

DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

August 21, 2025

Drainage Commissioners Present:

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

Appointed Members Serving

Jan 2025- Dec 2027

Steve Kelham, Member

Others Present:

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

Absent: Bruce Bell, II, Chairman

Guests:

John Hunt, AES
Adam Scheiderer, Underground Contractors
Brent Shull, C.O. Metcalf Lateral

Vice Chairman Jim Miller called the DeKalb County Drainage Board Meeting for August 21, 2025, to order at 8:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The first order of business was the approval of three series of minutes. Commissioner Miller presented the minutes from the August 5, 2025, Ora Bohler Informational meeting first. Mr. Miller asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Kellen Dooley motioned to approve the minutes as presented, and Mr. Steve Kelham seconded the motion. Having a motion and a second, Jim Miller asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, he called for a vote, and the motion carried.

Commissioner Miller next introduced the minutes from the Regular Drainage Board Meeting on August 7, 2025. He requested a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Steve Kelham motioned to amend the minutes at the bottom of page 108 to improve the clarity. Commissioner Bill Hartman seconded the motion. Having a motion and a second to approve the amended minutes, Vice-Chairman Miller asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, he called for a vote, and the motion carried.

Finally, Jim Miller presented the minutes from the Erwin Selke Regulated Drain No. 439-00-0 Hearing on the Decision for Reconstruction. He asked if anyone would like to motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Bill Hartman motioned to approve the minutes, and Commissioner Kellen Dooley seconded the motion. Hearing a motion and a second, Commissioner Miller asked if there was any further discussion, but none was forthcoming. He called for a vote, and the motion was carried.

UTILITY PERMITS

Mr. Miller moved the meeting to the major business items on the morning agenda and introduced the first of two utility permits: A permit for AES Services.

Mr. John Hunt stepped to the podium and explained that two houses on County Road 27 had requested services that required AES to bore under the road and cross the James Ferguson Dove Lateral Spur 1 Regulated Drain No. 86-34-1.

Surveyor Glenn Crawford stated that AES would bore under the drain at a minimum depth of 4'. Commissioner Jim Miller asked if the Office approved of the work, and Mr. Crawford said it did. Vice Chairman Miller requested a motion to approve the AES Utility Permit Application at 6327 CR 27, Auburn, IN, in Section 19 of Jackson Township on the James Ferguson Dove Lateral Spur 1 Regulated Drain No. 86-34-1.

Commissioner Bill Hartman motioned to approve the utility permit agreement, and Commissioner Kellen Dooley seconded the motion. Mr. Miller asked if there was any discussion, but hearing none, he called for a vote, and the motion was carried. He thanked Mr. Hunt for his time.

Next, Vice-Chairman Miller asked for a representative from Underground Contractors to step forward. Lead Survey Tech Tyler Lanning explained that Mr. Adam Scheiderer was extending the Auburn City Sewer Line to a property at the Eastern Corner of County Road 35 and East Auburn Drive. To do so, he had to cross the Cliff Metcalf Lateral 1, Spur 1 Regulated Drain No. 83-01-01. Mr. Lanning said that the sewer line would follow the path of the drain, and he had communicated extensively with Darrin from DA Brown, who had designed the project.

Mr. Adam Scheiderer stepped to the podium and introduced himself. He explained that he was completing a project for Granite Ridge Builders that DA Brown had drawn. Mr. Lanning asked that Underground Contractors bore no less than 36" below the tile, and Surveyor Glenn Crawford asked that Mr. Scheiderer contact the office before he began work at the job site.

Vice-Chairman Miller asked if there was further discussion, but hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the utility permit for Underground Contractors at East Auburn Drive and County Road 35 in Auburn, IN, in Section 34 of Union Township, on the Cliff Metcalf Lateral 1, Spur 1 Regulated Drain No. 83-01-01.

Mr. Steve Kelham motioned to approve the utility permit agreement for Underground Contractors with the favorable recommendation of the Surveyor's Office, and Commissioner Bill Hartman seconded the motion. Vice-Chairman Miller asked if there was any discussion, but since there was none, he called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

GUEST COMMUNICATION

Mr. Brent Shull stepped to the podium and introduced himself to the board. He explained that a portion of the Cliff Metcalf Regulated Drain ran through his property, and he had been working on "very dangerous blowouts for a couple of years." He explained that his father and uncle had installed the Cliff Metcalf Lateral 1 Regulated Open Ditch No. 41-01-0. Mr. Shull stated that 600 feet from the swamp to the road, there had been 3 blowouts. They had lost a Polaris in one. He felt the safety of his family was at stake, and the best

course of action was to extend the pipe. He clarified that the entire drain did not have to be reconstructed, but the problem could be fixed with 600 feet of tile. He felt that it should be replaced from County Road 49 to the swamp.

Lead Survey Tech Tyler Lanning explained that the tile in question had been problematic. The Office had done many repairs in the area Mr. Shull was pointing out; however, replacing one area would not alleviate the holes to the north.

Mr. Steve Kelham asked how far north the tile ran, and Mr. Lanning pointed out that the tile changed names to the north, which was a unique situation in the county. Mr. Lanning added that the drain system to the north was probably not functioning at full capacity, as it ran through woods and under structures.

Mr. Lanning agreed that reconstructing a portion of the C.O. Metcalf was probably a good decision. Commissioner Jim Miller asked if the repair could be made through the maintenance account. Mr. Lanning responded that the CO Metcalf was a large system, and what Mr. Shull was asking for would cost \$15,000. That could put a burden on the rest of the system. Mr. Shull countered that the Office spent money fixing the blow holes, and it might be advantageous to spend a large portion now to save money later.

Commissioner Jim Miller asked for the Surveyor's recommendation. Glenn Crawford said he would need to gather an estimate for changing the location and size of the tile and then check the account balance. He would have to compare that estimate to other scheduled repairs for the system, as the CO Metcalf was one of the largest systems the Surveyor's Office had. Mr. Crawford also stated that under maintenance, they couldn't change the size, location, or grade of a tile according to the Indiana Drainage Law.

Lead Survey Tech Tyler Lanning thought that the maintenance account had \$12,000 to replace 600 feet. Commissioner Kellen Dooley offered his recommendation to acquire a cost estimate. Surveyor Glenn Crawford added that research would give the Office time to find the depth needed for the tile as well. Commissioner Jim Miller asked Mr. Shull if the tile was plastic. Mr. Shull answered that parts of it were plastic.

Mr. Lanning offered his thoughts on extending the tile across CR 49 and using 75% of the maintenance fund to reconstruct the tile. Mr. Shull stated he did not think the tile needed to be replaced on the west side of CR 49. Commissioner Kellen Dooley said he'd feel more comfortable replacing tile down to the open ditch. Vice-Chairman Miller asked if the Office could have estimates in two weeks, at the next Drainage Board Meeting on September 4. Mr. Lanning said he could.

Mr. Lanning asked Ms. Shannon Kruse about the threshold for bidding on reconstructions. She answered that anything less than \$75,000 did not have to be advertised; however, written invitations should be mailed. Commissioner Jim Miller asked the Office to notify Mr. Shull when the Board would discuss the issue again.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT

Moving to the Surveyor's Report, Mr. Lanning stated that several landowners from the Ora Bohler watershed had contacted the office asking if the benefit of reconstructing the tile outweighed the expense. In addition, while some landowners asked questions about reducing the size of the tile, others had expressed appreciation for the increased tile size. Still others wondered if there would be adequate soil coverage over the top of the tile. Mr. Lanning explained how he had answered the questions. Another watershed owner asked about receiving a reduced reconstruction rate, as he felt his land acted as storage for the watershed, and he had 24 acres he could not use. Though he owned 75 acres, he could only use 50 acres. Ms. Kruse answered that land use was a factor that could be considered for a reduced rate. She stated one case went to the Indiana Supreme Court, and the Court upheld the decision of the Board and Surveyor's Office.

Continuing with the report, Mr. Lanning stated he and the field inspectors had gone to the county pond to take shots. The outlet was 1.4' below the inlet, and the Office only had 18" to work with as far as raising the depth of the pond. Tyler Lanning added that two swamps in the area drain into the pond. He stated that the office could increase the level over the inlet, but then it might flood the corner of the field. The County owned the field, but the Board should decide which was preferable. Mr. Lanning voiced his hesitation with raising the outlet above the inlet, but added it was up to the Board.

The Board, Mr. Lanning, and Mr. Crawford discussed options for the pond and the Fred Grosscup Jr. tile at length. Mr. Lanning offered to gather more information before the September 4 meeting so the Board could make an informed decision.

For the last item on the Surveyor's Report, Glenn Crawford stated that Tyler Lanning had been busy compiling drain information for maintenance hearings. Tyler Lanning introduced the method he and Troy Bungard had put together for creating maintenance rates for future hearings, so that drains not on maintenance could be put on maintenance. He explained how to read the chart and reiterated that the maximum amount that could be collected was over the course of four years or 60% of the cost of a reconstruction. The annual amount would be $\frac{1}{4}$ of the reconstruction cost. This method benefited landowners as it allowed the Office to pay a larger portion of the reconstruction cost rather than sending landowners large bills. It also allowed maintenance accounts to accumulate funds through investment so the Office could more effectively use reserve funds to lower reconstruction costs.

Mr. Lanning stated he had run the Erwin Selke watershed as an example using this system and found the difference between what the Board approved, and this method was only \$180 annually. He invited the Board to review the method, stop in the Office, ask questions, etc. Mr. Troy Bungard was almost finished inputting all the rates and drains. Mr. Lanning was pleased with this objective system as it would offer consistency in the future. Commissioner Kellen Dooley reminded the Board that drains needed to be on maintenance, ready for reconstruction, or vacated. Having drains "in limbo" should not be an option: The Board and the Office needed to follow state statutes and bring all the regulated drains into compliance.

Ms. Kruse agreed and offered that some drains not on maintenance could be placed on a half-maintenance collection for five years and slowly ramp up to a full maintenance collection over the course of ten years. However, that information would need to be part of the Facts and Findings during the Maintenance Hearing.

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Bill Hartman asked if the Ora Bohler tile could be dropped to a 30" tile. Surveyor Crawford answered that, though it was possible, he would not advise it for many reasons, especially because the watershed was flat at the start of the tile. Commissioner Hartman followed up by asking what the volume of water going into the 36" tile would be. Glenn Crawford responded that, though 30" could work, the current volume of water would push the limits of the system. There would be head pressure in a 30" system. He understood that the previous surveyor designed systems off of head pressure; however, the tile was dual-wall and perforated. Mr. Crawford felt that 36" would handle the 100-year floods better. With a \$53/acre difference and spending so much on the system, why not make it the best it could be?

Vice-Chairman Miller suggested that landowners would install private tile, which would continue to increase pressure on the Ora Bohler system. He felt that landowners would be thankful for an outlet they could use.

Commissioner Miller asked if anyone had anything further. He adjourned the meeting at 9:42 A.M.


James A. Miller Vice-Chairman


Rebecca Wright, Drainage Board
Secretary

Name & Contact Information	Petition of Interest
Brent Shall John Hunt Adrian Delaney	3577CR 49 Dr AES