

## DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

April 15, 2021

### **Drainage Commissioners Present:**

Chairman Randall J. Deetz  
Vice Chairman, Michael E. Krehl  
Michael V. Watson, Member  
Bruce Bell II, Member

### **Others Present:**

First Deputy Surveyor Nathan Frye  
Drainage Board Admin. Asst. Michelle Lassiter  
Attorney Shannon Kruse

### **Guests:**

David Brown - DABEC

### **Absent:**

Surveyor Michael C. Kline  
William L. Hartman, Member

Chairman Randall J. Deetz called the regular meeting of the DeKalb County Drainage Board to order at 8:30 a.m.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mike Krehl to approve the Minutes of April 8, 2021 as the standard minutes of the DeKalb County Drainage Board. The motion was seconded by Mike Watson. Chairman Deetz asked for a vote, motion was approved all members who attended the meeting voting in the affirmative, and with Chairman Deetz abstaining due to his absence from the April 8, 2021 meeting.

### **DRAINAGE BOARD SCHEDULE OF CLAIMS**

Mr. Deetz stated there was a claim to Shannon Kruse for services for the month of April 2021 in the amount of \$1,295.00 submitted for approval. Mike Watson moved to approve the claim to Shannon Kruse for April 2021 services in the amount of \$1,295.00. Mike Krehl seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

### **SURVEYOR'S REPORT**

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

- Mr. Frye presented a Utility Permit request from NIPSCO to install a 2 inch plastic gas main along the west side of County Road 19 traversing from County Road 40 to 3883 County Road 19 with a directional bore under the *Mary McDowell Lateral 1 Drain 238-01-0*. After a short discussion, Bruce Bell II moved to approve the request and issue the Utility Permit to NIPSCO. Mike Krehl seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous verbal vote.
- Mr. Frye presented a letter from Right of Way Management which had provided spraying services on the open drains for the last four years. The company was requesting to be allowed to continue providing the services at the same rate. After some discussion, Mike Watson made a motion to extend Right of Way Management's contract for one year, with a written letter to be sent stipulating such, and the Board would be brought a three year bid package at the end of 2021 to be approved and sent out. Bruce Bell II seconded the motion and it carried with a unanimous vote.
- Mr. Frye informed the Board there were two land owners who were refusing the Surveyor's Office access to maintain the drains on their properties. Ms. Kruse advised the Surveyor's Office to send letters to the land owners both via certified mail and standard mail advising

them of when the Surveyor's Office and associated contractors would be onsite and that access must be granted.

- *Guy Platter Drain 112-00-0*: Mr. Frye informed the Board the dipping of the drain was completed, the contractor should have the 24 inch tile installed on the south side of State Road 8 on Friday, April 16, 2021, and start on the north side of State Road 8 on Monday, April 19, 2021. The crossing of State Road 8 could not take place until after April 30, 2021, as the route was being used for a detour for road work being done in Ohio.
- *Frederick Groscop Jr Drain 335-00-0*: Mr. Frye stated that he and Mike Watson would be meeting with the Auburn Mayor and City Engineering Director on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 to discuss the interlocal-agreement needed for the project.
- *Fritz Bartels Drain 408-00-0*:
  - Mr. Frye stated he had met with Roland Seiler of Seiler Farms. Mr. Seiler's only concern with the project was that he wanted either a lateral of the drain ran on his property or an easement to run across Mr. Freeman's property to tie into the drain. Mr. Frye stated the drain capacity would handle a 100 foot, 12 inch lateral without any issues and the cost increase would be negligible. The Seiler Farms property is either the largest or next to largest property in the drain's watershed. The Board consensus was to include the lateral, as they felt an easement would be on the line for a land taking.
  - Mr. Frye also had met with Stanley Freeman, who was fine with the project design.
  - Mr. Frye informed the Board he had spoken by phone with Dr. Mark Souder and needed to send the details to him for his review. Mr. Frye stated that Dr. Souder seemed amicable to the design concept. The Board and Ms. Kruse stated they wanted a signed agreement with Dr. Souder stating he was agreeable to the overland flow across his property from the drain outlet.
- *C.B. Kagey Drain 225-00-0*: Mr. Frye informed the Board that Mike Kline was reviewing the reconstruction design for cost reductions.
- *George Matson Lateral 11 Drain 73-11-0*: Mr. Frye stated that Mike Kline had concerns with the project and had Troy Bungard of the Surveyor's Office going through project calculations.
- *William Bickel Drain 113-00-0*
  - Mr. Frye was waiting to hear back from the Noble County Surveyor, Randy Sexton. The Board requested Mr. Frye reach out to Mr. Sexton and keep the project moving.
- *Paul Funk Drain 3-00-0*: Mr. Frye informed the Board that Mr. Bungard was continuing to run an analysis on the drain route. The route was being analyzed to determine which would be more beneficial taking the drain through the woods or parallel to the existing drain. The Board stated they would like to see the woods avoided due to maintenance reasons as much as possible. The Board also encouraged Mr. Frye to speak with the land owner to discuss this section of the reconstruction. This project was seventh or eighth on the priority list. It was a second tier project that was being worked on as there was time available.

- *Levi Dennison Drain 317-00-0 and Ora Bohler Drain 54-00-0*: Mr. Frye stated these drains did not have much work happening due to where they sat on the priority list.
- Mr. Frye stated he had listened in on a webinar regarding a report on the health of the St. Joe River. He stated that the Maumee River Basin Commission had all three DeKalb County Commissioners listed as members. The main take away of the webinar was over all the St. Joe River was in good shape. However, *Cedar Creek Drain 470-00-0* was not doing so well. Cedar Creek was approximately 25% of the St. Joe River watershed, yet contributed 50% of the flow during a flood event. The report also stated the log jams located in the Allen County portion of Cedar Creek should remain undisturbed until the issues causing the situation were resolved. Mr. Frye stated he would like to get a copy of the report and meet with the Director of the Maumee River Basin Commission, Rod Renkenberger, to discuss this situation and how Cedar Creek should be addressed going forward.

### **GARRETT PLAN COMMISSION PETITION – HERITAGE ESTATES SECTION II PLAT**

The Heritage Estates Section II Plat drainage plan was presented by Mr. David Brown from D. A. Brown Engineering Consultants, 5491 County Road 427, Auburn, Indiana.

Mr. Brown stated the drainage plan for the plat was designed for less than 0.18 cfs with the pipes planned for a 10 year rain event, and the detention planned for a 100 year rain event with a maximum of eight acres of storage. Mr. Brown further explained a 10 year rain event was 80% of a 100 year rain event. There would be one control structure with a direct connection from the detention to the *Elias Schopf Drain 242-00-0*. Mr. Brown also stated he had updated calculations he would email to Mr. Frye. Mr. Frye stated the 0.18 cfs exceeds the county's .25 cfs and provided better drainage than undeveloped land. Ms. Kruse informed the Board the *Elias Schopf Drain 242-00-0* reconstruction design was over engineered due to County Surveyor Mike Kline being aware of the potential for future development along this drain. Mr. Frye presented the Surveyor's Report regarding the drainage plan for this subdivision, stating the subdivision was within the watershed of the *Elias Schopf Drain 242-00-0*. The plat exceeded the standards of the County and City of Garrett and would require a drainage plan. The Surveyor's Office had reviewed and approved the drainage plan, recommending the Drainage Board approve the drainage plan and forward a letter of recommendation to the Garrett Plan Commission. Mike Watson moved to approve the drainage plan for Heritage Estates Section II and forward a letter of recommendation to the Garrett Plan Commission. Bruce Bell II seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

### **INFORMATIONAL**

Mr. Deetz then addressed Mr. Frye stating he knew there were difficult situations within the Surveyor's Office, but he still wanted to see projects moving forward through the hearing phases. After a brief discussion, Mr. Frye stated he would bring the assessment rolls and an updated list of engineering costs for the *Fritz Bartels Drain 408-00-0* to the April 22, 2021 Drainage Board meeting so that a date could be set for either an informational meeting or a reconstruction hearing.

Mrs. Lassiter brought to the Board's attention an Improvement Location Permit application that had been sent to the Surveyor's Office for review for 2822 County Road 56. The application proposed a shared drive with 2858 County Road 56. There was a considerable proportion of the property shown as potential wetlands along the northern sections of both properties in the GIS maps. Mrs. Lassiter wanted guidance from the Board in how to respond to the review request. The Board and Ms. Kruse advised to state that no county regulated drains were affected, but during the review, it was noticed

on the maps used by the Surveyor's Office there were large areas of potential wetlands that should be taken into consideration.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

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Randall J. Deetz, Chairman

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Michelle Lassiter, Administrative Assistant