

DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

January 18, 2024

Drainage Commissioners Present:

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

Guests:

Angie Wallace

Others Present:

Glenn Crawford, County Surveyor
Tyler Lanning, Lead Survey Tech
Michelle Lassiter, Secr. /Drainage Board Adm
Shannon Kruse, Attorney
Troy Bungard, Survey Tech

Absent:

None

Chair Bruce Bell, II, called the January 18, 2024, regular meeting of the DeKalb County Drainage Board to order at 8:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Sandy Harrison to accept the Minutes of January 4, 2024, as presented as the standard minutes of the DeKalb County Drainage Board. The motion was seconded by Mike Watson, and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Mr. Bell asked for a motion for Ms. Kruse’s February stipend of \$1,295.00. Jim Miller moved to approve Ms. Kruse’s February stipend of \$1,295.00. Sandy Harrison seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

2024 YEARLY MAINTENANCE DRAINAGE ASSESSMENTS

Mr. Bungard explained that there was a total of approximately 179 drains included in this year’s maintenance assessment list including drains that would be sprayed and three other drains that would require extensive maintenance this year. The other drains on the list were drains that had less than 60% of the maximum allowed in the fund, in addition to assessments requested by regulating counties over joint drains.

Ms. Kruse asked if Cedar Creek was included in the list. It was pointed out that it was as the Cedar Creek Drainage Board had agreed several years ago to allow the DeKalb County Drainage Board to approve the maintenance assessment collections for the drain.

Sandy Harrison moved to accept and approve the list as presented for the 2024 yearly drainage maintenance assessments. Bill Hartman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

85-00-0	William C. Carmer	
86-00-0	James Ferguson	
86-34-0	James Ferguson Dove Lateral	
86-49-0	James Ferguson Schmadel Lateral	
86-53-0	James Ferguson Warner Lateral	
87-00-0	G. B. Collins	Joint Steuben DeKalb Control
88-00-0	Manoah Miller	
89-00-0	Nancy Davis	
89-02-0	Nancy Davis Lateral 2	

91-00-0	Fred T. Miller	Joint Noble DeKalb Control
95-00-0	Lewis Traster	Joint Noble DeKalb Control
96-00-0	Jerry Varner	
97-00-0	Noah Smith	Joint Noble DeKalb Control
98-00-0	William Tritch	Joint Noble DeKalb Control
103-00-0	Richard Carter	
104-00-0	Albert Hovarter	
105-00-0	A. B. Mccullough	Joint Noble DeKalb Control
105-03-0	A. B. Mccullough Lateral 3	New
107-00-0	W. E. Swanders	
109-00-0	Harry Shull	
112-00-0	Guy Platter	
113-00-0	James Goings	
113-20-0	James Goings Tile	
114-00-0	Brown-Albright	
114-03-0	Brown Albright Lateral 3	
116-00-0	Alvin Keesler	
119-60-0	Daniel Wagner North	
119-80-0	Daniel Wagner South	
121-00-0	W. M. & M. B. Smith	
127-00-0	Frank Teutsch	
128-20-0	Lemuel Nelson Tile	
129-00-0	Frank Warner	New
130-00-0	Charles Sharp Tile	Joint Steuben DeKalb Control
141-00-0	W. C. Miller	
143-00-0	Argyl Grogg	
145-00-0	King-Sattison	
146-00-0	George Packer	
148-00-0	Rose & Souder Drain	
151-00-0	Ellen Reed	
153-00-0	John Hoffelder	
153-01-0	John Hoffelder Lateral 1	
153-02-0	John Hoffelder Lateral 2	
153-23-0	John Hoffelder Lateral 3 Tile	
155-00-0	E. L. Dilley Open	
157-00-0	Henry Geddis	
160-00-0	P. A. Walker	
166-00-0	John Weimer	
167-00-0	George Carper	
167-60-0	George Carper North	
167-80-0	George Carper South	
170-00-0	A. C. Koeppe	

172-00-0	Jacob Christoffel	
175-00-0	Ozro Freeman	
177-00-0	Almira Teutsch	
179-00-0	Albert Fisher	Joint Steuben DeKalb Control
180-00-0	Marion Haverstock	
183-00-0	Alva Coburn	
184-00-0	Harold Custer	
185-00-0	Samuel Hindman	
186-00-0	Burl Moughler	
188-00-0	John Hamman	
188-03-0	John Hamman Lateral 3	
188-42-0	John Hamman Lockhart Lateral	
189-00-0	William Spangler	
191-38-0	Jerry Davis Hook Lateral	
193-00-0	Billy Knox Open	
195-00-0	William Sechler	
204-00-0	John Wilderson	
204-06-0	John Wilderson Lateral 6	
211-00-0	David Link	
214-00-0	Harley Cobbs Tile	
216-00-0	Aaron Baker	
224-00-0	E. P. Griffin	
228-00-0	Dayspring Church Drain	New
232-00-0	Ira Goetchius	
234-00-0	Don Van Filet	
235-00-0	Harley Cobbs Open	
237-00-0	Jacob Brunner	
242-00-0	Elias Schopf	
244-00-0	Charles Sharp Open	Joint Steuben DeKalb Control
247-00-0	David Fealger	
256-00-0	Auburn Industrial Park	
258-00-0	Samuel Healy	
261-00-0	Mary Metcalf	
262-00-0	Nowlin Rafine Yoder	
268-00-0	Albert Higbea Open	
268-02-0	Albert Higbea Lateral 2	New
278-00-0	Henry Frick	
280-00-0	O. L. Wheaton	
283-00-0	Phillip Grube	
285-00-0	Joseph Stahl	
291-00-0	Henry Schuster	
299-00-0	A. J. Custer	

302-00-0	Hiram Buchanan	
304-00-0	Ezra Weicht	
307-00-0	Robert Arford	Joint Williams DeKalb Control
310-00-0	Milks-Heckathorn	Joint Steuben Control
315-00-0	Bertha Carpenter	
327-00-0	William Weicht	
343-00-0	Juliette Smith	
365-00-0	John Conrad	
371-00-0	John Cool	
408-00-0	Fritz Bartels	New
416-00-0	Eric Morris	
429-00-0	F. H. Gee	
432-00-0	Charles Kaellner	10/6/22 ON MAINT.
444-00-0	Reuben Sawvel	
454-00-0	Ernest Warner	
455-00-0	Big Run	Joint Defiance/William DeKalb Control
456-00-0	Robert Platt	
463-00-0	Grover Boyd	
470-00-0	Cedar Creek	Cedar Creek Board
1008-00-0	Krumlauf	Joint Allen Control
1150-00-0	Paul Freeman	Joint Allen Control
1414-00-0	Daniel Metcalf Jr	Joint Allen Control
1860-00-0	Hamm Unit (Hamm Joint)	Joint Allen Control
3001-00-0	Hiram Sweet Lower	Joint Steuben Control
3002-00-0	Thomas Malone	Joint Steuben Control
3003-00-0	Robert Johnson	Joint Steuben Control
3004-00-0	Charles Conrad	Joint Steuben Control
3005-00-0	Frank Nelson	Joint Steuben Control
3005-06-0	Frank Nelson Lateral 6	Joint Steuben Control
3006-00-0	Hiram Sweet Middle	Joint Steuben Control
3012-00-0	Ottomer Chasey	Joint Steuben Control
3014-00-0	Alexander Nichols	Joint Steuben Control
4444-00-0	Tamarack	Joint Williams Control
2005-00-0	Sycamore Creek	Joint Noble Control
3007-04-2	Hiram Sweet Lateral 4 Spur 2	Joint Steuben Control
3013-00-0	Crampton-Gaetz	Joint Steuben Control
4444-32-0	Buel Branch	Joint Williams Control
6093-10-0	State Rt 2 Joint	Joint Defiance Control
7001-00-0	Marie Delarme	Joint Allen Control

SUBDIVISION PLAT DRAINAGE PLANS

MILL HILL PLAT (DVS ACREAGE) – 2822 COUNTY ROAD 56 (SOUTHEAST CORNER OF COUNTY ROAD 56 & COUNTY ROAD 27)

The Board reviewed the drainage plan for the Mill Hill Plat, located at 2822 County Road 56, on the southeast corner of County Road 56 and County Road 27, in the Northwest 1/4, Section 17, T33N, R13E, Jackson Township. This plat is for a one-lot minor subdivision, platted as 2.04 acres, 1.73 net acres. The plat is located within the watersheds of the John Cool Tile Drain No. 371-00-0 and the Cedar Creek Open Drain No. 470-00-0.

Angie Wallace of Compass Land Surveying presented the plat stating that the Millers wanted to plat the parcel for the construction of a single-family home. The Millers were applying for a Board of Zoning Appeals Standards Variance as the lot would be 1.73 net acres after the road right-of-way dedication in the plat. Mrs. Wallace stated there had been six borings producing two locations viable for support of a septic system, meeting the Health Department's septic requirements. Mrs. Wallace also explained that the wetlands on the property had been delineated and were on the plat as per the delineation.

The Board accepted the Surveyor's Drainage Report, which stated "In regards to the application for Mill Hill Plat, I approve for there exists adequate drainage for the proposed lot."

Mike Watson moved to approve the plat drawings dated January 10, 2024, as submitted by Angela D. Wallace, Land Surveyor for Compass Surveying with the Surveyor's recommendations, the motion was seconded by Bill Hartman, and the motion carried.

Note that member Jim Miller stepped out of the meeting during this plat review and stepped back in after.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Bell asked for the Surveyor's Report and the surveyor's staff provided the following information:

Mr. Lanning presented for Drainage Board signatures the applicant signed variance agreement for Metal X at 1203 Ensley Avenue, Auburn, Indiana for a fence and light poles for the *William Spangler Lateral 1 Tile Drain No. 189-001-0* and the *Eliza Werntz Tile Drain No. 69-00-0*. The variance had been approved by the Board at the January 4, 2024 meeting.

Mr. Lanning explained the Metal X Consent and Waiver petition for vacation of the upper end of the *William Spangler Lateral 1 Tile Drain No. 189-001-0* also needed to be signed by a NIPSCO Representative as the vacation would affect their property on the south side of Auburn Drive. The Surveyor's Office had reached out to NIPSCO without receiving a response. Mrs. Lassiter had sent the information to ERI, the engineering firm representing Metal X informing them that they or Metal X needed to acquire the NIPSCO signature for the vacation to take place. Ms. Kruse stated to keep this petition on the office radar, that if NIPSCO did not sign then it should be handled through a public hearing process.

Mr. Lanning informed the Board that the Surveyor's field staff had attempted to locate the *John Bemenderfer Lateral 3 Spur 1 Tile Drain No. 49-03-1*, which was the more southerly located drain damaged by NIPSCO along Old US 27 during the installation of the Trine Gas Pipeline. However, there was so much water they were unable to dig. The field staff was going to call for locates on the east side of the road and would have the contractor dig up the tile, then the field inspectors would run the locator up the tile towards the pipeline and flag the tile for NIPSCO to come back out and

repair the damaged tile. In the meantime, the utility permit for Mercury Broadband was still on hold until the tile damages could be resolved with NIPSCO. Additionally, Mr. Lanning informed the Board that Mercury had changed their plans. Instead of installing the fiber on the east side of the road, they were now proposing to install the fiber on the west side of the road.

Mr. Lanning informed the Board that the phase two reconstruction of the *William Bickel Tile Drain No. 133-00-0* was moving along. 2300 feet of 24-inch tile was now in the ground. The contractor would be moving to the other side of the road. The contractor had not been on site this week due to the subfreezing weather but planned on working on the project next week with the warmer temperatures.

Mr. Lanning explained that the request for bids for the *John Ketcham Tile Drain No. 334-00-0* had been sent out to ten contractors and published in The Star newspaper twice with a January 31, 2024, due date. Joe Gabet of ForeSight Consulting had reported that only three packets had been picked up. There was hope that since there was still some time left more contractors would pick up packets.

Mr. Lanning reported that Knott Excavating would be starting the demolition of the Auburn Hotel at the end of January and hoped to begin the reconstruction of the *Fred Groscup Tile Drain No. 352-00-0* in Garrett by the end of February or the beginning of March.

Mr. Lanning stated that he and Mrs. Lassiter had been looking at the General Drain fund to make sure there was adequate funding for this year's planned drain reconstructions, especially the *Levi O. Dennison Tile Drain No. 317-00-0*. There appeared to only be approximately \$450,000.00 available in the account. Mrs. Lassiter stated there were several drain reconstruction assessments still being collected, with the landowner having the statutory five years for payment. Mrs. Lassiter stated that she believed there was a section in the Drainage Code that would allow the Commissioners to a determined amount from the County's General Fund to the General Drain fund if it was so desired by all involved. Mrs. Lassiter reminded the Board that during the first public hearing for phase two reconstruction of the *William Bickel Tile Drain No. 133-00-0* a loan was given by the County Commissioners and Council to the General Drain fund to cover the cost of that project. The County Auditor is now pulling payments out of the General Drain fund to repay that loan. Mr. Watson stated that there was also approximately half of a million dollars in ARPA funds that could be used for reconstructions. Mr. Watson further explained that some of the original restrictions placed on the funds had been removed. At one point those restrictions would have limited the funds for the engineering of a drain reconstruction, but that was no longer the case.


Mr. Lanning and Mr. Crawford informed the Board there were some issues with the *A. L. Ober Drain No. 24-00-0* that the Surveyor's Office was trying to decide how best to resolve.

Mr. Lanning explained that the *E.P. Griffin Tile Drain No. 224-00-0* and the *Erwin Selke Tile Drain No. 439-00-0* were both in bad shape flooding homes and roads. The *E.P. Griffin Drain* would need to be done in two phases with the lower end from *Cedar Creek Open Drain No. 470-00-0* to County Road 19 being done first. The second phase on the upper end would require extensive engineering due to the drain being located under structures and through a swamp. Mr. Hartman stated the two-phase plan for the *E.P. Griffin Drain* sounded good to him.

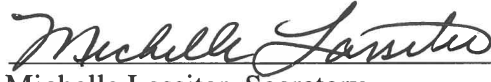
Mr. Lanning and Mr. Crawford stated that the Wilderson drain system by IN 205 south and west of Garrett would need extensive reconstruction as it is flooding several roads.

Mr. Lanning and Mr. Crawford stated some small drains on the reconstruction list could be moved up in priority that could be done quickly and would not cost as much as the bigger drains on the list.

There being no further business or discussion, Mr. Bell thanked everyone for attending the meeting and declared the meeting adjourned at 8:56 a.m.



Bruce Bell, II, Chairman



Michelle Lassiter, Secretary