

**MINUTES OF THE DEKALB COUNTY CEDAR CREEK DRAINAGE BOARD  
MEETING OF APRIL 25, 2019**

Chairman Bruce Laub called the Cedar Creek Drainage Board meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Present was Bruce Laub; James Deetz and Dennis Taylor.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Drainage Board Attorney Shannon E. Kruse; Administrative Assistant Brenda Myers; Surveyor Mike Kline and staff member Nate Frye.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Jim Deetz to approve the Cedar Creek Minutes of September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 as presented, seconded by Bruce Laub, motion carried.

**CEDAR CREEK STUDY:** Surveyor Mike Kline stated that what he has for the Board today is a proposal that was discussed at the Drainage Board meeting and that Board felt it more appropriate to be brought before the Cedar Creek Board. Mike said DNR is doing a study on Cedar Creek for floodplain establishments; he has a floodplain map that was done in the 1990's and the study that was done was not done the way it should have been, it was pushed through quickly and didn't have the quality it should have. The Maumee River Basin has been trying to get DNR to do a new study of the flood areas along Cedar Creek but they kept putting it off, finally they came up with some money to do it but in order for us to do it the county has to supply all of the cross-section data needed to plug in to the model to do the actual study; when they do the study Mike said he would have a better feeling on where the floodplains are and it should be a much better study. Mike said the DNR asked him to do the cross-sections and there are approximately twenty-five of those along Cedar Creek. Generally what they look at are cross-sections, bridges, culverts on Cedar Creek so they can tell what the limitations are through those openings and that determines how much water is being stored upstream of that structure and how far it spills out into the flood areas to cause damage. Mike said that he doesn't have time to do it so he talked to D. A. Brown Consultants who were going to do the ones at Heron Lake; the City of Auburn was going to take care of the city, and then the county would then take care of all the cross-sectional data outside of the city for the Heron Lake project. Auburn backed out so the Maumee River Basin is paying for all the cross sections in Auburn; the developer of Heron Lake is paying for a bunch of the ones around their development and then the county would have roughly the twenty-five that (we) the county would pay for. The quote from D. A. Brown was a lump sum of \$7,500.00 to do the county and Mike felt it appropriate to take that amount from the Cedar Creek drain fund. Mike said that the DNR has basically said that they have set money aside for this so if we don't do it now, not to come back asking at a later date because they won't do it then. The contract agreement will need to be put together and signed by the Chairman and will consist of being an agreement to spend \$7,500.00 for consultants to gather new data.

Dennie Taylor assumed we had the money to pay this and asked if there were any projects that would be curtailed due to paying this.

Mike said that the Cedar Creek drain fund collects \$110,000.00 per year so the money is not a problem. There is currently approximately \$200,000.00 in the fund, they have been spending it to get trees out of Cedar Creek; they have started on the bank stabilization project south of County Road 52. Technically they cannot be in the stream between March 31<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> but they've given the county a waiver because they are putting a row of logs at the bottom and building up on top of it and won't be in the stream. Once

that is complete they will focus on the Waterloo Waste Water Treatment Plant and armor that area of Cedar Creek's bank.

Jim Deetz questioned if this will affect agricultural owners or landowners, are we going to be expanding floodplains to where individuals now are farming and once this is done they would lose control of their land and Mike said no it's not like that at all. Jim asked who would be using the 'data' and Mike said it would basically be for the County Planning Department.

Mike said that DNR is doing the study; it has to go to FEMA who has to approve it for the final maps to be done. It won't affect anyone any differently, it will be more accurate data. Mike said they have met with Allen County in regards to Cedar Creek and one of their Board members was amazed at the problem at the county line and felt they needed to have their surveyor investigate on whether they want to make it regulated in their county. DNR has told him that if we want to move into Allen County, they can supply some of the funding through LARE grants but DeKalb County cannot obtain a grant for Allen County, they would have to get it through their Drainage Board. Mike said he hasn't gotten serious about it because he can't get in the stream until the end of September because of the broad-winged hawks possibly being in there, he said he would send it out for bids towards the end of summer.

Jim questioned the Drainage Board's liability in the issue at the Waterloo Treatment Plant, from what has been said in the past (by the surveyor) is that he has tried to put a plan together to fix this problem.

Mike said he has an approved plan and he can start working on it in June so they have been stockpiling trees and root-wads to armor that bank.

Dennie Taylor moved to authorize \$7,500.00 be taken from the Cedar Creek drain fund for the Cedar Creek Study and to authorize the Chairman to sign the contract agreement once prepared on behalf of the Cedar Creek Board, seconded by Jim Deetz, motion carried.

There being no further business, this meeting adjourned.

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Bruce Laub, Chairman

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Brenda F. Myers, Administrative Assistant