

MINUTES OF THE DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING OF NOVEMBER 19, 2020

Chairman Randall J. Deetz called the regular meeting of the DeKalb County Drainage Board to order at 8:30 a.m. Thursday November 19, 2020. Answering roll call was Randall J. Deetz; Michael E. Krehl; Donald D. Grogg; Jacqueline R. Rowan and William Hartman.

ALSO PRESENT: Drainage Board attorney Shannon E. Kruse; Administrative Assistant Brenda Myers; Surveyor Mike Kline and staff member Troy Bungard.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mike Watson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Jacqueline Rowan to approve the Minutes of November 12th, 2020 as standard minutes taken by the DeKalb County Drainage Board, seconded by Bill Hartman, motion carried.

RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS: Chairman Deetz stated that there has been discussion in the past of how, working as a Board, to move forward and take workload pressure off of the Surveyor and get projects done. Chairman Deetz reported that after a meeting with the surveyor he seemed extremely willing to listen and work with the Board however it is they want to proceed.

Mike Krehl reported that in that conversation the surveyor relayed that he felt that with his new-hires he would have a project ready soon after the first of the year (2021) to go to hearing.

Surveyor Kline stated that he will be helpful as much as possible.

Chairman Deetz stated that there are drain reconstruction projects that have been on the list for 5, 6, 7, 8+ years, the current Board for the most part wanted to have a plan in place to help the two new commissioners and new Board with a smooth transition in giving them an understanding of why those who are frustrated are frustrated. The cost of outside engineering would be added to those projects however the landowners in that watershed would have the ability to state (at hearing) if they are in favor of the costs associated with outside resources in getting the projects done. We have set guidelines in the past but need to get things moving and some of these smaller reconstruction projects would be a good entrance for the incoming elected officials to start with. A list of engineers was presented, as well as the form letter that is used by Steuben County when they hire for reconstruction projects. It was questioned of Commissioner Bill Hartman how he would prefer to proceed, does he want this Board to implement putting this in place or would his preference be to wait and let the new Board decide for themselves.

Bill Hartman stated that it is his understanding that for a Commissioner to set on this Board is optional, and due to the fact that there is no one representing the south half of DeKalb County sitting on the new Board, Todd Sanderson has willingly decided that he would forgo his seat on the Board to allow a search for someone residing in that district to sit on the Board in his place. Bill stated that he would look to this current Board for any recommendations; a few names were mentioned as to who to contact, preferably a farmer but it wouldn't have to be. Bill said he has had reservations of going to an outside source and he still has some reservations so, he would prefer to see how things play out in 2021 but he is just one voice.

Jacqueline Rowan stated that it is important to get projects done and she would prefer to see things moving ahead.

Don Grogg stated that he made mention that he would be willing to sit on the Board until someone could be found however he would not be available until April 2021.

Chairman Deetz stated that we owe it to the community to get those projects moving forward. There is a process that would need to happen:

- Declare the emergency, a list of stand-alone projects
- Costs, rates need to be in place for outside engineers
- And their interest needs to be known in doing projects for the county

Bill Hartman agreed that there should be a plan in place but not necessarily execute it, just have it ready to go and then if the surveyor comes to the Board saying he needs help, at that time we help or, if we see we are lagging behind, then we take it upon ourselves to jump in.

Mike Krehl said a plan needs to be in place and ready.

A motion was made by Bill Hartman to have a plan in place but not to execute at this time, seconded by Don Grogg, motion carried.

UTILITY PERMIT REQUEST – FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS: The project description is as follows: Boring a service drop from a point on the south west side of County Road 72 and County Road 39, then boring across County Road 72 and around the south side of the pond to the structure on site.

The county regulated drain involved: *Daniel Metcalf Drain Number 1414-00-0*

Don Grogg moved that the Board approve the Utility Permits for drain crossings in regard to the above drains and to authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board, seconded by Jacqueline Rowan, motion carried.

UTILITY PERMIT REQUEST – NISPCO: The project consists of work beginning approximately 1500' south of County Road 60 and ending approximately 1750' south of County Road 60. Work occurs in the north-south direction along the east side of County Road 31. Gas main being relocated to accommodate new County Road 62 extension and guardrail.

The county regulated drain involved: *James Ferguson Drain Number 86-00-0*

Don Grogg moved that the Board approve the Utility Permit for drain crossings in regard to the above drain and to authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board, seconded by Jacqueline Rowan, motion carried.

FRED GROSCUP JR DRAIN NUMBER 335-00-0: Surveyor Kline stated that he has the plans for the reconstruction of the Fred Groscup Jr. drain and a Consent and Waiver has been prepared and once signatures are gathered this project is ready to go. The estimated cost is \$51,099.15 and he added 10% for a total of \$56,209.06 but the surveyor felt he could get the cost down another \$4,000 to save money.

Chairman Deetz stated that he wanted consensus that there is money in an account for this to be paid for by the Commissioners and Don Grogg stated that there is, and Randy said he would contact the landowner and the tenant farmer to obtain the needed signatures.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS: Surveyor Kline asked that funds be transferred on two different drains with the first one being on the *Eric Morris Drain Number 416-00-0*, the first invoice on that project came out of the maintenance fund instead of the reconstruction and therefore \$9,700.00 needs transferred back to the maintenance fund to correct that invoice. Mike asked that on the *Eric Morris Drain Number 416-00-0* a transfer of \$9,252.00 from the maintenance fund to the reconstruction fund to pay for the cost of the boring pipe that wasn't used. Mike said that needs to be transferred into the maintenance

fund and then as soon as they have a spot for it then he will ask to transfer money from whatever drain they are using it on back into the maintenance fund for the Eric Morris.

Chairman Deetz asked that Mike go through that again for clarification because that is being taken from the maintenance for the boring and putting it into reconstruction?

Mike said no, we are taking it from the reconstruction and putting it into the maintenance, what he is doing is he is paying for the cost of the pipe out of the maintenance fund, which relieves the reconstruction fund of that cost because he can't have that cost in the reconstruction fund and have the reconstruction project pay for something that was not used on the project. Maintenance is paying for that pipe and that pipe then goes into the maintenance. Right now the reconstruction is paying for that pipe and when he bills that out as collection, he has pipe that was never used on the project; he has to get it into maintenance somewhere so it is not in the reconstruction.

It was noted that in order for this transfer to happen, the administrative assistant will need to generate a letter to the Auditor which the Board will then have to sign.

A motion was made by Mike Krehl to authorize the transfer of \$9,700.00 from the reconstruction drain fund to be placed in the maintenance drain fund of the Eric Morris Drain Number 416-00-0, and for authorization of the transfer of \$9,252.00 from the maintenance drain fund to be placed in the reconstruction drain fund of the Eric Morris Drain Number 416-00-0, seconded by Bill Hartman, motion carried.

THE SECOND REQUEST FOR TRANSFER is on the *William Bickel Drain Number 133-00-0* where a transfer of \$9,324.00 from the maintenance fund to the reconstruction fund and that is necessary to pay for the additional tile that is sitting on-site waiting to be installed as a maintenance cost. Surveyor Kline stated that they had the additional tile that needs to be billed out.

A motion was made by Don Grogg to authorize the transfer of \$9,324.00 from the maintenance drain fund to be placed in the reconstruction drain fund of the William Bickel Drain Number 133-00-0, seconded by Bill Hartman, motion carried.

A conversation with the Auditor was had after the meeting and it was determined that a letter is not necessary for these transfers to take place, however a signed copy of these detailed minutes will be needed for the transfers.

OZRO FREEMAN DRAIN NUMBER 175-00-0: Materials have been delivered and Gene Clifford is to start working on that project today according to Mike Kline who said he has been working with Mr. Prosser on the location of the drain and staying away from a proposed wetland area.

WILLIAM BICKEL DRAIN NUMBER 133-00-0: Surveyor Kline stated that his field guys have rode this system; there weren't any real holes across the Hartman property, there was one out in the field they located and there may be others that weren't seen; they went on across to shoot that area and found a lot has been opened up into the woods where there is an open tile and that bothers him. It was shown on the map the area that the 800' of tile that they have to install, it will not take it all the way across the area; Mike said he will use as much of the maintenance fund as necessary to get across there and then they can decide what to do from there.

MANOAH MILLER DRAIN NUMBER 88-00-0: Surveyor Kline stated they are working on putting the new culvert pipe under County Road 43, it will probably get finished today; they will bottom dip up to State Road 8 so they are prepared for the State to put their new pipe under; they will be three to three and a half feet deeper and that will get rid

of Mr. Goings pump and issues with drainage on the rest of the tile. The Highway purchased the pipe and the rest of the cost is being paid from the maintenance fund.

FRITZ BARTELS DRAIN NUMBER 406-00-0: Surveyor Kline stated they are working on this project; Indiana & Michigan Power is building/extending their pad on County Road 68 and County Road 31 with a new system. Mike said he may be asking the Board to approve a special assessment to the highway because this will be big enough to take the highway drainage off and not cause any problems on the road, it would be an upcharge between whatever size he needs for the normal agricultural drainage and then the size for the road drainage at a couple of bucks a foot. Mike said that he is putting a little extra capacity in this system because Mrs. Wilcoxson's property they (I&M) put a new line across and didn't actually tie in, it is stubbed in there because the line doesn't work that well but they need to tie that in; it drains the property which is not really in the watershed but the Board allowed that to happen.

Chairman Deetz asked if this would be done with reconstruction and if a hearing has been scheduled.

Mike Kline said he would get that all ready, hold a hearing and be ready to put that in the ground.

INFORMATIONAL: Surveyor Kline said they are working on the drains to collect for maintenance in 2021.

JOHN KETCHAM DRAIN NUMBER 334-00-0: The city of Auburn has chosen A & Z Engineering to do the study on this drain and the west end of the city and what needs to be done out there. Mike will work with them to get the information needed on both the John Ketcham system as well as the *Auburn Industrial Drain Number 256-00-0*, as it is in dire need of reconstruction work; it has been patched but is in bad shape being held up with two by four's and basement jacks. Mike said when they get the new Fred Groscup Jr. Drain Number 335-00-0 to the county pond, he will go over and block/plug the Ketcham drain where it goes under I-69 and that will relieve some of the water. Once this is complete he will ask to vacate the drain and give jurisdiction to Auburn.

GUY PLATTER DRAIN NUMBER 112-00-0: The State doesn't care if they jack/bore but according to Surveyor Kline they will not pay for it. Mike said he is trying to come up with a good cost estimate on the open cut and he is getting costs on the jack and bore, so if they will pay for the open cut and we want to pay for the jack and bore, we can go ahead and get started on it; as soon as he gets the numbers finished up he will bring it to the Board to look at.

Mike Krehl said he would like to see this one done.

INFORMATIONAL: Chairman Deetz questioned if there was a need with both DeKalb County and Steuben County getting new elected officials if they need to meet before the end of the year. If not he asked that the surveyor's office be very accommodating in reaching out so the transition for both counties go smoothly. If there are things unfinished then we should try to get that buttoned up. The money issue will have to be taken care of with State Board/Auditor. Randy stated that Ashley was in last spring and we assured them it would be done in 2020 so he would like to let them know where we are on the *Robert Johnson Drain Number 3003-00-0*.

Mike said that Larry Gilbert had told him there was plenty of money in that drain fund and could be used if necessary, so we may run a deal with the state that here is the cost

for open cut, here's the cost for jack and bore and we will pay the difference for jack and bore and everyone can be happy and out of there.

Chairman Deetz stated that the concern he has is the State revenue could be down a lot due to COVID and we may find they don't have the budget to do these projects, we need to get these done as quickly as possible.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

Randall J. Deetz, Chairman

Brenda F. Myers, Administrative Assistant