

**DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING**

June 5, 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:**

Tyler Harrell, Erwin Selke Drain No. 439-00-0  
John Hunt, AES  
Joe Gabet, Field View  
Alex Yarian, NIPSCO  
Joe Sarll, Frontier Communications

Chairman Bruce Bell called the DeKalb County Drainage Board Meeting for June 5, 2025, to order at 8:30 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The first item of business was the approval of minutes from the May 22, 2025, meeting. Mr. Bell asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Steve Kelham motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Tyler Lanning noted a typographical error in the Surveyor's Report for the Erwin Selke Drain No 439-00-0. The error could be found on page 34 of the meeting minutes. He corrected the total amount, stating it should have been \$133,964.56. Commissioner Jim Miller seconded the motion to approve the amended minutes. Mr. Bell asked if there was any discussion about the minutes. Chairman Bell called for a vote to approve the amended minutes, and the motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF JUNE ATTORNEY CLAIM**

Chairman Bell introduced the next business item, the June Attorney Claim for \$1295.00. Commissioner Kellen Dooley motioned to approve the attorney's claim for Ms. Shannon Kruse, and Commissioner Jim Miller seconded the motion. Bruce Bell asked if there was any discussion, but since there was none, he called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously, and Mr. Bell thanked Ms. Kruse for her services.

**UTILITY PERMITS**

Bruce Bell introduced the first of three utility permits on the agenda for the morning. John Hunt, the plant manager for AES stepped forward to discuss a utility permit agreement at County Road 39 in Auburn, IN. He stated they had requested permits along County Road 39. He said there were a few drains included in the permit. He said it intersected with CR 60 and 62. He noted that past County Road 60, it looked like the Surveyor's Office was installing a new drain. Surveyor Glenn Crawford answered that the DeKalb County Highway Department was installing a culvert rather than the surveyor. Mr. Hunt asked if the Board had any questions.

Mr. Lanning requested that AES work with the Office before beginning work to mark tiles to avoid hitting any or cutting off laterals. He also said the Office would vac the tiles for AES. Mr. Hunt said he would request a field inspector to meet his crew on-site to mark the tiles. Mr. Lanning and Mr. Crawford said that would be fine.

Mr. Bell asked for a motion to approve the AES Utility Permit Agreement at County Road 39 in Auburn, IN and Section 25 of Jackson Township on the Strauss Brothers Drain No. 23-00-0, the Martin Wagner Drain No. 29-00-0, the Letitia Shearer Drain No. 374-00-0, the Daniel Hursey South Drain No. 48-80-0, and the Daniel Hursey South Lateral 5 Drain No. 48-85-0.

Bill Hartman motioned to approve the utility permit agreement as presented, and Kellen Dooley seconded the motion. Having a motion and a second, Chairman Bell asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, he called for a vote, and the motion carried.

Bruce Bell thanked Mr. Hunt for his attendance and moved the meeting to a utility permit for Frontier Communications on behalf of Pearce at County Road 63 and US 6 in Butler, IN. Joe Sarll with Frontier Communications stepped to the podium and introduced himself. Mr. Bell asked, "What are we having?"

Mr. Sarll explained that Frontier had two utility permits, the first was in Butler, IN, at US 6 and County Road 63. He continued that Frontier was extending service past the city limits and crossing the Almira Teutsch Ditch.

Tyler Lanning clarified that Frontier would put a bore pit on the right side of the open ditch to bore under the ditch and then move to an aerial installation on the west side of the road. Mr. Sarll agreed and asked that the Surveyor's Office work with Frontier to ensure they bored under the drain at the correct depths. Surveyor Glenn Crawford replied that Frontier should be a minimum of four feet under the ditch. Mr. Lanning added that Frontier had submitted that they would bore seven feet below the Almira Teutsch Open Ditch No. 109-00-0.

Bruce Bell asked if the Surveyor's Office approved the utility permit agreement, and Glenn Crawford said he did not see any issues with the project. Mr. Bell asked for a motion to approve the utility agreement; Mr. Steve Kelham motioned to approve the utility permit agreement for Frontier Communications at County Road 63 and US 6 in Butler, IN, and Section 2 of Wilmington Township on the Almira Teutsch Open Ditch No. 177-00-0. Commissioner Jim Miller seconded the motion. Chairman Bell called for a vote, and the motion carried.

Mr. Sarll asked about his second utility permit, but the Surveyor's Office concluded that since the work was aerial, it did not require a utility permit agreement.

Alex Yarian with NIPSCO stepped to the podium and introduced himself to the Board. He explained the work NIPSCO planned for County Road 36 and North Main Street in Auburn, IN, and Section 20 of Union Township on the Harry Shull Open Ditch No. 109-00-0. He added that the project would bring better equipment and increased safety for customers. Mr. Yarian asked for measurements on the depth of the tile.

Mr. Troy Bungard replied that he could send the latest GPS shots the Office had when he returned to his office. Glenn Crawford discussed the placement of the NIPSCO lines with Mr. Yarian. Alex

Yarian said he would notify the Office 48 hours in advance, so the field inspectors could spot the tile for the NIPSCO crew.

Bruce Bell asked for a motion to approve the NIPSCO Utility Permit Agreement for County Road 36 and North Main Street in Auburn, IN, and Section 20 of Union Township on the Harry Shull Regulated Drain No. 109-00-0.

Commissioner Jim Miller motioned to approve the utility permit agreement as presented, and Commissioner Kellen Dooley seconded the motion. Having a motion and a second, Mr. Bell asked if there was any discussion. Since there was none, he called for a vote, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bell thanked Mr. Yarian for attending the meeting and said he could leave if his schedule demanded his attention elsewhere.

### **MINOR SUBDIVISION**

Chairman Bell introduced the final business item on the morning agenda, a minor subdivision called Field View Minor Subdivision at 6692 County Road 9A in Garrett, IN. Joe Gabet stepped forward to explain it and answer questions for the Board. He stated that the subdivision was a typical single-family residence. The family did not plan on making major changes to the lot as it currently existed.

Since the Surveyor's Office approved the minor subdivision, Chairman Bell asked for a motion regarding the Field View Minor Subdivision at 6692 County Road 9A in Garrett, IN, in the Northwest quarter of Section 27 of Butler Township at T33N and R12E on the Frank Yarde Regulated Drain No. 27-00-0, and the George Reeve Drain No. 329-00-0. Commissioner Jim Miller motioned to approve the minor subdivision with the favorable recommendation of the Surveyor. Steve Kelham seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

### **GUEST COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Bell moved the meeting to guest communications, and Tyler Harrell stepped forward and stated he was present to discuss the Erwin Selke Regulated Drain No. 439-00-0. He stated he had called the Surveyor's Office to request the minutes from the May 22, 2025, meeting, but they were unavailable. Before the Board, he was requesting a copy of the audio recording of the May 22, 2025, meeting; all other minutes involving the Erwin Selke Drain No. 439-00-0; the Surveyor's Report for the Reconstruction Project; and any other reconstruction options which would include "the best and cheapest method of reconstruction that would hopefully benefit, the benefit to the land, the periodic maintenance cost of the reconstruction, and the engineering that was used to determine the cheapest option."

Mr. Bruce Bell said the information should be available today or tomorrow. Drainage Board Secretary, Mrs. Rebecca Wright, responded to Mr. Harrell and stated that when he called the Office both times, he was told he could have the meeting minutes from May 22, 2025, after the DeKalb County Drainage Board Members approved them, which would happen on June 5, 2025.

Ms. Shannon Kruse informed Mr. Harrell that he needed to use a form available in the Surveyor's Office to make his request. The Office could charge \$0.10 per page.

After Mr. Harrell sat down, Mr. John Hunt, the plant manager for Auburn Essential Services, returned to the podium and asked about a utility permit agreement request he submitted for Woodland Trail. Mrs. Wright said she was waiting for the mayor to sign and return the agreement.

### **SURVEYOR'S REPORT**

Moving to the Surveyor's Report, Tyler Lanning said maintenance was going well. Farmers were planting crops, so the survey inspectors had finished much of the field work. On County Road 13, Fry Excavating was working on the Ober Lateral, and it was draining. He explained that private tile had been ripped out with trees, but the county tile was still in place. He reported that water was draining from two very wet spots that had been reported.

Commissioner Hartman asked if Mr. Lanning thought the hole to the west would drain. Mr. Lanning said the water level to the west had dropped eight feet as of earlier this week. He added the plan for the A.L. Ober Lateral 8 Drain No. 24-28-0 was to install a standpipe along County Road 13.


He continued with the report and stated that Sieber Brothers had removed a large log jam in Cedar Creek. The jam was in the same place as a previous one, 18 months ago, but he was hopeful that the Office could monitor log jams now that a major blockage had been cleared.

### **DISCUSSION**

Bill Hartman reported a beaver on Indian Lake on the A. B. McCullough Ditch No. 105-00-0. He asked if the Surveyor's Office had a trapper available. Tyler Lanning said the Office would try to line one up. There had been activity reported in other areas, so the trappers the Office had on file were busy.

There being no further discussion, Bruce Bell adjourned the meeting at 8:53 AM.

  
Bruce Bell, II, Chairman

  
Rebecca Wright, Drainage Board Secretary

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# DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

NO.	NAME	PHONE (HOME)	PHONE (CELL)	EMAIL	MAILING ADDRESS
1	Joe Saeil		574-536-0723		Frontier Communications
2	Tyler Horrell		260-410-6919		7052 CA19 Auburn Dr
3	Joe Gabert		260-760-3873		110 St. Joe Ctr Rd.
4	John Hunt		260-570-6396		KES
5	Devin Cook		260-385-7545		KES / DSW
6	Alex Varian		260-243-0051		1153 Auburn Dr, Auburn
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