

DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

May 12, 2022

Drainage Commissioners Present:

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

Others Present:

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

Guests:

Joe Gabet, ForeSight Consulting
Rebecca Fortman
Brooke Harrell
Jan Creager
Tim Creager
Ryan Ridge
Janet Ridge
Brenda Bontrager

Absent: James A. Miller, Member

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 Bill Hartman to approve the Minutes of April 28, 2022, as presented, as the standard minutes of the DeKalb County Drainage Board. The motion was seconded by Sandy Harrison, the motion was carried.

DRAINAGE PLAN

AUBURN SPORTS COMPLEX: Mr. Kline informed the Board that Auburn Sports Complex was requesting approval of the drainage plan for the site. Joe Gabet of ForeSight Consulting, LLC presented the plan starting by saying the Auburn Plan Commission approved the development plans conditional to the DeKalb County Drainage Board approving the drainage plans. Mr. Gabet stated there would be eight ball diamonds and soccer fields outside. The existing large building and several smaller buildings would be retained with a new building to be constructed in the near future. The old office building would be demolished. The existing pavilion building would be relocated behind the large building. In addition, there would be concessions, restrooms, and announcement buildings constructed. A large section of the existing parking lot would be removed and new drainage would be added to the site.

The site was located in two watersheds. The north section of the site drained to the north to a low depression area that was wetland and floodplain, with a vacated drain located to the east. The south section drained to the southwest to two existing ponds. The oldest pond on the site was unable to be changed due to oversight by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). The outlet for the larger pond could not be located. The smaller pond would have 2.48 cfs release rates which will exceed the requirement of .2 cfs per acre equaling 10 cfs total.

The plan was for the ball diamonds to drain to the ponds on the east side of the property, with the water elevation to be lowered to increase the pond's capacity. The size of the pond could not be increased due to the proximity to the airport. The ball diamonds on the northeast would drain to the

north with modeling flow rates for a 100-year storm event with release rates of 10.1 cfs which would exceed the required .2 cfs per acre rate which would equal 18 cfs.

Mr. Kline reported the site was in the watersheds of the *George Shull Tile Drain No. 33-00-0* and the *Garrett City Drain No. 44-00-0*. Mr. Kline stated he had worked with Mr. Gabet for several weeks to get the current plan. Mr. Kline felt it was a good plan that kept all the stormwater on-site with adequate retention provided. Mr. Kline explained the small pond on the south side released under Interstate 69 to the *George Shull Tile Drain No. 33-00-0*. The culvert under the highway was working well. The plans as designed and presented would provide a slower release rate than required. All water would stay onsite and would not impact neighboring properties. This development would not add an undue burden to the watershed. Mr. Kline recommended the Board approve the Auburn Sports Complex drainage plan dated 03.08.2022, as designed and explained by ForeSight Consulting, LLC.

A motion was made by Sandy Harrison to approve the drainage plan with a favorable recommendation to the Auburn Plan Commission. The motion was seconded by Brue Bell, II, the motion carried.

RIDGE ESTATES: Ryan Ridge presented the drainage plan for Ridge Estates on behalf of his parents, Jeff & Sherry Ridge. Mr. Ridge stated there had been two soil boring taken for the subdivision. Mr. Ridge explained there was a field tile on the site that tied into the county-regulated *Fred Bunge Tile Drain No. 274-00-0*.

Mr. Kline then gave his report stating “The plat does not appear to exceed the threshold set by the Drainage Board for additional drainage improvements. This development shall not block off-site drainage across the site. Stormwater from this lot shall be directed onto the parent tract and not onto adjoining tracts. This report is subject to any additional information submitted at the Plan Commission hearing. Any permanent structure within the Drain statutory right-of-way will require a variance from the Drainage Board” Mr. Kline advised Mr. Ridge that any permanent structures built within the county-regulated drain right-of-way would require a variance from the Drainage Board. Mr. Ridge stated he understood.

Bill Hartman moved to approve the drainage plan dated 05.02.2022, sealed, and signed by Michael C. Vodde, of Anderson Surveying, Inc., with the Surveyor’s recommendations, sending a favorable recommendation to the DeKalb County Plan Commission, the motion was seconded by Bruce Bell, II, motion carried.

GUEST COMMUNICATIONS – OTHER THAN AGENDA ITEMS

E. P. GRIFFIN DRAIN NO. 224-00-0: Mrs. Rebecca Fortman of 1986 County Road 68 took the floor to state she had seen Board minutes stating consultants were to be hired to research the drain and would like a status update. Mrs. Fortman stated her family had to get rid of their cattle due to hoof rot from the flooding of their land by the dysfunctional drain.

Mr. Kline explained that the drain was being shut off by sand deposits by *Cedar Creek Drain No. 470-00-0*. Mr. Kline was going to have a contractor dip the end of the *E. P. Griffin Drain No. 224-00-0*. The issue with the creek was due to the log jams in Allen County backing up and slowing the creek down so it could build a sand bar at the end of the drain. In addition, Cedar Creek in Allen County was not a regulated drain, so there were no funds in Allen County to help clean the creek. Mr. Kline further explained the water level was above the outlet causing issues. Mr. Kline stated he was looking for a consultant to help with creating a solution to prevent the creek from building sand bars at the end of the drain. The area where the drain outlets to the creek is both a wetland and a

floodplain and the Army Corps of Engineers, IDEM, and IDNR would all need to approve any improvement plans.

There was also a blockage in one area of the drain. The contractor that was needed for the blockage repair was working on another job and was unavailable. Even if the contractor was available, it wasn't possible to work on the blockage when there was water standing over the tile.

In addition, Lateral 3 to the drain ran through a wooded area and was not working at all.

Mr. Kline's office was working on plans and would be presenting them to the Board in the fall.

Brook Harrell of 7052 County Road 19, Brenda Bontrager of 1938 County Road 68, and Tim Creager of 7020 County Road 19 all spoke regarding their concerns about County Road 19 flooding. In addition, Mrs. Bontrager was concerned regarding the northeast corner of her yard flooding, and the clogged culvert under her driveway. Mrs. Bontrager was informed the clogged culvert was the landowner's responsibility, and that once the drain was repaired she might be able to tie into the drain with a private tile to resolve her yard issues. Mrs. Harrell stated there was a hole in the tile in the field behind 7137 County Road 19. Mr. Kline stated his office would look at the hole and work to repair it if it was over the drain.

Mr. Kline then asked the Board to tell him what priority they would like him to attach to the repair of this drain. He had crews working to repair the *Harry Shull Drain No. 109-00-0* to get water off County Road 36. He was also working on plans to reconstruct the *E. P. Sherwood Drain No. 50-00-0* to get water off County Road 23. It was determined that the three drains should be all top priorities and worked in the order that best fits each situation.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT

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

DRAINAGE PLAN: SALSA GRILLE 406 SMALTZ WAY, AUBURN: Mr. Kline informed the Board he had received a drainage plan for a new restaurant to be located at the old Sonic Drive-in site on Smaltz Way in Auburn. The site was located in the watershed of the *John Diehl Open Drain No. 45-00-0*. There would not be an increase in hard surface and it would not have an impact on the watershed. The stormwater was being directed to the City of Auburn's stormwater lines located on the east side of Smaltz Way and the south side of Shook Drive.

Sandy Harrison moved to approve the drainage plan for the Salsa Grille as dated 05.06.2022, signed and sealed by Phillip Alan Troyer, the motion was seconded by Bill Hartman, motion carried.

LEVI DENNISON TILE DRAIN NO. 317-00-0: Mr. Kline explained he had been contacted by Everett Berryhill regarding a field he farmed. The surveyor's office had fixed one whole out by the road and had paid three to four thousand dollars for the repair. However, the drain was not on maintenance and was now in the red. Mr. Berryhill was complaining about the middle of the field being wet. Mr. Berryhill was losing money because he had to pay the landowner for the lease, but was unable to plant. The Board determined Mr. Kline should tell Mr. Berryhill there would not be any other money spent until the reconstruction of the drain, and that Mr. Berryhill needed to speak with the landowner to adjust the lease contract for the field.

E. P. SHERWOOD DRAIN NO. 50-00-0: Mr. Kline explained preliminary plans to the Board for the drain reconstruction. The wetlands elevations were approximately 9.08. The structures at the road would be placed at 9.07 to keep the water level lower. Mr. Kline stated he was fairly comfortable with that as the Army Corps of Engineers and IDEM had permitted that in the past. A "T" was to be used to skirt the wetlands and allow a wet area identified by Randy Deetz. There would need to be

thirty feet cleared on both sides of the drain for equipment and materials to be brought in for the reconstruction. The cleared material would be burned and buried on-site to reduce costs. The tile sizing would be done to get the water off the road. The approximate cost would be \$500 per acre unless the commissioners wanted to have the highway department pick up extra since the project was to remove the water from the road. Board members felt the cost could be worked out and wanted Mr. Kline to complete the reconstruction plans and estimated costs.

GUY PLATTER TILE DRAIN NO. 112-00-0: Mr. Kline explained the State wanted to see the cost comparison for an open cut of the road vs. jack and bore. An open cut would take one to two days of a road closure if the paving contractor could be onsite. Mr. Kline was working with Three Rivers Barricade to get quotes for the detour to provide to the State.

C. B. KAGEY TILE DRAIN NO. 225-00-0: Mr. Kline anticipated the contractor would be back on-site to complete the project so the landowner could get planting done.

FERGUSON WARNER LATERAL DRAIN NO. 86-53-0: Mr. Kline stated the plans were close to being finished. There were two holes in the backyard of a landowner in Woodland Trails who was messing with the drain making matters worse.

DISCUSSION

The Board stated the priority for the drains should be: E.P. Griffin, E.P. Sherwood, and the Harry Shull.

Mr. Kline stated some of the contractors had tried to work with Community Corrections to provide jobs to the clientele, but were not having good results.

It was noted the *Fred Groscup South Drain No. 352-80-0* was still an issue with several yards on the south side of Garrett being flooded.

Mr. Watson then thanked everyone for attending the meeting and declared it adjourned at 10:19 a.m.



Michael V. Watson, Chairman

Michelle Lassiter, Administrative Assistant