

DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

June 10, 2021

Drainage Commissioners Present:

Chairman Randall J. Deetz
Vice Chairman, Michael E. Krehl
William L. Hartman, Member
Michael V. Watson, Member
Bruce Bell II, Member

Others Present:

First Deputy Surveyor Nathan Frye
Drainage Board Admin. Asst. Michelle Lassiter
Attorney Shannon Kruse

Guests:

Charlene Moore
Tom Miller
Rudi Eidam
Charity Wisel

Absent:

Surveyor Michael C. Kline

Chairman Randall J. Deetz called the regular meeting of the DeKalb County Drainage Board to order at 8:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mike Watson to approve the Minutes of May 27, 2021 as the standard minutes of the DeKalb County Drainage Board. The motion was seconded by Bruce Bell II, the motion carried.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Deetz asked for the Surveyor's Report and Mr. Frye presented the following:

Indiana Michigan Power (IMP) applied for a Utility Permit for a power line along County Road 19 from Butler to east of Hamilton crossing multiple drains. After some discussion, it was determined that Mr. Frye should contact the third-party permit coordinator for the project to clarify where structures were to be located, and for a clause to be added to the agreement based on those location detailing those locations.

Mr. Frye stated that in regards to the Custer Farm's Auburn Solar Array variance request from Inovateus for the *George Carper Drain 167-00-0*. Mr. Frye stated he had spoken with several contractors who stated they felt a 45 encroachment, leaving 30 feet of work area would be adequate for maintenance and reconstruction of the drain. Mr. Frye went on to explain the Surveyor's field inspectors were currently onsite with a contractor to locate and camera the tile to determine its exact location and condition. Mr. Frye explained that he would prefer the area over the tile remain grass with a proposed gravel drive to be located parallel to the drain. It was also noted that the old railroad right-of-way was owned by the County Commissioners and permission was needed to encroach on it. Rudi Eidam of the Sweitzer Family Foundation, who was a part of the project stated the group would be good with the stipulation of the drive location. It was determined to wait for the field inspection report before composing the Variance Agreement.

INFORMATION

Mr. Frye then informed the Board that Charity Wisel was present to discuss flooding issues on her property through which the *Daniel Wagner North Drain 119-60-0* ran. Mrs. Wisel had filed a request for reconstruction. Mr. Frye stated the drain was in bad condition and was putting pressure

on the pump located on the line north of the railroad track. Mr. Frye stated it would cost approximately between \$21,000.00 and \$26,000.00 to replace the section south of the railroad tracks. Mr. Frye was asking the Board if they would give permission to put the drain in the red for five years in order to repair the section south of the railroad. Mr. stated he felt the existing drain was appropriately sized.

Mrs. Wisel then took the floor she stated that she would like to see the accounts for the *Daniel Wagner North Drain 119-60-0*. She also wanted to know what the anticipated timetable was for the requested reconstruction. The Board explained the account information was open to public review and would be provided to her. The Board further explained the timetable would depend on the engineering and public hearing processes. If the landowners were to agree to a consent and waiver process and to pay for the project upfront the drain could be reconstructed fairly quickly.

Further discuss disclosed the drain had \$5,749.00 on hand, and collected \$4,300.00 each year. There were approximately 360 acres in the watershed. The cost for reconstruction was projected approximately \$40.00 to \$50.00 per linear foot of tile with approximately an assessment of \$600.00 per acre. The project would be placed at the end of the priority list resulting in a five to seven year expectation for reconstruction. The Board could declare the drain reconstruction an emergency and hire and outside engineer for the project. It was decided to provide Mrs. Wisel the list of landowners within the watershed so she could contact each to see if they were interested in signing a consent and waiver. The Surveyor's Office would assess the drain north of the railroad tracks to see how much of the drain needed reconstructed before the Board would make a decision.

PLAN COMMISSION PETITIONS

C+N SUBDIVISION

The C+N Subdivision Plat Drainage Plan was presented by Charlene Moore of 313 Meadowmere Dr., Butler, IN, property owner. The Plat would a 4.64 acre plat of one parcel, located in a Part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 30, T35N, R13E, Smithfield Township. Ms. Moore asked the Drainage Board to issue an approval letter to the DeKalb County Plan Commission.

Mr. Frye reported the proposed subdivision was within the watershed of the Frank Albright Regulated Open Drain No. 14-00-0. The plat did not appear to exceed the threshold set by the Drainage Board for additional drainage improvements. The development shall not block off-site drainage across the site. Storm water from the lot shall be directed onto the parent tract and not onto adjoining tracts. The surveyor's report was subject to any additional information submitted at the Plan Commission hearing.

After a brief discussion, Bill Hartman moved to approve the drainage plan for the C+N Subdivision and to have a letter sent to the DeKalb County Plan Commission stating the same. Mike Watson seconded the motion, the motion was approved by all members present.

DISCUSSION

A discussion ensued in which the Mr. Deetz reminded the Board the Surveyor's Office was the engineering arm of the County. The Board was slowing processes by trying to insert ideas into the process without the appropriate education and knowledge. The Board needed to have more trust in the Surveyor's Office. While there are items and issues that needed to be discussed in Board meetings, there were some discussions taking place at the Board meeting, which should be had in the


Surveyor's Office. The Surveyor's Office was requested to bring an updated priority reconstruction list and maintenance list to the next Board meeting.

Ms. Kruse was finalizing the Inter-local agreement for the Frederick Groscup Jr. Drain No.335-00-0 between DeKalb County and the City of Auburn.

The Interstate DeKalb / Defiance / Paulding Counties Joint Drainage Board meeting would be held on Monday, June 14, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. The DeKalb / Noble County Joint Drainage Board meeting would take place on Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.



Randall J. Deetz, Chairman

Michelle Lassiter, Administrative Assistant

