

## DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

July 3, 2025

### **Drainage Commissioners Present:**

William L. Hartman, Member  
Kellen Dooley, Member  
James A. Miller, Vice-Chairman

### **Appointed Members Serving**

**Jan 2025- Dec 2027**

Steve Kelham, Member  
Bruce Bell, II, Chairman

### **Guests:**

Susan Geyer, AES Utility Permit  
Pat McCauley, Surf Internet

### **Others Present:**

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

Chairman Bruce Bell called the DeKalb County Drainage Board Meeting for July 3, 2025, to order at 8:30 a.m.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The first item of business was the approval of minutes from the June 19, 2025, meeting. Mr. Bell asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Jim Miller motioned to approve the minutes as presented, and Mr. Steve Kelham seconded the motion. Having a motion and a second, Mr. Bell asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, he called for a vote, and the motion carried.

### **APPROVAL OF JULY ATTORNEY CLAIM**

Chairman Bell introduced the first item of business for the morning: the approval of the July attorney claim for \$1295.00 for Ms. Shannon Kruse. Commissioner Kellen Dooley motioned to approve the claim, and Commissioner Bill Hartman seconded the motion. Bruce Bell asked if there was further discussion, but since there was none, he called for a vote, and the motion carried.

### **IMPROVEMENT LOCATION PERMIT**

Mr. Bell introduced the Schmucker Cattle Barn on County Road 26. County Surveyor Glenn Crawford explained the new 189' x 82' facility. He said Mark Strong was the engineer for Michael Schmucker. Mr. Crawford reported that the project would include a drainage swale to a retention pond area on the parcel that overflows to the north, away from the road. He noted a stone drive on the property.

Chairman Bell asked Mr. Crawford if he approved the design, and Mr. Crawford said he did. Commissioner Dooley clarified the location of the entire facility. Mr. Bell asked for a motion to approve the Schmucker Cattle Barn in Butler, IN, in Section 5 of Stafford Township approved by Surveyor Glenn Crawford and involving the Frank Teutsch

Regulated Drain No. 127-00-0, the Robert Arford Open Ditch No. 307-00-0, the William C. Miller Regulated Drain No. 141-00-0, and the Big Run Joint Regulated Drain No. 455-00-0. Mr. Steve Kelham motioned to approve the Improvement Location Permit, and Commissioner Bill Hartman seconded the motion. Having a motion and a second, Mr. Bell asked if there was further discussion. There was none, so he called for a vote, and the motion was unanimously carried.

### **DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Mr. Crawford explained the Auburn Water Department Expansion on 800 North Street, stating the facility would expand into an area that was currently a stone parking lot. He said that the facility's downspouts and inlets would be tied to the City's existing stormwater system. He thought the existing infrastructure was sufficient to handle the expanded facility. Mr. Bell asked Surveyor Crawford if he approved of the project, and Mr. Crawford said he did.

Mr. Bell requested a motion to approve the development plan for the Auburn Water Department at 800 North Street in Auburn, in Section 30 of Union Township in the Cedar Creek Watershed.

Commissioner Jim Miller motioned to accept the development plan as presented since it had the approval of the Surveyor. Commissioner Kellen Dooley seconded the motion. Bruce Bell asked if there was further discussion, but hearing none, he called for a vote, and the motion was carried.

### **UTILITY PERMITS**

Moving to the last business items on the agenda, Chairman Bell introduced a utility permit for AES. Susan Geyer, with AES, stepped forward to discuss the permit agreement on County Road 29 between County Road 62 and County Road 68 in sections 20 and 29 of Jackson Township. The permit involved four county-regulated drains. Ms. Geyer stated that the installation would be on County Road 29.

Mr. Crawford noted AES would cross above the James Ferguson Open Ditch and that AES would work with the Office, as it had before. Field inspectors could mark the paths of the underground field tiles.

Chairman Bell asked for a motion to approve the AES Utility Permit Agreement on County Road 29 between CR 62 & CR 68, which included the James Ferguson Regulated Drain No. 86-00-0, the James Ferguson Miller Lateral Regulated Drain No. 86-43-0, the James Ferguson Schmadel Regulated Drain No. 86-49-0, and the John Carnahan Lateral 1 Regulated Drain No. 208-01-0.

Commissioner Bill Hartman motioned to approve the utility permit, and Mr. Steve Kelham seconded the motion. Bruce Bell called for a vote, and the motion was carried.

Ms. Geyer represented a second Utility Permit Agreement on County Road 27 between County Road 64 and County Road 68 in Sections 29 and 30 of Jackson Township, which involved five county-regulated ditches.

Mr. Crawford thought the open ditches might be crossed above, with an aerial line, but he wasn't sure. Ms. Geyer said AES would contact the Office before starting work.

Bruce Bell requested a motion to approve the AES Utility Permit Agreement on County Road 27 between CR 64 & CR 68 in Sections 20 and 29 of Jackson Township involving the James Ferguson Regulated Drain No. 86-00-0, the James Ferguson Warner Lateral Smith Spur Regulated Drain No. 86-53-0, the Perry Carnahan Regulated Drain No. 399-00-0, Jerry Souder Lateral 1 Regulated Drain No. 372-01-0, and the John Carnahan Lateral 1 Regulated Drain No. 208-01-0.

Kellen Dooley motioned to approve the utility permit agreement, and Steve Kelham seconded the motion.

Having a motion and a second to approve the AES Utility Permit Agreement, Chairman Bell asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, he called for a vote, and the motion carried. Bruce Bell thanked Ms. Geyer for her attendance.

Pat McCaulley with Surf Internet stepped forward to discuss Surf Project STJOIN01.SA01 in Jackson, Concord, and Spencer Townships. Mr. Bell commented that the project involved "quite a few county roads." Mr. McCaulley agreed it was more than last time. He said there was nothing different about this project, but it was larger than the other projects Surf had completed in the county. He added that the company had been awarded a grant, and the designs had been approved, so Surf was in attendance seeking the Drainage Board's approval to begin work.

Mr. Crawford said it would take coordination between Surf and the Surveyor's Office. He asked that the Office be notified in advance to help with the investigation of the tile. Mr. McCaulley agreed this was more extensive than other projects Surf had attempted in the county and said he could call a special meeting if that would help. Mr. Lanning emphasized the importance of communication so Surf knew when it would cross the drains.

Mr. Bell asked for a motion to approve the Surf Utility Agreement, which involved 32 county drains as listed below.

- William Hollabaugh Regulated Drain No. 79-00-0
- William Hollabaugh Lateral 4 Regulated Drain No. 79-04-0
- George Wade Regulated Drain No. 31-00-0
- George Wade Lateral 1 Regulated Drain No. 31-01-0
- George Wade Lateral 2 Regulated Drain No. 31-02-0
- James Goings Regulated Ditch No. 113-00-0
- James Goings Regulated Tile 113-20-0
- James Goings Regulated Tile Lateral 2 113-22-0
- James Goings Regulated Tile Lateral 3 113-23-0
- Daniel Hursey South Regulated Open Ditch No. 48-80-0
- James Ricketts Regulated Drain No. 370-00-0
- Jacob Baker Regulated Drain No. 364-00-0
- W.E. Swanders Regulated Drain No. 107-00-0

Daniel Hursey North Regulated Ditch No. 48-60-0  
 Daniel Baker Regulated Drain No. 201-00-0  
 Daniel Baker Lateral 1 Regulated Drain No. 201-01-0  
 Daniel Baker Lateral 1 Spur 1 Regulated Drain No. 201-01-1  
 Daniel Baker Lateral 2 Regulated Drain No. 201-02-0  
 Horatio Squires Regulated Drain No. 138-00-0  
 Horatio Squires Lateral 1 Regulated Drain No. 138-01-0  
 Ira Ricketts Regulated Drain No. 406-00-0  
 Filmore Shull Regulated Drain No. 62-00-0  
 William Bleeks Regulated Drain No. 445-00-0  
 William Bleeks Lateral 1 Regulated Drain No. 445-01-0  
 William Brown Regulated Ditch No. 344-00-0  
 William Brown Lateral 2 Regulated Drain No. 344-02-0  
 Frank Sebert Regulated Drain No. 75-00-0  
 Thomas George Regulated Drain No. 117-00-0  
 Thomas George Lateral 1 Regulated Drain No. 117-01-0  
 Thomas George Lateral 2 Regulated Drain No. 117-02-0  
 George Carper Regulated Drain No. 4-00-0  
 George Carper Lateral 1 Regulated Drain No. 4-01-0

Steve Kelham motioned to approve the utility permit, and Mr. Jim Miller seconded the motion. Bruce Bell asked if there was further discussion. Hearing none, he called for a vote, and the motion carried.

Mr. Bell then introduced Surf Project CRNNIN01.SA01 in Richland and Fairfield Townships in Corunna and Kendallville, Indiana, which involved 17 county-regulated drains. Mr. Lanning said that communication was key, as it was in the previous project. He knew Surf wanted a smooth installation, as did the Drainage Board and Surveyor's Office.

Mr. Bell requested a motion to approve the Surf Utility Agreement in Richland and Fairfield Townships in Corunna and Kendallville, Indiana, which involved the 18 county-regulated drains listed below.

Frank Albright Regulated Drain No. 14-00-0  
 Ernest Wagner Regulated Drain No. 454-00-0  
 A.L. Ober Regulated Tile Lateral 2 No. 24-22-0  
 A.L. Ober Regulated Tile No. 24-20-0  
 John Diehl Regulated Open Ditch No. 45-00-0  
 John Diehl Lateral 11 Regulated Ditch No. 45-11-0  
 John Diehl Lateral 11 Spur 2 Regulated Ditch No. 45-11-2  
 John Diehl Lateral 11 Spur 4 Regulated Ditch No. 45-11-4  
 Robert Shippy Regulated Drain No. 319-00-0  
 William Leins Lateral 1 Regulated Drain No. 159-01-0  
 William Leins Lateral 2 Regulated Drain No. 159-02-0  
 A.B. McCullough Regulated Drain No. 105-00-0  
 John Potts Lateral 2 Spur 2 Regulated Drain No. 39-02-2  
 John Potts Lateral 2 Spur 3 Regulated Drain No. 39-02-3  
 John Potts Lateral 2 Spur 3 Branch 3 Regulated Drain No. 39-02-3-3  
 John Potts Lateral 2 Spur 3 Branch 4 Regulated Drain No. 39-02-3-4  
 John Potts Lateral 2 Spur 3 Branch 6 Regulated Drain No. 39-02-3-6

Commissioner Bill Hartman motioned to approve the utility permit for Surf Internet, and Commissioner Kellen Dooley seconded the motion. Chairman Bell called for a vote, and the motion carried. Chairman Bell thanked Mr. McCaulley for his attendance.

### **SURVEYOR'S REPORT**

Moving to the Surveyor's Report, Tyler Lanning addressed an email that the Commissioners and the Office received about County Road 52. He had responded to the email and explained that field inspectors had been on site working. It was possible the landowner had not seen the office personnel as they were hidden from view while working downstream on the Michael Hanes Regulated Drain 202-00-0. Mr. Lanning explained that the Office had completed much work along the tile to allow it to flow and evacuate water.

He added that the Office had contacted the railroad because there were blowouts along the tracks and in the field to the north of the landowner's parcel. Rather than charge the maintenance fund to pay a railroad inspector a daily rate to be onsite and perform exploratory work, field inspectors had worked their way back from the south upstream and fixed suck holes they uncovered along the way. Tyler Lanning added that along a section of woods, the tile was full of roots and broken down, so the Office had fixed it as well. He finished by saying that the Office had to remove some mature trees in a landowner's backyard, as they were also causing issues for the Michael Hanes drain. However, after completing all that work, the drain was working well again on the southeastern side of Auburn.

Mr. Steve Kelham asked if the Office had to clear trees over the top of the drain, and Mr. Lanning confirmed it did, but mostly at the back of one parcel. The Office had removed a couple of large maple and mulberry trees that were growing directly over the tile.

Chairman Bell asked if there was anything else from the Surveyor's Office, and Mr. Lanning said no.

### **DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Miller asked if the group would set a date for the Ora Bohler Drain No. 54-00-0 Reconstruction Hearing. Mr. Lanning replied that the Office was waiting for information from Foresite Engineering and the railroad. Foresite was providing cost estimates for portions of the reconstruction that involved the railroad and US 6. However, speaking to someone at the railroad who could give definite answers was difficult. Surveyor Glenn Crawford replied that the Office and Drainage Board could schedule the informational meeting. Ms. Kruse advised that informational meetings had no legal parameters or timelines according to the drainage code. Mr. Crawford thought that watershed members could provide feedback, like the location of perimeter tiles on their parcels, and communicate other concerns the Office should consider before finalizing the reconstruction design.


Mr. Crawford asked if an evening meeting might be more productive than a morning meeting. Drainage Board members agreed that an evening meeting would work for their calendars and discussed various dates. Ms. Kruse suggested that to avoid work hours, the

Office schedule the meeting for Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at 6 PM. Surveyor Office personnel said they would check the Commissioner's Courtroom Calendar for availability. Chairman Bell requested a motion to set an informational meeting.

Commissioner Kellen Dooley motioned to hold the Ora Bohler Drain Reconstruction Informational Meeting on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at 6 PM, in the Commissioner's Courtroom. Commissioner Jim Miller seconded the motion. Bruce Bell called for a vote, and the motion carried.

There being no further discussion, Bruce Bell adjourned the meeting at 8:57 AM.

  
Bruce Bell, II, Chairman

  
Rebecca Wright, Drainage Board  
Secretary

# DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

7/03/2025

Name & Contact Information	Petition of Interest
Susan Geyer A&S Pat McCauley Surf Int	Drainage Permits A&S Drain Permit

