Crawford thought the length would be sufficient. Surveyor Crawford added he was not sure of all the specifications of the grain silos, but a bolted silo would be stronger than an unbolted silo. Mr. Scoville added that the Harvester silos were coated in ceramic and bolted. He said he would consult the County Surveyor to ensure he selected the correct silo, so his work was done with integrity. Mr. Scoville said, "If it's gonna be done, it's gonna be done right."

Chairman Bell called for a motion about the variance for Catherine Newcomer. Steve Kelham motioned to approve the variance, and Kellen Dooley seconded the motion. Having a motion and a second for the variance for Catherine Newcomer at 6585 CR 40 in Butler, IN, on the CO Metcalf Regulated Open Ditch No. 41-00-0, Mr. Bell asked if there was any discussion. Commissioner Hartman asked if the Surveyor's Office would inspect the culvert once it was installed. Surveyor Crawford replied that it would help Mr. Scoville install the culvert at the correct elevation and return to inspect the finished installation. Mr. Bell called for a vote, and the motion passed.

Moving to the second variance, Chairman Bruce Bell asked if anyone was present to speak on behalf of J & S Harrison Farms LLC and the variance it had requested. Lead Field Tech Tyler Lanning introduced the item for J & S Harrison Farms LLC. He explained that John and Sandy Harrison requested the variance at the top of the Evan Collins Open Ditch on a parcel in Butler, IN. The purpose was to replace an existing rotten culvert they feared would collapse as they accessed the back section of the parcel. Mr. Lanning said the Harrisons had inspected the culvert after the last rain and knew it was crushed and could not function safely. He said he had measured the culvert, and a 6" culvert was needed. He added that the culvert was the only way to access the north side of the parcel.

Bruce Bell asked if the Surveyor's Office approved, and Mr. Lanning replied that it did. Glenn Crawford added that field inspectors would check the culvert once it was installed. Bruce Bell requested a motion to approve the J & S Harrison Farms LLC Variance. Commissioner James Miller motioned to approve the variance based on the Surveyor's recommendation, and Mr. Steve Kelham seconded. Having a motion and a second to approve the variance, Mr. Bell called for a vote on the J & S Harrison Farms LLC Variance involving the Evan Collins Open Ditch No. 81-00-0 on County Road 24 in Butler, and the motion carried.

SPRAY PACKAGE BIDS

Lead Field Inspector Tyler Lanning explained that the Office had received one bid for the spray packages for \$.216/foot from Right of Way Management, an increase of \$.03/foot from the previous contract. Commissioner Kellen Dooley asked about the length of the contract, and Mr. Lanning answered that the contracts were good for three years. He added that Right of Way Management held the previous contract and had done a good job.

Chairman Bell asked if there was more discussion on the spray package bid, but hearing none, he asked for a motion. Commissioner Kellen Dooley motioned to approve the bid for \$.216/foot from Right of Way Management, and Commissioner Bill Hartman seconded the motion. Bruce Bell asked if there was more discussion, but since there was none, he called for a vote, and the motion carried.

GUEST COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Bruce Bell asked if there was any guest communication or if anyone in the audience would like to address the Drainage Board, but no one stepped forward.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT

Surveyor Glenn Crawford met with Foresight about the Ora Bohler, and Foresight thought it would take six months to plan the permitting for the railroad. He continued that the project required a jack-and-bore as a directional bore would prove impossible. To complicate the timeline, the granary planned to add a railway spur. Surveyor Crawford felt wisdom dictated scheduling a meeting with Foresight, the Surveyor's Office, and the granary to work out logistics. He added that the length of time was reasonable because the Surveyor's Office would need three months to receive a cost estimate, set a hearing, and send letters to the watershed. He finished saying he felt Foresight would offer a fair cost for their design work and jack-and-bore. Tyler Lanning added that the Office found holes by the granary around the Ora Bohler. The Office scheduled repair work.

Commissioner Jim Miller asked if the Surveyor's Office and Drainage Board would schedule the hearing date, and Glenn Crawford said it was possible to schedule the hearing as the cost estimate should arrive by the end of May. The Office projected the hearing would occur in June or July.

Moving to more Surveyor Office business, Mr. Lanning explained that the Erwin Selke Drain had standing water around one landowner's driveway. The Office sent a contractor to root it and found roots in several areas of the tile. He added that several members of the watershed had stopped by the Office. They expressed reluctance to agree to the reconstruction as they lived on the north side and felt their water did not drain into the tile. Mr. Lanning thought they might attend the hearing to object. Mr. Bell asked for more information about their complaint.


Mr. Lanning explained that the water from the northern part of the watershed followed the natural overland flow path rather than into the tile. That water entered the culvert at County Road 17. Because their water did not go through the Erwin Selke Regulated Tile, the watershed members did not think they benefited from the reconstruction. This was a complaint when the Ora Bohler was brought to a hearing in 2017. The Surveyor's Office and Drainage Board had discussed not including the northern portion of the watershed in the reconstruction because it did not utilize the tile. Drainage Board members felt that the northern landowners were members of the watershed, and Mr. Lanning agreed. However, he explained that a watershed consisted of sub-sheds, and the Office had presented two plans: one that included the entire watershed and one that excluded the sub-sheds that did not utilize the tile. Ultimately, the decision was made to include the entire watershed. Mr. Lanning stated that he thought some members of the Erwin Selke watershed who owned large parcels to the north might attend the hearing and object to the reconstruction.

Mr. Lanning also said the Office had met with the City of Auburn because of the negative balance on the Ketchum Reconstruction. The inter-local agreement was signed before Mr. Lanning and Surveyor Glenn Crawford joined the Office, and paying off the negative balance was not part of the contract. The Office had tried unsuccessfully to resolve the financial errors and negative balance. The only solution was to schedule a hearing to establish a maintenance assessment rate, collect assessments, and pay off the negative balance once the maintenance fund had collected enough money. Once the negative balance was reconciled, the Surveyor's Office and Drainage Board could turn the John Ketchum Regulated Drain No. 334-00-0 over to the City of Auburn.

Commissioner Bill Hartman asked if there was a minimum assessment with so many parcels. Mr. Lanning answered that there would be a minimum per acre based on parcel use, and Glenn Crawford added that the Office would have to work out the numbers and cost per acre.

There being no further discussion, Bruce Bell adjourned the meeting at 8:55 AM.


Bruce Bell, II, Chairman


Rebecca Wright, Drainage Board Secretary

DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

5/1/2025

Name & Contact Information

Petition of Interest

Chad Foster CSU

~~DRAD~~

Darryl Scoville

Doug Berlin

Catherine Berlin (Newcomer)

