

DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

April 28, 2022

Drainage Commissioners Present:

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

Others Present:

Michael C. Kline, County Surveyor
Michelle Lassiter, Sec. /Drainage Board Admin. Asst.

Guests: None

Absent: Shannon Kruse, Attorney

Chairman Mike Watson 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 Sandy Harrison to approve the Minutes of April 14, 2022, as presented, as the standard minutes of the DeKalb County Drainage Board. The motion was seconded by Bruce Bell, II, the motion was carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Mr. Watson asked for a motion for Ms. Kruse's May stipend of \$1,295.00. Bruce Bell, II moved to approve Ms. Kruse's May stipend of \$1,295.00, Bill Hartman seconded the motion, motion carried.

Wayne Weller: Mr. Wayne Weller had requested to be placed on the agenda to discuss the Aaron Baker Drain No. 216-00-0, but did not show.

DRAINAGE PLAN

Mr. Kline informed the Board that Color Master of 810 South Broadway Street in Butler had submitted drainage plans for an expansion for review and approval. Due to a technology issue, all members gathered around hard copies of the plans, while Mr. Kline explained the project. The project was making no changes to the site drainage. Mr. Kline explained that when the property owned by Forrest River was delivered in the future Color Master's drainage would be interrupted and recommended that Color Master be required to connect to the storm sewer constructed at that time. A motion was made by Jim Miller to approve the drainage plan with the condition that Color Master be required to tie into a storm sewer when one became available. The motion was seconded by Bill Hartman, the motion carried.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Watson asked for the Surveyor's Report and Mr. Kline provided the following information:

FRED GROSCUP JR. TILE DRAIN NO. 335-00-0: Mr. Kline stated he had the Fred Groscup Jr. plans ready to advertise for bids. He explained the county-owned pond was up higher than it should be. He further explained that the *John Ketcham Drain No. 334-00-0* was not draining to the pond as the pond was three to four feet above the *Ketcham Drain*. Mr. Kline planned to dig a trench to the pond to drain it to a normal level, then would set a new structure to keep it down. The project would require the pond to provide several acres of storage. Mr. Kline asked the Board if the members knew who farmed the land owned by Parkview Health. The members stated they believed it was farmed by Brechbill Farms, and Mr. Kline should call Sarah Delbecq of Brechbill Farms to discuss the project's schedule.

JOHN KETCHAM DRAIN TILE NO. 334-00-0: Mr. Kline stated he had met with the City of Auburn Mayor and individuals looking to develop the property south of Kentucky Fried Chicken. The City is looking to run the drain down State Road 8 to the access drive to the property. The City was working with the A to Z engineering firm to develop the plans. A contract had been sent to Ms. Kruse for review. The developers were working with ForeSight Consultants on the site development plans.

The City had at first wanted to conduct the reconstruction in two phases, but Mr. Kline had explained to them the State Drainage Code requirements. Mr. Kline's also explained that ForeSight Consultants had worked on the *Butler City Drain No. 200-00-0* reconstruction project. The City was then considering hiring ForeSight Consultants to draw the plans instead of the firm they were currently working with. Mr. Kline stated this reconstruction would be like the Butler and Garret drain projects. The City of Auburn would need to pay for the reconstruction, even though they were asking the County to pay for half of the reconstruction cost. The Commissioners might want to have a conversation with the city regarding payment arrangements.

Hurand wanted to start clearing ground this year, with development taking place next year. The developers for the land south of KFC wanted to begin work next year as well. This was why it was important to get the *Fred Groscup Jr. Drain No. 335-00-0* reconstructed as soon as possible.

Mr. Kline explained to the Board there had been a change in the State Drainage Code regarding bidding requirements from \$75,000 to \$150,000 for the need to publish requests for bids in the newspaper.

E. P. SHERWOOD DRAIN NO. 50-00-0: Mr. Kline stated he had inspected the drain. The wetlands had grown considerably in size and followed land contours. He stated the reconstruction of the drain could follow the contour to stay out of the wetlands. He stated getting around the east side of the wetlands would be challenging due to the topography. Mr. Kline stated the County Highway Department might need to bring the road's low spot up to put the structures by the road. He would begin working on the plans.

FERGUSON WARNER LATERAL DRAIN NO. 86-53-0: Mr. Kline stated that in the area where the flooding was happening, both ends were at the same elevation. Mr. Kline would start at County Road 427 to clear the drain and bottom dip it 1 ½ to 2 feet to get it working. There were a couple of ponds that would need to be picked up. A tile could be installed to pick up the two properties that the owner had been complaining about the flooding.

CITY OF GARRETT: Mr. Kline informed the Board he had been contacted by Garrett's Mayor requesting assistance with flooding issues on North Randolph Street in Garrett. Several residential yards had been underwater for several months. Mr. Kline stated he had an idea for a plan that would relieve the issue. He would put it together, explain, and give it to the Mayor for the City of Garrett to implement. A plan for additional development on the north side of Garrett was also discussed and the drainage plan would need to be paid for by the City of Garrett, not the County.

WILLIAM BICKEL DRAIN NO. 133-00-0: Mr. Kline asked Bill Hartman to talk to the Frazies regarding the information that was obtained through the 368 meeting with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the drain reconstruction.

DISCUSSION

FRITZ BARTELS TILEDRAIN NO. 408-00-0: Mr. Hartman asked about the progress of the drain reconstruction. Mr. Kline stated it was completed. He further explained that Roland Seiler had been in the trench working on the project. Mr. Kline stated the end of the tile was left open so Mr. Seiler

could tie in for field pattern tiling. Mr. Kline stated this action would be dumping a lot of water onto Mark Souder's property. Mr. Hartman asked if there was any way to restrict the discharge from the pattern tiling. Mr. Kline stated per Purdue University, there needed to be structures put on the pattern tile outlets to help manage the stormwater release rates. The structures would be opened when a large rain event took place and closed during dry spells to eliminate water usage for field irrigation.

GUY PLATTER DRAIN NO. 112-00-0: Mr. Kline stated there was pipe left over from the reconstruction of the *ERIC MORRIS DRAIN NO. 416-00-0* that could be used for the road crossing. Mr. Kline stated he wanted to use a jack & bore for the crossing. The State wanted a comparison of cost between the jack & bore and an open cut crossing. Mr. Kline stated the drain is not working well. The water coming from the field had pushed mud into the tile, which needed to be cleaned out. Two things were needed to get the State permit, the crossing comparison costs, and the details and cost for the detour. Mr. Kline was going to work with Three Rivers Barricade to get the detour details and cost.

Mrs. Harrison stated she had been contacted by the owner of Erwin Auto regarding drainage on his property caused by an expansion by a trailer manufacturer in Butler. The discussion included information that the manufacturer's addition was constructed first, with the piping being installed after. Mr. Erwin and the manufacturer were having communication issues. Mr. Kline stated the manufacturer was supposed to have installed a swale to direct the water away from Mr. Erwin's property. Mr. Kline stated he would pull the approved plan to compare what was done versus what the plans showed. If the work did not meet the plan requirements a letter could be sent requiring the situation to be rectified. Mr. Kline stated situations such as this were why a county Drainage Ordinance was needed since the State Code did not provide a penalty section for enforcement.

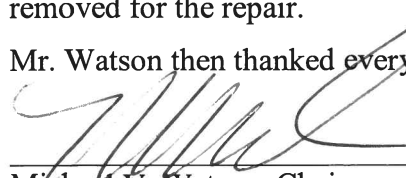
Mrs. Harrison stated that Mr. Everett Berryhill had contacted her stating that Mr. Kummer's pattern tiling had created a bigger issue for the neighbors. Mr. Kline stated the only remedy for Mr. Berryhill was for the Board to approve a reconstruction plan that would help Mr. Berryhill and the other landowners in the *LEVI DENNISON DRAIN NO. 317-00-0*, not just help Mr. Kummer. Mr. Kline stated that Mr. Kummer had cut the tile five or six times with his pattern tiling. Mr. Kummer had not been made to correct the issue as the past Board did not want to get involved. Mr. Kline stated that Gensic Engineering would be at the next meeting with drawings for the Board to review. There were two options. Once there were some calculations, Mr. Berryhill would be invited to look at the plans.

Mr. Bell stated that the county's farmers had a lack of regard for county-regulated drains. Mrs. Harrison agreed with the statement. Mr. Hartman stated that when a farmer tied into a county-regulated drain the process needed to be supervised by the Surveyor's office to ensure it was done correctly. The Board members all agreed. It was noted the State Code stated the Surveyor's approval was needed to tie into a county-regulated drain. The Surveyor was supposed to review the discharge amount, and the capacity of the drain to ensure the tie-in did not burden the downstream neighbors. There was a consensus there needed to be education regarding the procedure and the science behind it.

HARRY SHULL DRAIN NO. 109-00-0: Mr. Kline stated that there was to be another try to bore the road today. The contractor had failed in the endeavor three times. The contractor had spoken with the tool manufacturer and the pipe manufacturer and was going to use a new material to mix with water during the pulling of the pipe under the road. The contractor would also use caps on the pipe to prevent the solution from running down the inside of the pipe. LaOtto Excavating (Fred Knott)

would be onsite to push the pipe if needed. Should this try fail, the Surveyor had a bigger company out of Fort Wayne who could work on the project in mid-May. Dick Shankle of the Friends of DeKalb County Trails sent a letter expressing discontent with the damage to the bikeway. Mr. Kline explained the bikeway is in the drain right-of-way and by code, the Surveyor and Board were not responsible for the repair of the bikeway. The City may be able to repair the bikeway as it is also in the road right-of-way. Mr. Kline did not have funds for the repair, as the drain repair would put the drain account in the red for approximately ten years. As for the drop-off Mr. Shankle had concerns with, it had been there all along, just camouflaged by the bushes and vegetation that had been removed for the repair.

Mr. Watson then thanked everyone for attending the meeting and declared it adjourned at 9:42 a.m.



Michael V. Watson, Chairman

Michelle Lassiter, Administrative Assistant