

**DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING**

March 7, 2024

**Drainage Commissioners Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

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

**Guests:***NONE***Absent:**

Troy Bungard, Survey Tech

Chair Bruce Bell, II, called the March 7, 2024, regular DeKalb County Drainage Board meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Sandy Harrison moved to accept the Minutes of February 22, 2024, with the correction on page 3, paragraph 5 of Walk Farm to Walker Farms, as the standard minutes of the DeKalb County Drainage Board. Mike Watson seconded the motion, and the motion carried, with Jim Miller abstaining due to his absence from the meeting.

**RECONSTRUCTION ASSESSMENT CERTIFICATION****GUY PLATTER TILE DRAIN NO. 112-00-0**

The amended reconstruction assessment certification for the Guy Platter Tile Drain No. 112-00-0 was presented to the Board. The engineer's estimate was \$88,375.00. The project came in at \$71,394.49, well under the estimate. The cost per acre was \$219.55.

Mike Watson moved to approve the amended reconstruction assessment certification of the Guy Platter Tile Drain No. 112-00-0. Bill Hartman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**E. P. SHERWOOD TILE DRAIN NO. 162-00-0**

The reconstruction assessment certification for the E. P. Sherwood Tile Drain No. 162-00-0 was presented to the Board. The engineer's estimate was \$135,103.41. The project came in at \$114,997.52 under the estimate. The cost per acre was \$369.32.

Jim Miller moved to approve the reconstruction assessment certification for the E. P. Sherwood Tile Drain No. 162-00-0. Sandy Harrison seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**CONTRACT SIGNING****JOHN KETCHAM TILE DRAIN NO. 334-00-0**

The contract with Fleming Excavation was presented to the Board for signatures. It was noted that Fleming had provided their bond and certificate of liability insurance, and had signed the contract.

Mike Watson moved to accept the contract, bond, and certificate of liability insurance. Jim Miller 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:

Mr. Lanning reported the following on behalf of the Surveyor:

- The *William Bickel Tile Drain No. 133-00-0* reconstruction was moving along with the last stretch under construction. Mr. Hartman asked if it was anticipated that bad soils would be encountered. Mr. Crawford stated that Mr. Rychener had reported that the excavating crew had to double stack boxes in the bad soils previously encountered. Mr. Crawford didn't believe the soil through the hill would be bad. However, he thought that the low, shallow ground might be. Mr. Crawford stated that the depth through the hill would be 15 to 20 feet deep. Mr. Lanning stated that the lateral was finished on Monday with the grade having been brought up above the water table. Tri-County Excavating would move to the *Albert Higbea Tile Drain No. 268-01-0* reconstruction after the completion of this project.
- Mr. Lanning stated that Knott's Excavating would begin the *Fred Groscup Tile Drain No. 352-00-0* reconstruction after they took down the old Auburn Hotel.
- Mr. Lanning informed the Board that Frontier had submitted revised drawings for their utility permit along County Road 56 between State Road 327 and County Road 17. The installation was now all boring instead of knifing it in. However, during the submission, the third-party permit facilitator admitted that the fiber was already installed and our office had not been notified. The installation contractor was Direct Line. They have stated that they would pothole and hydro-vac the drains with our inspectors on site to ensure that the drains were not damaged during the installation. It was noted that County Road 56 was to be undercut by approximately 15 feet. Mr. Crawford explained that the county-regulated tiles under the road would be cut during the road reconstruction, a portion of which would be removed and reinstalled when the stone was installed. Mr. Crawford further explained that the tile was shallow in that area as the soils were muck. In the past, the road had been underwater, but work on the drain had prevented that from happening recently.
- Mr. Lanning informed the Board that the Indian Springs Campground had not done any bank stabilization, and the office had not had any word back as to when that would happen.
- Mr. Lanning stated that tile maintenance was ongoing.
- Mr. Lanning stated that the office and Board would need to explore funding options for the *Levi Dennison Tile Drain No. 317-00-0* reconstruction as the design was completed. Mr. Crawford stated that he really wanted to get this reconstruction done.

## DISCUSSION

Mr. Bell asked if there were any other items for discussion.

Mrs. Harrison stated that she had spoken with the County Assessor, Sheila Stonebreaker regarding the Rinehold property within the *George Shoner Drain No. 356-00-0* watershed. The Assessor's cards showed that the parcel was split in how it was assessed for property taxes, with approximately 2 acres as commercial and the remainder as agricultural assessments. It was explained that there are two systems at work. One is the land zoning in place through the Unified Development Code and the other is the assessed use assigned by the Assessor's Office. The land zoning was put in place in 2017 without taking use into account but with a forward-looking eye as to how the land may be developed in the future or how the county would like to see it developed in the future. This location might be a unique situation. Ms. Kruse stated that the Board could during a public hearing look at the use and

adjust the drainage assessment to the use instead of the land zoning according to the State Drainage Code. The State Drainage Code was intended to make the process easier and consistent.

Mr. Hartman asked when the *Willaim Bickel Drain No. 133-00-0* reconstruction assessments would be billed out. Staff thought it would be billed out in the Fall. It was explained that once the work was completed, the contractor had to sign a completion affidavit, then 60 days after that the contractor would be paid the retention. Once the retention payment was showing on the Auditor's software then the office staff would do an audit and the Board would have to certify the assessment scroll. The certification scroll would be submitted to the Auditor for verification, then the Treasurer would bill it out.

There being no further business or discussion, Mr. Bell thanked everyone for attending the meeting and declared the meeting adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

  
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Bruce Bell, II, Chairman

  
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Michelle Lassiter, Secretary