

DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

June 24, 2021

Drainage Commissioners Present:

Chairman Randall J. Deetz
 Vice Chairman, Michael E. Krehl
 Michael V. Watson, Member

Others Present:

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

Guests:

John Fortman
 Rebecca Fortman
 Gene Clifford
 George Brand
 David Brand
 Jeff Landis
 Jeff Barkhaus

Absent:

Surveyor Michael C. Kline
 William L. Hartman, Member
 Bruce Bell II, Member
 Attorney Shannon Kruse

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 June 17, 2021 as the standard minutes of the DeKalb County Drainage Board. The motion was seconded by Mike Krehl, the motion carried.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT

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

E.P. GRIFFIN DRAIN NO. 224-00-0: John and Rebecca Fortman of 1986 County Road 68 presented asking what the status of the reconstruction of the E.P. Griffin Drain No. 224-00-0. The Fortmans stated they had noticed work taking place on the section on the east side of County Road 19. Mr. Frye stated the work being done east of County Road 19 was to keep the drain functioning and to gather data for the forthcoming reconstruction of the drain. Mr. Frye further explained that a section of the drain on the west side of County Road 19 had been replaced and the remainder of the drain had been rooted out. Mr. Frye further stated the drain section under County Road 19 appeared to be damaged and not functioning well. The situation in regards to road flooding was improved due to the section that was replaced. Mr. Deetz explained to the Fortmans the drain reconstruction was a couple of years out due to the project's placement on the priority list.

FRTIZ BARTELS DRAIN NO. 408-00-0: Mr. Frye stated he would be sending out requests for quotes to be due on July 7, 2021 and opened at the July 8, 2021 Drainage Board meeting.

C.B. KAGEY DRAIN NO. 225-00-0: Mr. Frye stated he would be speaking with Phil Brechbill today to determine the processes needed for the reconstruction of the drain.

GEORGE MATSON LATERAL 11 DRAIN NO. 73-11-0: Mr. Frye stated he would be speaking with Rory Walker today to determine the processes needed for the reconstruction of the drain.

ORA BOHLER DRAIN NO. 54-00-0: Mr. Frye stated the plans for this drain had been updated and he needed to review the updates and put together the estimated engineered costs.

LEVI DENNISON DRAIN NO. 317-00-0: Mr. Frye stated that he had consulted with Mike Kline regarding this drain, had Mr. Bungard review the topography of the area, and a better route was being worked on for the reconstruction of this drain.

PAUL FUNK DRAIN NO. 3-00-0: Mr. Frye stated he was waiting on field information to help determine a better route to avoid the gas line. Mr. Frye stated he believed a public hearing would be required for this drain, as the proposed route would be run both north and south including the reconstruction of two drains. Mr. Frye stated the route avoiding the gas line would be less costly, would create no issues with watersheds, as the area is quite flat and the watershed break was vague.

Mr. Frye informed the Board the Indiana Department of Transportation was preparing to reconstruct a portion of State Road 327 between State Road 6 and State Road 4 in 2024. DeKalb County has 21 regulated drains crossing SR 327 and INDOT would like to know if the County would like the drain crossings reconstruction with the road reconstruction. Mr. Frye stated the field crew would be concentrating on getting the data on those crossings to determine which ones to have INDOT reconstruct.

Mr. Frye informed the Board he had been in contact with a steering committee for Cedar Creek whose purpose is to help Allen County which has several issues in the creek. Mr. Frye also informed the Board he had given a presentation on the work being done on the Creek in DeKalb County. There were two DNR representatives, and an engineer from Burke & Associates in attendance, who all stated the work DeKalb County was doing was being done well.

Mike Krehl brought up the idea of hiring an engineering firm to draw reconstruction plans for some of the drains needing reconstruction. Mr. Frye stated that in the past providing information to and managing the outside engineering firms took almost as much time for the office staff as doing the work itself would have. Mr. Frye also questioned whether landowners would want to pay for outside engineering services. Mr. Frye was asked to bring one to three eligible drains to the July 1, 2021 Drainage Board meeting. Mr. Frye stated that there was need for work on drains in the eastern portion of County, near Newville, and the Spencerville/Saint Joe areas.

JAMES FERGUSON DRAIN NO. 86-00-0: Jeff Barkhaus of 2471 County Road 64, Auburn, IN 46706 presented and stated that he would like to know exactly the Drainage Board wanted to see in the plans for his proposed subdivision. The Mr. Barkhaus stated he had provided a couple of drawing renditions of which Mike Kline, the County Surveyor did not approve. Mr. Deetz stated that a drainage plan must be approved by the County Surveyor, prior to the Board approving it. Mr. Deetz stated the only plans seen by the Board were the ones provided prior to Mr. Barkhaus receiving Board of Zoning Appeals approval. Mr. Deetz state that if Mr. Barkhaus intended to direct water into the potential wetland, Mr. Barkhaus would need to have the DNR sign off on the plans. Mr. Frye stated the Surveyor's Office did not have anyone on staff with credentials to conduct wetland delineations. After a short discussion it was decided that Mr. Frye would contact Mr. Barkhaus' engineer regarding the possibility of a berm and tile to the *James Ferguson Dove Lateral Drain No. 86-34-0*.

GEORGE DILLEY DRAIN NO. 154-00-0: Gene Clifford of Clifford Excavating, George Brand of 0417 County Road 43, Waterloo, IN, and Jeff Landis of 4398 County Road 4, Waterloo, IN presented to discuss the redirection of the *George Dilley Drain No. 154-00-0*. Mr. Clifford stated Mr. Brand hired him to tie a tile into an existed private tile that ties into the southern section of the *George Dilley Drain No. 154-00-0*, he then took the tile to the north and tied it into the norther section of the *George Dilley Drain No. 154-00-0*. Mr. George Brand paid in full for the drain construction.

Mr. Deetz stated that the work done appeared to have affectively bypassed the existing county regulated drain and would further damage the existing drain. By reducing the water flow through the tile, the tile would not be able to be kept clean. Mr. Deetz stated the drainage work was done outside of the legal processes set up by State Statutes and Drainage Board policies.

Different remedies were discussed, during which Mr. Landis stated he did not want the existing county regulated drain vacated, as he did not want the cost of upkeep of the drain. The proposal put forth was for the newly installed drain to become the main branch of the county regulated drain, and the existing county regulated drain to become a lateral to the main and still county regulated.

Mr. Clifford is to provide a list of materials used in the drain construction and the elevations to Mr. Frye. The Surveyor's Office was to collect field shots of the drain to map the drain's location. Mrs. Lassiter was to contact Attorney Shannon Kruse to find out what procedures needed to be followed to accomplish the discussed remedy.

Mr. Deetz asked Mr. Frye if he had ideas on how to improve the work output of the Surveyor's Office. Mr. Deetz replied he was working on expanding Mr. Bungard's capabilities and the office's abilities were expanding as the new staff members learned more skills. Mr. Frye stated that with the addition of Mrs. Lassiter and her skill sets, he was beginning to have more time to devote to other responsibilities that would expand the office's output.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.


Randall J. Deetz, Chairman


Michelle Lassiter, Administrative Assistant

