

**DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING**

September 22, 2022

**Drainage Commissioners Present:**

Bruce Bell, II, Vice-Chairman

William L. Hartman, Member

James A. Miller, Member

**Others Present:**

Michael C. Kline, County Surveyor

Michelle Lassiter, Secr. /Drainage Board Admin. Asst.

**Guests:**

Angie Wallace

**Absent:**

Michael V. Watson, Chairman

Sandra M. Harrison, Member

Shannon Kruse, Attorney

Vice-Chairman Bruce Bell, II called the regular meeting of the DeKalb County Drainage Board to order at 8:30 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was noted the September 8, 2022 minutes could not be approved as there were only three members present at the current meeting, and Mr. Hartman was not present at the September 8, 2022 meeting and could not vote on the minutes. They were tabled to be reviewed and approved at the next Board meeting.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS**

Mr. Bell asked for a motion for Ms. Kruse's October stipend of \$1,295.00. Bill Hartman moved to approve Ms. Kruse's October stipend of \$1,295.00, Jim Miller seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**DRAINAGE PLANS****REPLAT OF LOT 2 & LOT 3 IN WEST MEADOWS SUBDIVISION:**

The Board reviewed the drainage plan for the Replat of Lot 2 & Lot 3 in West Meadows Subdivision. The Replat combines the existing Lot 2 and Lot 3 into a one, 1.456-acre lot (Lot 2) to meet building setbacks for a new home construction. The subdivision was located in Section 21, Spencer Township, was submitted by Angela Wallace, Compass Land Surveying, Inc., on behalf of the owner, Jol Gerardot, and within the watershed of the William Hollabaugh Regulated Tile Drain No. 79-00-0.

Mr. Kline stated he had no issues with the plat as going from two lots to one lot would present less impact on the drain. The Board accepted the Surveyor's Drainage Report, which stated "The plat does not appear to exceed the threshold set by the Drainage Board for additional drainage improvements. This development shall not block off-site drainage across the site. Stormwater from this lot shall be directed onto the parent tract and not onto adjoining tracts. This report is subject to any additional information submitted at the Plan Commission hearing."

Jim Miller, moved to approve the drainage plan dated 09.08.2022, sealed, and signed by Angela Wallace, Compass Land Surveying, Inc., with the Surveyor's recommendations, the motion was seconded by Bill Hartman, motion carried.

**MINOR PLAT OF DEER HAVEN:**

The Board reviewed the drainage plan for the Minor Plat of Deer Haven subdivision, a one-lot, a 10.07-acre subdivision in Section 16 of Jackson Township, as submitted by Angela Wallace, Compass Land Surveying, Inc., on behalf of the owners, Larry and Betty Owens, and within the watershed of the Ellen Reed Miller Lateral Regulated Tile Drain No. 151-43-0. Mrs. Wallace

## JOHN SMITH DRAIN NO. 1-00-0:

Mr. Kline stated that he had spoken with Mr. Linnemeier regarding this drain which has sections popping up out of the ground. Mr. Linnemeier will work on it when he is done with the *Groscup Jr.* reconstruction. Mr. Kline and Mr. Linnemeier both believe if the tile is lowered at both County Road 61 and County Road 12 it should stay in the ground and work. Mr. Kline stated he didn't want to reconstruct the drain unless absolutely necessary. It had just been reconstructed in 2011 by Clifford Excavating. However, Mr. Clifford had not bedded the tile in stone and that was an issue. Mr. Kline wanted the Board to consider how the work should be funded.

## ORA BOHLER DRAIN NO. 54-00-0:

Mr. Kline stated he was working on plans for the reconstruction of this drain and was planning to present them to the Board in December to have a date set for a public hearing. Mr. Kline stated it would be an expensive project and the Board should consider bonding the project as the landowners would not be able to pay for the project in the usual five years.

Mr. Kline stated that he would like guidance from the Board regarding a couple of issues his office had been encountering.

1. Several farmers in the county were pattern-tiling large number of acres of field tying into county-regulated drains without a permit. One farmer had without a permit, tied 50 acres of pattern tiling into the top end of the *Ora Bohler Drain No. 54-00-0*, with plans to tie in another 20 acres. Mr. Kline stated this tile was already in distress and the added water was going to cause increased flooding at the bottom end of the tile. He explained the Drainage Code stated the County Surveyor was to review all outlet connections to determine if a drain could accommodate the added water and issue a permit if the drain could take the additional water and deny the connection if it could not.
2. Mr. Kline stated that there were farmers tiling up to or through wetlands. He stated he didn't feel comfortable turning them into the Army Corps of Engineers and IDEM but didn't want the blame to fall back on him if those entities discovered it on their own. He also stated that he had a landowner inform him of an Amish landowner who had dug a swale from a wetland to the roadside ditch to drain the wetland.

Mr. Kline stated he thought education was an issue in some of the cases and asked the Board for ideas on how these situations should be handled.

Mr. Kline stated that there had not been any good candidates for the 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy position in his office. Most applicants had Business Administration Degrees and no surveying or engineering background. He went on to explain that his new field inspector had a Business Administration Degree and would be stepping in to audit reconstruction projects as they were completed to get the assessments put together for collection.

**DISCUSSION**

Mr. Bell asked the Board for additional discussion.

## WILLIAM BICKEL DRAIN NO. 133-00-0:

Mr. Hartman asked Mr. Kline if he had put taps in for Jim Deetz. Mr. Kline stated that Kevin Linnemeier would be installing those after the *Fred Groscup Jr Drain No. 335-00-0* reconstruction. Mr. Kline explained that Mr. Linnemeier would install standpipes three feet below grade with stone on top to draw water into the drain. Mr. Linnemeier would also use a ripper to rip the ground to three feet and Mr. Deetz would then disc the ground. Mr. Kline informed the Board that Chris Lochemeier

spur to the lateral then into the *James Ferguson Drain No. 86-00-0* and into the *Cedar Creek Drain No. 470-00-0*.

G. B. COLLINS DRAIN NO. 87-00-0:

Mr. Miller asked for the status of this drain's repairs. Mr. Kline stated that he had two contractors in line for the project Knott's Excavating and Tri County Excavating. Both had long-reach excavators. Mr. Kline wanted to start dipping north of Tom Miller's farm, dipping up to the wetlands, hauling out the spoils, and finding a place for the spoils on the upland end of the drain. He stated that IDEM and the Army Corps of Engineers would permit the dipping as long as the spoils were removed. Mr. Kline wanted to have the work done in January when the ground would be frozen, as there would be less damage done to the ground. Mr. Kline stated he would speak with the County Highway Department to ask them to buy the replacement culvert pipe and stone for the road crossing. He explained the issue had come about because Nathan Frye had wanted to move the drain which brought it to the attention of IDEM.

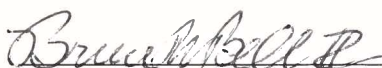
Mr. Miller stated he and his son had a haul truck and would be willing to haul the spoils to their land on the upland side of the drain. His son could complete the work that didn't require a long-reach excavator saving the drain costs.


Mr. Bell asked if there should be a meeting on September 29, 2022, as it was fair week. It was decided to wait until Monday afternoon to decide.

Mr. Kline stated he would not be at the October 13 and October 20 meetings.

Mr. Bell stated the Conservation Club was appreciative of Mr. Kline having a contractor remove logs and limbs from *Cedar Creek* before the group did a cleanup of the creek. Mr. Kline stated the cleanup went well and was a good educational opportunity.

Mr. Bell then thanked everyone for attending the meeting and declared it adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

  
Bruce Bell, II, Vice-Chairman

  
Michelle Lassiter, Administrative Assistant