

**DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING**

February 15, 2024

**Drainage Commissioners Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

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

**Guests:**

Joe Gabet  
 Daryl McConnel  
 Scott Zeigler

**Absent:**

Sandra M. Harrison, Member  
 Troy Bungard, Survey Tech

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Bill Hartman to accept the Minutes of February 8, 2024, as presented as the standard minutes of the DeKalb County Drainage Board. Jim Miller seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS**

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

**DEVELOPMENT DRAINAGE PLANS****BROWN & SONS FUEL – 2819 US HWY 6, WATERLOO**

The Board reviewed the drainage plan for Brown & Sons Fuel, 2819 US Highway 6, Waterloo, IN 46793, in Section 32, Smithfield Township as submitted by Joe Gabet of ForeSight Consulting, LLC, on behalf of the owners, and within the watersheds of the Elijah Sherwood Regulated Tile Drain No. 50-00-0, the Frank Albright Regulated Open Drain No. 14-00-0, and the Cedar Creek Regulated Open Drain No. 470-00-0.

Joe Gabet of ForeSight Consulting explained that the project sight was the northwest corner of US Hwy 6 and County Road 27. The project entailed the removal from the north side of an existing building of a canopy and fuel pumps for trucks, as well as cleanup of the site. Mr. Gabet stated that the area was currently gravel and would be replaced with some concrete and sidewalks with an area further north being gravel. There would be some green areas that would work as stormwater detention. The idea was to mimic the current stormwater runoff rate as much as possible. The current rate was 16.53 cfs (cubic feet per second) for a 10-year event, with the plan providing a 100-year event rate of 17.94 cfs. There would be water piped to the ditch along County Road 27. The stormwater currently overland flowed to the County Road 27 ditch. Mr. Gabet stated that he had not spoken to the County Highway Department regarding this plan. Mr. Gabet seemed to think that the structure was an Indiana Department of Transportation structure. When questioned by Mr. Hartman as to where the water flowed that entered the structure, Mr. Gabet replied that he believed it went south. Mr. Crawford also thought that the water in the structure went south. When the GIS map flow paths were turned on it appeared the water might actually go west. Mr. Hartman felt the project would improve flooding in the area.

The Board accepted the County Surveyor's Report which stated, "I approve this drainage plan as it will be reducing the stormwater runoff from current conditions of a 10-year rain event of 16.53 cfs to a 100-year event of 17.94 cfs."

Mike Watson moved to approve the drainage plan presented and dated January 26, 2024, presented by Joe Gabet of ForeSight Consulting, LLC, and with the Surveyor's recommendations. Jim Miller seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

#### FIFTH STREET PARKING LOT – NORTHWEST CORNER OF FIFTH STREET & MAIN STREET, AUBURN

The Board reviewed the drainage plan for the Development Plans the Fifth Street Parking Lot proposed for the Northwest Corner of Fifth Street and Main Street, in Section 29, Union Township, and within the watershed of the Cedar Creek Open Regulated Drain No. 470-00-0.

The City of Auburn Engineering Director, Daryl McConnell, explained that the City of Auburn had been working on this project for approximately three years. The City had purchased three parcels from private owners to move this project forward. This project was developed to address the lack of downtown parking. The parking lot was one part of a Fifth Street improvement project. The project was approved on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, contingent on Drainage Board approval. Mr. McConnell further explained that all the stormwater from the site would be directed into the City's combined sewer system and treated at the sewer treatment facility.

The Board accepted the Surveyor's Report, which stated "In regard to the drainage plan, I approve as the plans don't significantly change the amount of hard surface, the area will be more usable, and the stormwater will be handled by the city's sewer system."

Bill Hartman moved to approve the drainage plan as presented by Daryl McConnel of the City of Auburn, dated January 29, 2024, stamped by Michael D. Voll, Professional Engineer, of Jones, Petrie, and Rafinski., with the County Surveyor's recommendations. Jim Miller seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

#### SHED TIME, LLC – 911 WEST AUBURN DRIVE, AUBURN

The Board reviewed the drainage plan for the Development Plans Shed Time, LLC proposed for 911 West Auburn Drive, Auburn, IN, in Section 6, Jackson Township, and within the watersheds of the Isaac Hague Drain No. 219-00-0, the John Diehl Drain No. 45-00-0, and the Cedar Creek Open Regulated Drain No. 470-00-0.

Scott Zeigler of Hand to the Plow Surveying, LLC explained that his client would like to use this 3.2-acre site to place 80 individual, rental self-storage units. Mr. Zeigler explained that the site had received approval from the City of Auburn's Board of Zoning Appeals for the 80 units. It next would need to be approved by the City's Plan Commission. Mr. Zeigler stated there were several similar business sites in Ohio and Michigan. The plan called for the parcel to be grated and graveled. There would be some water detention placed on site with a private tile directing approximately half of the stormwater to the City's 60-inch storm sewer line and half to the south to the tile portion of the *Isaac Hague Tile Drain No. 219-00-0* located on the north side of the railroad tracks. Mr. Zeigler stated that the idea was to keep the detention pond dry if possible.

Mr. McConnell stated that the City was okay with the plan. Mr. McConnell explained that the 60-inch storm structure was a section of the *Isaac Hague Drain No. 219-00-0* for which the Board had turned jurisdiction over to the City. Previous to the jurisdictional change the Board had designated the tile an urban drain with a 25-foot right-of-way on each side. Mr. McConnell stated that the City was okay with the proposed tap into that section of the tile. Mr. McConnell further stated that the tile was part

of a combined storm/sanitary system and did occasionally overflow into the creek. Mr. McConnell stated that the City's tile was in good shape, but he believed that the county-regulated drain was silted closed and would need maintenance. He was not sure what shape the county-regulated drain tile was in. Mr. McConnell stated that under high-flow situations if the tie-in to the drain was at a low elevation it might receive a surcharge. This would not be as likely to happen at a higher elevation.

Mr. Zeigler stated that he wasn't worried about a surcharge as the 60-inch tile would have to be full before it would back up sewage into the private tile. He stated that a backflow valve could be installed. However, he wasn't a fan of them as they tend to silt shut and require maintenance.

The Board accepted the Surveyor's Report, which stated "In regard to the drainage plan, I approve the plans as long as the City of Auburn is good with the plans as well."

Jim Miller moved to approve the drainage plan as presented by Scott Zeigler, Professional Land Surveyor with Hand to the Plow Surveying, LLC, and with the County Surveyor's recommendations. Mike Watson seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

#### HORIZON TRANSPORTATION – PARCEL 15-07-400-002, SOUTH SIDE OF COUNTY ROAD 30 EAST OF BUTLER

The Board reviewed the drainage plan for Horizon Transportation, Parcel #15-07-12-400-002, in Section 12, Wilmington Township as submitted by Scott Zeigler of Hand to the Plow Surveying, LLC, on behalf of the owners, and within the watersheds of the E. D. Creager Drain No. 6-00-0 and the C. O. Metcalf Drain No. 41-00-0.

Scott Zeigler of Hand to the Plow Surveying presented the plan explaining that the parcel was 34 acres with a wooded section. Therma Tru Doors, a manufacturing facility was to the north. Mr. Zeigler stated that at this time his client was only looking to develop the northeast corner of the parcel for staging RVs. The client would be conducting an RV hauling business, bringing RVs from the manufacturer to the site and then later delivering them to dealerships. The parcel would have a kiosk building and would otherwise be graveled. There would be a finger drainage system that would detain water that would then flow through a 30-inch tile, which would then flow through a rock channel to a dyke and an overland flow path that would lead to the county-regulated *E.D. Creager Open Drain No. 6-00-0*. Mr. Zeigler stated that should more development take place on the parcel then the dyke would need to be increased in height or more detention added.

A discussion regarding the neighboring land to the south through which the overland flow path ran into, which Mr. Zeigler was advised to notify regarding the drainage plan so that no misunderstanding would happen. The property owner could perceive the dyke as a risk to their property.

Ms. Kruse advised the Board to make it clear in the motion that any future development would need to come before the Board for approval.

The Board accepted the County Surveyor's Report which stated "I approve this drainage plan as it will be storing an extra five-year storm's worth of water. The existing conditions are for a five-year event at .35 cfs, the proposed post-construction is for a 100-year event at .25 cfs."

Mike Watson moved to approve the drainage plan as presented, dated August 30, 2023, stamped, and presented by Scott Zeigler of Hand to the Plow Surveying, LLC, and with the Surveyor's recommendations, contingent to no reasonable, negative drainage effects to the neighboring properties. Should any reasonable, negative effects occur they shall be addressed by Horizon Transportation. Any future development onsite will need to be brought to the DeKalb County Drainage Board for approval. Jim Miller seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

## SURVEYOR'S REPORT

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

Mr. Lanning reported that the projects were being moved along:

- Tri-County Excavating was supposed to resume work today on the *William Bickel Drain No. 133-00-0*.
- Fry Excavating was working on the *Cliff Metcalf Drain No. 83-00-0* within the City of Auburn.
- Knott's Excavating would be starting work soon on the *Fred Groscup Drain No. 352-00-0* within the City of Garrett. They would be working between the drain and the Auburn Hotel demolition.
- There was approximately \$450,000.00 in the General Drain Fund. The reconstructions of the *Albert Higbee Lateral 1 Drain No. 268-01-0* and the *Fred Groscup Drain No. 352-00-0* would total between \$280,000.00 and \$300,000.00, leaving approximately \$150,000.00. There were a couple of larger reconstruction projects that would be quite costly. There was a need to find other ways to fund reconstruction projects. Bonding or borrowing money for funding were two possible solutions. Mr. Hartman wondered if asking landowners to pay upfront would be a possibility. Ms. Kruse responded that it could be addressed during the public hearing for a drain's reconstruction. Mr. Miller asked what would happen if 70% of the landowners were able to pay upfront and 30% were not. Could the 30% be borrowed or bonded? Mr. Kruse replied that bonding fees were expensive, and borrowing was a better option. Mr. Crawford asked if there were any grants available for drain reconstruction. Mr. Crawford and Mr. Watson discussed the possibility of a grant from the Maumee River Basin Commission (MRBC). Mr. Watson stated that the MRBC had a lot of latitude in giving out grants as MRBC criteria was solely financial need. Mr. Watson stated it could be for either open or tile drains. Mrs. Lassiter stated that there were Indiana Office of Community & Rural Affairs (OCRA) grants available. Mr. Watson also stated that there might be some Department of Natural Resources (DNR), such as a Lake & River Enhancement (LARE) grant, and Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) grants. Mr. Watson explained that the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds were dwindling. \$600,000.00 had moved to other accounts for use. The ARPA funds needed to be committed by December 31, 2024, and spent by December 31, 2026.
- Mr. Lanning explained that there was flooding in homes on the north side of the City of Garrett due to blockages in the *Garrett City Tile Drain No. 44-20-0*. A citizen had been into the office to report the issue. The tile meanders through the entire City of Garrett, going under garages, and homes, and through a stand of willow trees. There was not a simple solution. There had been a private drain installed on the east side of Randolph Street. Mr. Lanning and the field inspectors investigated whether the county-regulated drain could tie into the private tile to relieve the homeowners on the upper end of the county-regulated drain, but found the private tile was five feet higher and not viable. This drain's fund only had \$3,777.67, collected \$4,399.68 per year and could hold a maximum amount of \$17,598.73 which was not enough funds for the amount of tile involved. Mr. Crawford stated that if the bottom end were investigated and found to be in good shape the upper end could be reconstructed. Also discussed was why the jurisdiction of drains within a municipality was not given over to the municipality instead of being kept as county-regulated drains, as well as a lack of an adequate storm sewer system within the City of Garrett. The *Elias Schopf Tile Drain No. 242-00-0* was

reconstructed for the housing development at the southern end of Garrett. However, the *John Wilderson Tile Drain No. 204-00-0* that it ties into was not upsized for the increased amount of water and is starting to fail causing flooding for homeowners within that watershed.

## DISCUSSION

Mr. Miller asked if Ms. Kruse knew what the impact of the new wetland bill signed by the governor would be for the County Surveyor and Drainage Board. Ms. Kruse stated that she had not read the bill yet. She would do so and report back to the Board her interpretation. She was sure that it would be covered at this year's Farm Bureau Drainage School as well. Mr. Watson stated that he would be getting a bullet-point version of the bill from a consultant. Mr. Watson stated that he had been to the State House and the consensus there was that the new bill fixed most of the bad stuff.

Ms. Kruse informed the Board that American Electric Power (AEP) was looking to put in a crossing on the Schowe property along County Road 72 over the *Hilkey-Carnahan Open Drain No. 12-00-0*. AEP wanted some of the language changed in the variance agreement for the crossing. The agreement stated that if the owner does not maintain the crossing, the County Surveyor could fix the crossing and bill the owner. AEP would like a notice and right-to-cure clause to be added to the agreement. Mr. Watson stated he felt the request was not unreasonable, as long as a 30-day time frame was added and a good AEP contact for notification was given to the County-Surveyor's Office. The other Board members agreed with Mr. Watson.

Mrs. Lassiter informed the Board that she had received a variance application from Tom Green, the engineer for the new Indian Springs Campground bridge. The old bridge had finally been removed from the *Frank Yarde Drain No. 27-00-0*. Dirt had been brought in to rebuild the eroded bank. There was no erosion control in place temporary or permanent. There was a utility line floating in the drain that may be a temporary connection as the original was broken during the removal of the old bridge. No dirt had been placed around the column of the new bridge. Mr. Crawford advised the Board that riprap would be the best permanent erosion control measure for this location. A basket could be used to hold it in place. It would be to the benefit of the landowner as well. Mrs. Lassiter explained she was looking for direction from the Board as to whether to proceed with processing the application or to hold it until all drain issues are resolved. The Board advised Mrs. Lassiter to hold the permit application and to notify the County Soil & Water Conservation District that there was no silt fence in place.

Mr. Miller and Mr. Crawford both informed the Board that they would not be at the February 22, 2024, meeting.

There being no further business or discussion, Mr. Bell thanked everyone for attending the meeting and declared the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

  
Bruce Bell, II, Chairman

  
Michelle Lassiter, Secretary

# DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

NO.	NAME	PHONE (HOME)	PHONE (CELL)	EMAIL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	PETITION OF INTEREST
1	Scott Ziegen	(260) 894-0560		HOTMAIL.COM	ALBANY 56' BW - 3205,	HOEYDON TRANSFER SHED TIME
2	DARIL McConner	260-925-5486		HAND TO THE PAVILLON		5TH ST PARKING LOT
3	Joe Gabey	260-760-3873				Brown Waterloo
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DATE  
02/15/2024