

DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

December 15, 2022

Drainage Commissioners Present:

Michael V. Watson, Chairman
Bruce Bell, II, Vice-Chair
William L. Hartman, Member
Sandra M. Harrison, Member
James A. Miller, Member

Others Present:

Michelle Lassiter, Secr. /Drainage Board Admin. Asst.
Shannon Kruse, Attorney
Katie Rutan, Surveyor's Clerk

Guests:

Kari Simpkins, AG Environmental
Tom Aschleman

Absent:

Michael C. Kline, County Surveyor

Chairman Michael Watson 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 Jim Miller to approve the Minutes of December 8, 2022, with a change on the last page from dental to eye, as the standard minutes of the DeKalb County Drainage Board. The motion was seconded by Bill Hartman, and the motion carried.

DRAINAGE PLAN

Kari Simpkins of Ag Environmental Systems, LLC presented the drainage plans for IA Butler Biogas. Ms. Simpkins explained the project had the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's approval, and that the drainage system was already in place. There would be no changes. Ms. Simpkins explained the business' process. It takes the liquid gas off manure from a pool of dairy farms, and trucks it to a central injection point, after which it is sold to the California Market, as Indiana's market costs are too low to make a profit. She also stated that the contracts were geared to protect the dairies. Mrs. Harrison stated that her research had shown that a single dairy would need a minimum of 5,000 head of cows to make the business feasible. The plan using a pool of dairies made sense to her.

The DeKalb County Drainage Board reviewed the drainage plan for the IA Butler Biogas, LLC Irish Acres Dairy site at 1867 County Road 59, Butler, IN 46721. The development was located within the watershed of the *Marion Haverstock Regulated Open Drain No. 180-00-0*.

The Board accepted the Surveyor's Drainage Report, which stated "I have reviewed the plans and drainage calculations for the above-referenced project and find that they meet the requirements of the County Surveyor. All stormwater runoff from a 100-year storm event falling on the final impervious surface area of 5.6 acres is to be directed to and stored in existing stormwater retention ponds as shown on the submitted plans. The stormwater will be released through an existing 18-inch diameter discharge pipe that is connected to the Marion Haverstock Regulated Open Drain No. 180-00-0. Since the 18-inch discharge pipe is existing, I do not foresee any damage to the regulated drain."

The Surveyor recommended approval of the drainage plan drawings dated 06.24.2022 and 12.12.2022 and the Drainage Calculations Report dated 12.12.2022, signed and stamped by David Gerdeman, PE of Mannik Smith Group.

Jim Miller moved to approve the drainage plan drawings dated 06.24.2022 and 12.12.2022 and the Drainage Calculations Report dated 12.12.2022, signed and stamped by David Gerdeman, PE of Mannik Smith Group, with the Surveyor's recommendations, the motion was seconded by Bruce Bell, II, and the motion carried.

DRAIN VACATION REQUEST – JOHN LEASON REGULATED DRAIN NO. 32-00-0

Mrs. Lassiter reported that Keith Crawl of 0750 County Road 77, Hamilton, IN 46742 had submitted a request for the vacation of the tile portion of the *John Leason Regulated Drain No. 32-00-0*. Mrs. Lassiter noted the tile was located on land that Mr. Crawl owned and there were no wetlands involved with the drain. Mrs. Lassiter stated that Mr. Kline had requested that she put together a consent and waiver for the watershed landowners to sign. Mrs. Lassiter was asking for the Board's approval.

Ms. Kruse asked if the tile would affect any other landowners or if it would only affect the landowners on whose land it was located. Several Board members also expressed concerns regarding whether other landowners would be impacted. Mrs. Lassiter responded other landowners who would be affected were Wappes Farms LLC which was already on the list of landowners who needed to sign the consent and waiver. Ms. Kruse asked if the map of the watershed would be an exhibit to the document, and Mrs. Lassiter replied in the affirmative. The Board agreed to have Mrs. Lassiter to supply Mr. Crawl with the consent and waiver for vacation.

GUEST COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Hartman then informed the Board he had been contacted by Tom Aschleman, of 2040 West Indiana Avenue, Auburn, IN 46706, who wanted to pattern tile an agricultural field and tie a private drain into the *William Peckhart Regulated Open Drain No. 22-00-0*. Mr. Aschleman's property was located at the southeast corner of County Roads 36A & 38. The tie-in would be under County Road 36A and property owned by the Board of Commissioners of the County of DeKalb. Mrs. Lassiter explained that the County Surveyor is the authority for outlet connection permits. Mr. Aschleman would need to apply for the connection and the Surveyor would look at the drain condition and capacity to determine if the connection would cause issues with the drain. Ms. Kruse explained the County Commissioners' approval was required since the county-owned property would be crossed.

Mr. Aschleman was present ten minutes later. Mr. Aschleman stated he had previous approval from the County Commissioners to cross the county-owned property, to which Mr. Hartman stated the Commissioners' minute books would need to be referenced. Mr. Aschleman additionally stated that he had County Highway approval to cross County Road 36A. The Board and Mrs. Lassiter advised Mr. Aschleman to stop by the Surveyor's office to fill out a connection permit application form, with a drawing showing specifications of the size and depth of tie-in.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Watson asked for the Surveyor's Report and Mrs. Lassiter provided the following information:

DRAINAGE PLAN – METAL X:

Mrs. Lassiter also explained that Mr. Kline had reviewed the drainage plan for Metal X at 1101 Oren Drive, Auburn, for a new entrance on the south side of their building that would wrap around the west side of the property and be tied to an existing parking lot and driveway on the north side of the property. Mrs. Lassiter noted there was a retention pond in the southwest corner of the property and the *Auburn Industrial Park Regulated Open Drain No. 256-00-0* was located to the west of the Metal X property. Mrs. Lassiter explained that Mr. Kline had sent routing comments to the City of Auburn's Building and Planning Department stating that as long as all stormwater runoff was directed to the existing pond and the county-regulated drain there should be no issues with the additional hard-surfacing.

Ms. Kruse asked if it was just a driveway entrance and Mrs. Lassiter explained it was and would provide parking and access to the north side of the building. Mr. Watson stated that the City of Auburn's Plan Commission would include all routing comments as a condition to their approval of Metal X's Development Plans.

The Board determined that the retention pond was solely for overland stormwater runoff. There were no tiles involved with the pond. There was a gulling before the pond shown on the maps. Ms. Kruse advised the Board to approve the drainage plan conditionally to Metal X being held responsible for solving any stormwater issues their new construction might cause for neighboring landowners.

Bill Hartman moved to approve Metal X's drainage plan for 1101 Oren Drive, Auburn, IN, based on the Surveyor's recommendation and with the condition that should Metal X's new construction cause stormwater issues for neighboring properties, Metal X would be responsible for solving the issues, the motion was seconded by Sandy Harrison, and the motion carried.

Mrs. Lassiter then informed the Board that the Surveyor's Office had received a call from Timothy Johnson of 1336 South Randolph Street, Garrett, with concerns about a potential increase in stormwater runoff entering his property from the Garrett Veterinary Hospital's new building construction to the north of his property. Mrs. Lassiter explained that Mr. Johnson was told that once the construction was completed all the stormwater should be directed to the roadside ditch and into the City of Garrett's stormwater system as per the approved drainage plan. If the construction is not done to plan, then the Hospital would need to correct it.

Mr. Hartman stated he had also been contacted about Mr. Johnson's concerns by Garrett's Mayor and he agreed with Mrs. Lassiter.

Mrs. Lassiter informed the Board that the Surveyor's Office had received a call from Evan Lantz at 615 W. Walnut St., Waterloo, regarding the failure of the *J. Harris Reed Lateral 1 Regulated Tile Drain No. 263-01-0*. Mrs. Lassiter explained that the Town of Waterloo had repaired its sewer system so that it was no longer taking on stormwater from the regulated drain. She also explained there were trees over the tile at 505 W. Walnut St, whose owner didn't want the trees removed. Mrs. Lassiter further explained there was a garage built on top of the drain at 725 S Pine St, Waterloo, as well as trees over the tile at the north/upper end of the drain, which was in a probable wetland. She further explained that Mr. Kline was taking a hands-off from addressing the issue.

Mr. Watson stated he would speak with the Town Manager of Waterloo, Pam Howard to discuss the issue with her.

Mrs. Lassiter informed the Board she had not yet received a quote from Todd Bauer of Foresight Consulting for the thirty-party administration of the *Guy Platter Regulated Drain No. 112-00-0* detour route and State INDOT permits.

Mrs. Lassiter also informed the Board that Mike Kline was handing off the Noble County Surveyor, Randy Sexton, the completed drawings for Phase II reconstruction of the Joint DeKalb/Noble County *William Bickel Regulated Drain No. 133-00-0*. Mr. Sexton would be working with Troy Bungard in the DeKalb County Surveyor's Office to put the estimated costs and assessment rolls together for a Joint Drainage Board meeting for review and a public hearing date to be set.

Mrs. Lassiter explained there would be a Change Order forthcoming for the reconstruction of the *Fred Groscup Jr. Regulated Tile Drain No. 335-00-0*.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Mr. Watson asked for a motion for Ms. Kruse's miscellaneous legal services for 2022 of \$1,125.00. Bruce Bell, II, moved to approve Ms. Kruse's attorney fees of \$1,125.00, Sandy Harrison seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Hartman asked Mrs. Lassiter to bring up on the maps the *John Ketcham Regulated Tile Drain No. 334-00-0* at the north end of the county-owned pond next to I-69. Mr. Hartman explained the tenant farmer of the county-owned farm complained the drain was not working. Mr. Hartman asked for the Surveyor's inspectors to check the status of the drain and determine how best to get the drain working.

Mr. Miller stated he was not happy with the way the maintenance of the *G. B. Collins Regulated Open Drain No. 87-00-0* was being handled and would like the Board to put a policy in place to change the policy. Mr. Miller stated that he had been told that the ditch was not being dipping in the north end because the Surveyor didn't want to deal with a landowner. Ms. Kruse state that maintenance of the drains fell under the Surveyor's duties per the State Drainage Code. Mr. Watson stated that the Board would like to have a report from Mr. Kline or Mr. Rychener clarifying their reasoning for the section of the drain receiving maintenance work.

Mr. Watson stated he would like to hold a Board meeting on December 22, 2022, to discuss the Board's directions and goals for 2023. He also reminded the Board there would be a meeting on December 29, 2022, to open the bids for the reconstruction of the *E. P. Sherwood Regulated Tile Drain No. 162-00-0*.

There being no other business or discussion, Mr. Watson then thanked everyone for attending the meeting and declared it adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

Michael V. Watson, Chairman

Michelle Lassiter, Administrative Assistant

DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

NO.	NAME	PHONE (HOME)	PHONE (CELL)	EMAIL	MAILING ADDRESS
1	Kari Simpkins	765-541-1991		ksimpkins@agenvironmental.net	812 Western Ave
2					
3					Connersville IN 47331
4	Zorn Oselellemar	202-908-0114			2040 W Indiana Ave
5					Auburn IN 46706
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DATE

December 15, 2022