

DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

April 11, 2024

Drainage Commissioners Present:

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

Others Present:

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

Guests:

Angie Wallace
Kyle Strombeck

Absent:

Michael V. Watson, Member

Chair Bruce Bell, II, called the April 11, 2024, regular DeKalb County Drainage Board meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jim Miller moved to accept the Minutes of March 28, 2024, as presented as the standard minutes of the DeKalb County Drainage Board. Bill Hartman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

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

UTILITY PERMIT REQUESTS

DON VANFLEIT TILE DRAIN NO. 234-00-0 – AEP/IMP CR 56 BETWEEN SR 327 & CR 17

The County Road 56 reconstruction project engineer, Kent Seidel of Butler, Fairman & Seufert, was conferenced in via a phone call. Mr. Seidel explained that the AEP/IMP utility poles on the south side of County Road 56 would need to be relocated to the north side of the road for the south side road expansion. Mr. Seidel went on to explain that there was a large amount of Peet on the south side of the road that would need to be removed which also was a factor in the poles being moved. Mr. Crawford stated he had no issues with the utility poles being moved to the north side of County Road 56.

Mr. Hartman asked Mr. Seidel what type of tile would be used for the drain replacements under County Road 56 during the road's reconstruction. Mr. Seidel replied fifteen-inch plastic. Mr. Hartman asked if the tile would be guaranteed not to move given the soil conditions. Mr. Seidel stated that he was not familiar with that aspect of the project.

Jim Miller moved to approve the AEP/IMP Utility Permit Agreement to move utility poles from the south side of County Road 56 to the north side of County Road 56 across the Don VanFleit Tile Drain No. 234-00-0 right-of-way. Sandy Harrison seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PLATS

PLAT OF OTIS ACRES – 3227 COUNTY ROAD 39

The Board reviewed the drainage plan for The Plat of Otis Acres, located at 3227 County Road 39, in the Southwest 1/4, Section 11, T34N, R13E, Grant Township. This plat is for a one-lot minor

subdivision, platted as 2.31 acres. The plat is located within the watershed of the Cedar Creek Open Regulated Drain No. 470-00-0.

Angie Wallace of Compass Land Surveying presented the one-lot minor subdivision for single-family residential use, stating that D. A. Brown Engineering Consultants was doing the balancing of the soils within the floodway to get approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). She explained that the project had been on hold for six months due to the floodplain involvement.

The Board accepted the Surveyor's Drainage Report, which stated "I approve the proposed subdivision given that it has adequate drainage available for the 2.31 acres intended single-family residential use as the buildings will need to meet floodplain elevation requirements."

Sandy Harrison moved to approve the plat drawings dated March 5, 2024, as submitted by Angela D. Wallace, Professional Land Surveyor with Compass Land Surveying, with the Surveyor's recommendations. The motion was seconded by Jim Miller, and the motion carried.

CERTIFICATION OF DRAINS

JAMES FERGUSON WARNER LATERAL TILE DRAIN NO. 86-53-0 RECONSTRUCTION

The Board was presented with the assessment scrolls and drain fund certification details for the *James Ferguson Warner Lateral Tile Regulated Drain No. 86-53-0*. Mr. Bungard explained that during the initial final audit for the drain's reconstruction, it was discovered that a small portion of the contractor's retention had not been paid. The certification was held for that retention to be paid and cleared through LOW, the County Auditor's financial software. The project cost was \$191,738.81, with a \$631.45 per acre assessment. The engineer's estimate had been \$179,280.74, with the plus ten percent being \$192,208.81, meaning the project came in between the two amounts. This was due to additional outlet ties that were found, along with the addition of the two access roads needing to be constructed and deconstructed.

Bill Hartman moved to approve the assessments for the *James Ferguson Warner Lateral Tile Regulated Drain No. 86-53-0*. Sandy Harrison seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

GUEST COMMUNICATIONS – OTHER THAN AGENDA ITEMS

Kyle Strombeck, 5889 County Road 71, present to ask for maintenance on the *Nancy Davis Open Regulated Drain No. 8900-0*. Mr. Strombeck stated that at the bend in the drain on his property, the bank was eroding to the west of the outlet in the drain. Mr. Strombeck stated that the erosion began after the drain was last dipped.

Mr. Crawford stated that his staff would inspect the drain and determine what measures needed to be undertaken to stop the erosion if there were funds available.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT

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

Mr. Crawford informed the Board that he and Mr. Lanning had met with Chris and Ben Krafft regarding the *George Wade Tile Drain No. 31-00-0*. He showed them plans that he had put together for the reconstruction of the tile portion at the upper end of the drain across their properties and their neighbors to the west and southwest. The Kraffts liked the plans. The plans would move the section on David Schmucker's property from the middle of his property to the western property line.

Mr. Lanning explained that the Surveyor's Office had repaired three suck holes on Chris Krafft's property in 2023, and there were now more suck holes on his property. He further explained that the repairs implemented on Mr. Schmucker's property had not solved all of the problems with the drain,

as Mr. Schmucker had water standing on his property and entering his barns and Mr. Steury still had six to eight acres of fields under water.

Mr. Crawford stated that at first, the Kraffts had wanted to do the work for the drain's reconstruction, but now want the reconstruction to follow the normal bidding process.

Mr. Lanning stated that the estimate for the project was between \$70,000 and \$75,000 for only the tile portion of the watershed being billed only to the land within the watershed of the tile, not the open section of the drain. This was so the project could be moved forward more quickly. Mr. Lanning further explained that the *George Wade Lateral 2 Tile Drain No. 31-02-0* to the west along the south side of County Road 60 would not be reconstructed, just tied back into the main. Mr. Lanning stated that there had not been any issues with that tile.

Mr. Hartman stated that he liked the plan and that the reconstruction needed to be done.

Ms. Kruse reminded Mr. Crawford and Mr. Lanning that the assessment scrolls and estimates needed to be presented to the Board before a hearing date could be set.

Mr. Lanning stated that he had the assessment scrolls and estimates ready and could present them if the Board would like. The Board members stated that they were willing to review them, and Mr. Lanning provided the assessment scrolls with the estimate of \$79,365.10, with a plus ten percent of \$87,301.61, and a cost per acre estimated at \$601.43.

Mr. Bungard explained that the plan had a section of the tile on Krafft's property with only 1.5 feet of cover, so not very deep. The reconstructed drain would be a longer run than the existing tile.

Mr. Lanning explained that the Kraffts would like to convert the open section across their property to tile. Mr. Lanning had been trying to research the drain to see if that section had ever been tiled but had not found any conclusive evidence. Mr. Lanning had an email out to the Department of Natural Resources to get information and direction from them regarding the conversion process. Mr. Lanning stated that the conversion would be done by the Kraffts under the Consent and Waiver process with oversight by the County Surveyor's staff.

Bill Hartman moved to set a Public Hearing date of June 6, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. Jim Miller seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Mr. Lanning then informed the Board that Dennis Moughler had been into the office to ask for maintenance on the *Mary Metcalf Open Drain No. 261-00-0*. The drain was backing up on Mr. Moughler's property and needed to be dipped. However, there was a gas pipeline that crossed the drain, preventing the Surveyor's staff from having the drain dipped. There were also outlets into the drain that needed to be lowered. Mr. Lanning has spoken with a Buckeye Pipeline representative and was going to meet with him to discuss the situation to see what could be done to get the drain moving. There was an insulation in which the pipeline could be wrapped in a worst-case scenario.

DISCUSSION


Mr. Miller asked when the *John Bemenderfer Lateral 3 Spur 1 Tile Drain No. 49-03-1* and the *John Bemenderfer Lateral 1 Drain No. 49-01-0* would be repaired by NIPSCO (Northern Indiana Public Service Company). Mr. Lanning stated that the NIPSCO representative had emailed to inform the office that the subcontractor planned to begin working on the repairs at the end of April. Mr. Miller stated that as a farmer the land currently underwater would be fallow for at least two years as being underwater for such a long period kills all of the biomes in the ground.

Mr. Hartman asked about the *William Bickel Tile Drain No. 133-00-0* reconstruction project. Mr. Lanning explained that the soils were very unusual. The soil was a goop that did not give off water

but was fluid and oozed like slime. The tile was not taking water. The contractor had dug up some of the tiles to find that it was plugged with soil. The contractor, Kevin Linnemeier, was at a loss as to how to proceed. Mr. Crawford stated that he and Mr. Linnemeier had talked about the project. The thought they had was to go to where the drain was open to pick it up from there to be able to run the tile more shallowly and out of the bad soils. Mr. Lanning stated that this was why there had been a Joint DeKalb/Noble Drainage Board meeting called for April 18, 2024. The project was currently at 73% of the engineer's estimate. Mr. Hartman stated that maybe dirt could be brought in to use as a cover for the tile.

There being no further business or discussion, Mr. Bell thanked everyone for attending the meeting and declared the meeting adjourned at 9:43 a.m.


Bruce Bell, II, Chairman


Michelle Lassiter, Secretary