

## DEKALB COUNTY CEDAR CREEK DRAINAGE BOARD

February 17, 2022

### **Drainage Commissioners Present:**

Dennie Tayler, Chairman  
James Deetz, Vice Chairman

### **Others Present:**

Michael C. Kline, County Surveyor  
Nathan Frye, First Deputy Surveyor  
Michelle Lassiter, Sec. /Drainage Board Admin. Asst.  
Shannon Kruse, Attorney

### **Guests:**

Julie Knudson

### **Absent:**

Bruce Laub, Member

Attorney Shannon Kruse called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

### **BOARD ORGANIZATION**

Mr. Tayler asked for a motion for Board Chairman. Mr. Deetz nominated Dennie Taylor to serve as Chairman for 2022. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mr. Taylor nominated Jim Deetz to serve as Vice-Chair, Mr. Deetz seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mr. Deetz moved to have Michelle Lassiter serve as the Board Secretary. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mr. Taylor moved to have Shannon Kruse serve as the 2022 Attorney, with an Attorney Fee Agreement of \$100 per hour for attending the Board meetings, plus \$100 per hour plus out-of-pocket and ancillary expenses for legal services beyond attendance at the regular meetings. Mr. Deetz seconded the motion, motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Mr. Deetz to approve the Minutes of December 9, 2021, with corrections to the last paragraph, as standard minutes taken by the Cedar Creek Drainage Board, seconded by Mr. Taylor, motion carried.

**LARE GRANT – CEDAR CREEK DRAIN NO. 470-00-0:** Mr. Frye presented an eleven-year summary of the Cedar Creek drain maintenance funds, stating the average yearly collection was \$115,000.00. Mr. Frye reminded the Board that a couple of years ago the Board had helped the City of Auburn acquire a LARE grant for the design phase for improvements of the Creek within the City. Mr. Frye further explained that the City of Auburn and DeKalb County Commissioners were preparing to apply for another LARE grant to help fund the work needed to conduct the project design work. The project would include laying back the banks of the Creek to increase water capacity, slowing the onsite and downstream flooding, removing trees in danger of falling into the Creek, and placing new plantings to stabilize the bank.

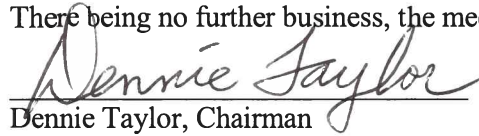
Mr. Frye stated the City of Auburn and the County Commissioners were asking the Cedar Creek Drainage Board to commit, should a LARE grant be acquired, to allowing the Creek maintenance fund to pay half of the project cost left after the LARE grant has paid its share. The LARE grant would pay eighty percent of the project up to \$100,000.00. The engineer's estimated cost for the project was \$137,000.

During the Board discussion, it was stated the Maumee River Basin Commission prefers to help communities with projects when there are no other funding options available. Further discussion revealed the drain assessments for Cedar Creek works differently than the drain assessments for other drains. Landowners in the Cedar Creek watershed are assessed \$6.24 per parcel, no matter the size of the parcel, with approximately half or a little more of the funds coming from landowners within the City of Auburn. It was also noted the project would slow creekbank erosion onsite and downstream, and with the work done to clean up the Creek in DeKalb County, this would be an extension of the ongoing maintenance of the Creek.

Mr. Deetz made a motion to commit, should a LARE grant be acquired, to allowing the Creek maintenance fund to pay half of the project cost left after the LARE grant has paid its share. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, motion carried.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Frye provided the Board members with copies of the Cedar Creek Steering Committee's Management Action Plan to review stating that Nellie Peffley of the DeKalb County Soil & Water Conservation Department would be better able to answer questions regarding the document. It was discussed that IDNR had declared Cedar Creek a scenic waterway from County Road 68 south. Cedar Creek was one of three designated waterways in Indiana, the other two were Wildcat Creek and Blue River. The designation for Cedar Creek came out of the Isaac Waltons and Dustins' of Allen County desires for it to be designated as such.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

  
Dennie Taylor, Chairman

  
Michelle Lassiter, Administrative Assistant