

DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

March 4, 2021

Drainage Commissioners Present: Vice Chairman Michael E. Krehl
William Hartman, Member
Michael V. Watson, Member
Bruce Bell II, Member

Others Present: First Deputy Surveyor Nathan Frye
Drainage Board Secretary Michelle Lassiter
Attorney Shannon Kruse

Guests: Tom Miller
James Deetz

Absent: Chairman Randall J. Deetz
Surveyor Michael C. Kline

Vice Chairman Michael E. Krehl called the regular meeting of the DeKalb County Drainage Board to order at 8:30 a.m.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY

After a brief discussion regarding the retirement of Drainage Board Secretary Brenda Myers, with the confirmation that the County Commissioners had discussed appointing the Surveyor's Office Manager Michelle Lassiter as Drainage Board Secretary, member Mike Watson made a motion to appoint Michelle Lassiter as Drainage Board Secretary. Member Bill Hartman seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a voice vote, with all members voting in the affirmative.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Bill Harman to approve the Minutes of February 18, 2021 as the standard minutes of the DeKalb County Drainage Board. The motion was seconded by Mike Watson. Vice Chairman Krehl asked for a voice vote, with all members voting in the affirmative

INFORMATION

Tom Miller regarding the Paul Funk Drain Number 3-00-0 and the Mary Metcalf Drain Number 261-00-0 – Tom Miller of 4094 County Road 12, Waterloo, Indiana took the podium after handing out informational packets on each of the drains. Mr. Miller stated that he wanted to provide information on both of the drains to the commissioners and to find out when the drains would be repaired and/or dipped.

Paul Funk Drain – The following points of information came out of the discussion with Mr. Miller.

- Mr. Miller submitted a reconstruction request in 2018 with a consent and waiver signed by himself and his neighbors, one of whom is now deceased.
- The Surveyor's office is unable to locate the request, but is willing to honor the 2018 submission date and keep the drain in the 9th ranking on the list of reconstructions.

- Projects with consent and waivers can be moved through the reconstruction process faster than those that require public hearings.
- The length of pipe in need of reconstruction is approximately 4,000 feet long and would require a 30 inch pipe.
- There are potential wetlands involved. The potential wetlands may be due to the drain not working properly.
- There are two rough designs for the project, one of which would include rerouting the drain under a TransCanada gas line and cost approximately \$200,000. The other design has the drain following its current route.
- The Board members asked the Secretary to see if she could located the reconstruction request paperwork. The Attorney to bring the criteria set in place for deciding the list of reconstructions. And the Surveyor's Office to provide updates on the drain condition and repair costs.
- Mr. Miller was reminded that the Drainage Board did not like to see landowners doing major repairs of the County Regulated Drains and that the Surveyor's Office has to approve all drain reconstruction designs.

Mary Metcalf Drain – Location is on County Road 71 south of County Road 16.

- The drain needs to be dipped and there is an exposed pipeline across the drain.
- Mr. Miller was informed that maintenance issues are handled by the Surveyor's Office and he needs to work with that office to get the dipping done.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Krehl asked for the Surveyor's Report and Nathan Frye presented the following:

- The Surveyor's and Drainage Board Offices have moved to 220 E. Seventh St., Ste. 130, the previous location of the Title IV-D office, and is in the process of unpacking.
- **The 2021 Certification for Assessments for the Maintenance Funds** of 280 drains. Through a discussion with the Board, Mr. Frye explained the criteria for deciding which drains needed collections. He explained that drains in a negative status must be collected. After that, drains with less than one year of funds and drains that collect only \$500 - \$600 a year are included. Then the following information is looked at to further decide which drains to include:
 - any drain in need of repair
 - the size of the drain vs. the amount of funds available
 - how much is in the drain fund compared to what is collected yearly
 - the condition of the drain, to project costs for upcoming repairs or reconstruction
 - the number of watersheds and drains in an area so that landowners don't get charged for all of them at once

Mr. Krehl asked for a motion regarding the 2021 Certificates for Drains. Mike Watson made a motion to accept the list of drains for certification as presented. Bruce Bell II seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a voice vote, with all members voting in the affirmative.

- **Guy Platter Drain 112-00-0 Reconstruction Contract:** Mr. Frye presented the contract between the DeKalb County Drainage Board and Knott Excavation for the reconstruction of the Guy Platter Drain 112-00-0. Mike Watson made a motion to accept the contract as present between the DeKalb County Drainage Board and Knott Excavation for the reconstruction of the Guy Platter Drain 112-00-0. Bill Hartman seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a voice vote, with all members voting in the affirmative. Mr. Frye was asked when the work begin. He stated that the work could begin as early as the next week, dependent on how dry the fields were. He also stated Hixson Sand and Gravel would supply materials for the job.

INFORMATION

Attorney Shannon Kruse informed the Board that she had done some research into the State Statutes regarding how bids and quotes should be handled. She stated the State Drainage Code didn't really address the issue, but that everyone had agreed that anything \$75,000 and over should be bid out, received in sealed envelopes, and opened in a public meeting. Ms. Kruse stated as the Drainage Code did not address quotes, she went to Title 4 Article 13 of the State Statutes pertaining to State Administration and Public Works to see how quotes were handled there. In Section D of that section, it stated quotes should be in writing, sealed and opened at public meetings. Ms. Kruse stated that she would recommend the Board follow that same procedure.

Mr. Krehl inquired about the status of the reconstruction of the remainder of the William Bickel Drain 133-00-0. Mr. Frye informed the Board that Surveyor, Mike Kline had met with Randy Sexton, Surveyor of Noble County. However, Mr. Frye was not aware of the meeting outcome and would have to contact Mr. Kline. Mr. Kline has been out of the office due to health issues. Mr. Krehl stated he wanted the tile off his property prior to planting season. Mr. Frye stated he would try to comply with the request.

Mr. Krehl stated going forward, he wanted to ensure that meeting cancellations were sent to the newspaper in a timely manner. Mrs. Lassiter stated she could take care of cancellation notices going forward.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.



Michael E. Krehl, Vice Chairman



Michelle Lassiter, Administrative Assistant