

DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

February 1, 2024

Drainage Commissioners Present:

Bruce Bell, II, Chair
Sandra M. Harrison, Member
William L. Hartman, Member
Michael V. Watson, Member

Others Present:

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

Guests:

Joe Gabet
Daryl McConnel
Nate Crowl
Keegan Covell

Absent:

James A. Miller, Vice-Chair

Chair Bruce Bell, II, called the February 1, 2024, 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 accept the Minutes of January 18, 2024, as presented as the standard minutes of the DeKalb County Drainage Board. The motion was seconded by Sandy Harrison, and the motion carried.

2024 AMENDED YEARLY MAINTENANCE DRAINAGE ASSESSMENTS

Mrs. Lassiter explained to the Board that staff was asking the Board to approve an amended list of drains as the list from January 18, 2024, did not include drains requested by Allen County for collections. Allen County did not send their request until the afternoon of January 18, 2024.

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

Account_No	ID_Number	Drain_Name	Jurisdiction	SprayList
60005	1-00-0	John Smith		
60035	6-00-0	E. D. Creager		
60055	10-00-0	Jacob Varner		A
60060	11-00-0	Levi Rowland		
60066	12-00-0	Hilkey-Carnahan	Joint Allen DeKalb Control	A
60100	14-02-0	Frank Albright Lateral 2		
60105	15-00-0	Terry Lake	Joint Steuben Control	
60130	20-00-0	Walter Smith		A
60145	22-00-0	William Peckhart		
60155	23-00-0	Strauss Brothers		
60160	24-00-0	A. L. Ober		A
60175	24-04-0	A. L. Ober Lateral 4	New	
60190	24-08-0	A. L. Ober Lateral 8		
60245	27-00-0	Frank Yarde	Joint Noble DeKalb Control	
60247	28-00-0	Solomon Shank		
60250	28-01-0	Solomon Shank Lateral 1		
60265	30-00-0	Melissa Kelly	Joint Defiance DeKalb Control	
60270	31-00-0	George Wade		A
60275	32-00-0	John Leason		A
60295	36-00-0	Fred Dosch		A
60305	37-00-0	O. B. Diehl		A
60310	38-00-0	William Egbert (Open)		
60350	39-00-0	John Potts		
60380	40-00-0	Don Van Fleet Open		A
60425	44-00-0	Garrett City Open		A
60430	44-20-0	Garrett City Tile		
60458	45-11-0	John Diehl Lateral 11		
60485	48-80-0	Daniel Hursey South		A
60500	49-00-0	John Bemenderfer	Joint Steuben DeKalb Control	
60503	50-00-0	Elijah Sherwood		
60520	55-00-0	Charles O. Speer		A
60530	57-00-0	J. J. Hampshire		
60535	58-00-0	Elmer Likens		A
60555	61-00-0	William Brown		A
60575	65-90-0	Charles Miles West		
60585	67-00-0	Fred Culbertson		
60645	73-05-0	George Matson Lateral 5		
60670	73-11-0	George Matson Lateral 11		
60675	73-14-0	George Matson Lateral 14		
60690	74-00-0	Louis Dibbling		
60697	76-00-0	Henry Emme		
60700	77-00-0	George T. Walters		A
60715	78-00-0	Marion Cramer		A
60720	79-00-0	William Hollabaugh		
60721	80-00-0	Elaine Kline	New	
60725	81-00-0	Evan Collins		A
60750	84-00-0	Adam Richey		
60755	85-00-0	William C. Carmer		
60760	86-00-0	James Ferguson		A
60765	86-34-0	James Ferguson Dove Lateral		A
60780	86-49-0	James Ferguson Schmadel Lateral		
60785	86-53-0	James Ferguson Warner Lateral		
60795	87-00-0	G. B. Collins	Joint Steuben DeKalb Control	
60800	88-00-0	Manoah Miller		A
60805	89-00-0	Nancy Davis		A
60810	89-02-0	Nancy Davis Lateral 2		
60820	91-00-0	Fred T. Miller	Joint Noble DeKalb Control	
60840	95-00-0	Lewis Traster	Joint Noble DeKalb Control	
60855	96-00-0	Jerry Varner		A
60865	97-00-0	Noah Smith	Joint Noble DeKalb Control	
60875	98-00-0	William Tritch	Joint Noble DeKalb Control	
60915	103-00-0	Richard Carter		

60920	104-00-0	Albert Hovarter		
60925	105-00-0	A. B. Mccullough	Joint Noble DeKalb Control	
60940	105-03-0	A. B. Mccullough Lateral 3	New	
60950	107-00-0	W. E. Swanders		A
60955	109-00-0	Harry Shull		
60965	112-00-0	Guy Platter		
60970	113-00-0	James Goings		A
60975	113-20-0	James Goings Tile		
60980	114-00-0	Brown-Albright		
60985	114-03-0	Brown Albright Lateral 3		
60995	116-00-0	Alvin Keesler		
61010	119-60-0	Daniel Wagner North		
61020	119-80-0	Daniel Wagner South		
61025	121-00-0	W. M. & M. B. Smith		
61070	127-00-0	Frank Teutsch		
61080	128-20-0	Lemuel Nelson Tile		
61084	129-00-0	Farnk Warner	New	
61085	130-00-0	Charles Sharp Tile	Joint Steuben DeKalb Control	
61125	141-00-0	W. C. Miller		
61130	143-00-0	Argyl Grogg		A
61135	145-00-0	King-Sattison		
61140	146-00-0	George Packer		A
61150	148-00-0	Rose & Souder Drain		
61160	151-00-0	Ellen Reed		
61170	153-00-0	John Hoffelder		
61175	153-01-0	John Hoffelder Lateral 1		
61180	153-02-0	John Hoffelder Lateral 2		
61195	153-23-0	John Hoffelder Lateral 3 Tile		
61205	155-00-0	E. L. Dilley Open		A
61215	157-00-0	Henry Geddis		A
61230	160-00-0	P. A. Walker		
61250	166-00-0	John Weimer		
61255	167-00-0	George Carper		
61270	167-60-0	George Carper North		A
61275	167-80-0	George Carper South		A
61280	170-00-0	A. C. Koepe		
61290	172-00-0	Jacob Christoffel		A
61305	175-00-0	Ozro Freeman		A
61315	177-00-0	Almira Teutsch		
61340	179-00-0	Albert Fisher	Joint Steuben DeKalb Control	A
61345	180-00-0	Marion Haverstock		
61355	183-00-0	Alva Coburn		
61365	184-00-0	Harold Custer		
61370	185-00-0	Samuel Hindman		
61375	186-00-0	Burl Moughler		A
61385	188-00-0	John Hamman		
61395	188-03-0	John Hamman Lateral 3		
61400	188-42-0	John Hamman Lockhart Lateral		
61415	189-00-0	William Spangler		
61425	191-38-0	Jerry Davis Hook Lateral		A
61430	193-00-0	Billy Knox Open		A
61440	195-00-0	William Sechler		
61480	204-00-0	John Wilderson		A
61645	204-06-0	John Wilderson Lateral 6		
61555	211-00-0	David Link		
61585	214-00-0	Harley Cobbs Tile		
61590	216-00-0	Aaron Baker		
61610	224-00-0	E. P. Griffin		
61631	228-00-0	Dayspring Church Drain	New	
61635	232-00-0	Ira Goetchius		
61645	234-00-0	Don Van Filet		
61650	235-00-0	Harley Cobbs Open		
61660	237-00-0	Jacob Brunner		A

61680	242-00-0	Elias Schopf		
61690	244-00-0	Charles Sharp Open	Joint Steuben DeKalb Control	A
61710	247-00-0	David Fealger		
61725	256-00-0	Auburn Industrial Park		A
61735	258-00-0	Samuel Healy		A
61745	261-00-0	Mary Metcalf		A
61760	262-00-0	Nowlin Rafine Yoder		
61790	268-00-0	Albert Higbea Open		
61800	268-02-0	Albert Higbea Lateral 2	New	
61815	278-00-0	Henry Frick		
61825	280-00-0	O. L. Wheaton		
61830	283-00-0	Phillip Grube		
61835	285-00-0	Joseph Stahl		
61840	291-00-0	Henry Schuster		A
61866	299-00-0	A. J. Custer		
61870	302-00-0	Hiram Buchanan		A
61880	304-00-0	Ezra Weicht		
61890	307-00-0	Robert Arford	Joint Williams DeKalb Control	
61900	310-00-0	Milks-Heckathorn	Joint Steuben Control	
61920	315-00-0	Bertha Carpenter		
61940	327-00-0	William Weicht		
61995	343-00-0	Juliette Smith		A
62065	365-00-0	John Conrad		
62085	371-00-0	John Cool		
62137	408-00-0	Fritz Bartels	New	
62150	416-00-0	Eric Morris		
62165	429-00-0	F. H. Gee		
62172	432-00-0	Charles Kaelner	10/6/22 ON MAINT.	
62190	444-00-0	Reuben Sawvel		A
62210	454-00-0	Ernest Warner		
62223	455-00-0	Big Run	Joint Defiance/William DeKalb Control	
62225	456-00-0	Robert Platt		
62255	463-00-0	Grover Boyd		
62265	470-00-0	Cedar Creek	Cedar Creek Board	
62273	1150-00-0	Paul Freeman	Joint Allen Control	
62275	1414-00-0	Daniel Metcalf Jt	Joint Allen Control	
		W. O. Lake	Joint Allen Control	
		Hamm Interceptor	Joint Allen Control	
62295	1860-00-0	Hamm Unit (Hamm Joint)	Joint Allen Control	
		James Pignognot	Joint Allen Control	
		A. A. Jackson	Joint Allen Control	
		Van Gorder	Joint Noble Control	
62320		Hatton	Joint Noble Control	
		Sycamore Creek	Joint Noble Control	
62325	3001-00-0	Hiram Sweet Lower	Joint Steuben Control	
62330	3002-00-0	Thomas Malone	Joint Steuben Control	
62335	3003-00-0	Robert Johnson	Joint Steuben Control	
62340	3004-00-0	Charles Conrad	Joint Steuben Control	
62350	3005-00-0	Frank Nelson	Joint Steuben Control	
62355	3005-06-0	Frank Nelson Lateral 6	Joint Steuben Control	
62360	3006-00-0	Hiram Sweet Middle	Joint Steuben Control	
		Hiram Sweet Upper	Joint Steuben Control	
62370		Hiram Sweet Lateral 4 Spur 2	Joint Steuben Control	
		Ashley Hudson Storm	Joint Steuben Control	
62390	3012-00-0	Ottomer Chasey	Joint Steuben Control	
		Crampton-Gaetz	Joint Steuben Control	
62400	3014-00-0	Alexander Nichols	Joint Steuben Control	
		Town of Ashley Lat 2	Joint Steuben Control	
		Daniel Gonser	Joint Steuben Control	
62410	4444-00-0	Tamarack	Joint Williams Control	
62415		Buel Branch	Joint Williams Control	
62420		Gary Herman	Joint Unknown	
62425		Maumee Creek	Joint Lagrange Control	

62440		Cochran Drain	Joint Steuben	
62450		Middle Turkey Creek	Joint Steuben Control	
62455		Upper Turkey Creek	Joint Steuben Control	
62465		State Rt 2 Joint	Joint Defiance Control	
62276	1008-00-0	Krumlauf	Joint Allen Control	
		Willmina Ringwalt Open Ditch	Joint Allen Control	

UTILITY PERMITS

Mr. Lanning presented a utility permit request from Auburn Essential Services (AES) for the installation of fiber optics along the south side of County Road 64 from Stonebridge Blvd. crossing the *James Ferguson Dove Lateral Open Drain No. 86-34-0* by boring under it, then turning north crossing the same drain again on the north side of CR 64 by boring under in a northerly direction using the utility/drainage easement along the back of the Succoth Meadows Section III Subdivision. The fiber's route would then cross the *James Ferguson Dove Lateral Spur 1 Tile Drain No. 86-34-1* by boring under it in an easterly direction using the northern utility/drainage easement in the Succoth Meadows Section III Subdivision along the north property line of 6366 CR 27, and within the same drain's right-of-way along the east side of CR 27.

Mr. Lanning stated that the tile drain would be potholed and hydro-vacced to ensure the tile was not damaged during the fiber's installation.

Sandy Harrison moved to approve the utility permit for AES for fiber installation for the described locations along County Road 64 and County Road 27 crossing the *James Ferguson Dove Lateral Open Drain No. 86-34-0* and the *James Ferguson Dove Lateral Spur 1 Tile Drain No. 86-34-1*. Bill Hartman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT

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

Mrs. Lassiter presented the Board with the Garrett Board of Public Works & Safety signed Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Garrett for the reconstruction of the *Fred Groscup Tile Drain No. 352-00-0* for the Board to sign.

Mr. Lanning then informed the Board that the situation created by the collapse of the old bridge in the *Frank Yarde Open Drain No. 27-00-0 (Little Cedar Creek)* at the Indian Springs Campground south of the City of Garrett was improving as the owner had a crew removing the bridge and downed tree. The crew would also be removing another tree that was very close to falling into the creek and had stated that they would riprap the eroding drain's banks. The Surveyor's field crew would be going out to ensure that the work was completed to the Surveyor's and Drainage Board's standards.

Mr. Lanning then informed the Board that Fry Excavating had been hired to clear and dip the *Cliff Metcalf Open Drain No. 83-00-0* within the City of Auburn. Mr. Lanning explained the drain banks were overgrown. They were burning debris on the east side of Auburn and the work would be moving west.

Mr. Crawford read an email he received from Ryan King, an engineer working for the Auburn/Waterloo Trail Group for the widening of the trail along County Road 427. Mr. King was asking the adjacent property owners were required to sign the variance agreements for the drain crossings related to the project. Ms. Kruse explained that the variance was being required because the trail was initially put in without a variance. The trail was currently grandfathered, but with the changes that included widening the trail, it required the variance. Ms. Kruse replied that the landowners were required to sign as the crossings were technically on the landowners' property and the variances would be recorded against the land deeds. Should the road ever be vacated the trail would then be more impactful to the landowners. Additionally, the variance being recorded would be a bonus to the landowners should they choose to sell their property. Mr. Crawford stated that Mr. King was also questioning the language in section 1.d. that stated the landowners could be held financially liable for any additional costs caused to the drain by the trail's presence in the drain right-of-way. Ms. Kruse stated that the language could be made simpler if necessary. The landowner was

ultimately responsible for any improvements on their land, with the trail group taking responsibility for the trail at this time.

Mr. Watson explained that the trail was installed in the 1970s by Grant VanHorne and that the reason the trail was being widened was because of the intent it would become part of a regional trail from Bluffton, Indiana to Pokagan State Park north of Angola, Indiana.

Ms. Kruse stated that the language could be amended with the Board in their vote for approval noting that this was specifically tied to the trail project and not to be used in general with any other variance. Ms. Kruse recommended making the change to Section 1.d. to read “the cost of the special construction will be borne by the right-of-way/easement owner.”

Mike Watson moved to approve the revised language for the Auburn/Waterloo Trails Group for the drain crossings along Main Street/County Road 427/Wayne Street for Section 1. d. as “the cost of the special construction will be borne by the right-of-way/easement owner.” Sandy Harrison seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

9:00 A.M. RECONSTRUCTION BID OPENING

JOHN KETCHAM TILE DRAIN NO. 334-00-0

Mr. Crawford opened the two received bids for the reconstruction of the *John Ketcham Tile Regulated Drain No. 334-00-0* within the City of Auburn. The first bid opened was from JJC Excavating out of Muncie, Indiana for a total amount of \$2,222,300.00. The second bid was from Flemming Excavating for a total of \$1,989,691.01. It was noted that the engineer’s estimate approved through the public hearing for the project was \$2,343,589.51. The Board decided to have the Surveyor’s Office evaluate the bids to ensure that they met the criteria set forth and to put a bid tabulation together. The Board would then award the bid at the next meeting on February 8, 2024.

The City of Auburn Director of Engineering, Daryl McConnell, stepped up to the podium to explain that he would like to have the Auburn Board of Public Works & Safety approve the bid at its Tuesday, February 6, 2024, meeting, as per the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Board and the City of Auburn. He stated that he would also like to have a letter of recommendation from the project engineer ForeSight Consulting. The Board attorney asked that the minutes note the Board was taking the bids under advisement for one week.

There being no further business or discussion, Mr. Bell thanked everyone for attending the meeting and declared the meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.


Bruce Bell, II, Chairman


Michelle Lassiter, Secretary