

DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

May 26, 2022

Drainage Commissioners Present:

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

Others Present:

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

Guests:

Angie Wallace, Compass Land Surveying
Tom Miller
Jim Deetz
Rory Walker

Absent: None

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 Bruce Bell, II to approve the Minutes of May 19, 2022, as presented, as the standard minutes of the DeKalb County Drainage Board. The motion was seconded by Bill Hartman, and the motion was carried.

DRAINAGE PLANS

AQUASOL ACRES: Mrs. Angela Wallace of Compass Land Surveying presented the drainage plans for Aquasol Acres a two-lot, 9.95-acre subdivision, This subdivision is located in the Northeast Quarter, Section 21, T33N, R14E, Spencer Township, and within the watershed of the *William Hollabaugh Regulated Open and Tile Drain No. 79-00-0*. Mrs. Wallace explained the landowner wanted to split the property to allow his brother to build a home.

The Board accepted the Surveyor's Drainage Report, which stated "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."

Jim Miller moved to approve the drainage plan dated 04.12.2022, sealed, and signed by Angela D. Wallace of Compass Land Surveying, with the Surveyor's recommendations, sending a favorable recommendation to the DeKalb County Plan Commission, the motion was seconded by Sandy Harrison, motion carried.

ALCC ACRES: Mrs. Angela Wallace of Compass Land Surveying presented the drainage plans for the ALCC Acres subdivision, a one-lot, 4.59-acre subdivision. This subdivision is located in the Northeast Quarter, Section 29, T35N, R15E, Troy Township, and within the watershed of the *Eber Cole Regulated Open Drain No. 264-00-0*. It was pointed out that a 10-foot wide ingress/egress easement was an existing easement on the property for a railroad crossing between agricultural fields.

The Board accepted the Surveyor's Drainage Report, which stated "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.”

Jim Miller moved to approve the drainage plan dated 05.18.2022, sealed, and signed by Angela D. Wallace of Compass Land Surveying, with the Surveyor’s recommendations, sending a favorable recommendation to the DeKalb County Plan Commission, the motion was seconded by Sandy Harrison, motion carried.

UTILITY PERMIT

GARRETT ELECTRIC: Mr. Kline presented a request from the City of Garrett’s Electric Department for a utility permit to cross the *John Diehl Lateral 7 Spur 1 Regulated Tile Drain No. 45-07-1*. Mr. Kline explained the crossing was to provide electric service to a new home under construction at 1134 County Road 40. The service would run from County Road 40 along the western property line to the home’s location south of the tile. The service would be trenched with five-foot of cover. It would be determined at the time of the trenching whether the line would be above or below the drain. An inspector from the Surveyor’s Office would be present for the trenching to ensure the drain was not damaged.

Bill Hartman moved to approve the utility permit for the Garrett Electric Department to cross the *John Diehl Lateral 7 Spur 1 Regulated Tile Drain No. 45-07-1* to provide service to 1134 County Road 40. Jim Miller seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

GUEST COMMUNICATIONS

Jim Deetz of 0219 County Road 2, Wolcottville spoke asking for an update on Phase 2 of the *William Bickel Tile Drain No. 133-00-0*. Mr. Deetz stated the drain outlet to the Maumee Creek in LaGrange County is filling with dirt, and there had been a bank slide on the Maumee Creek. Mr. Deetz further informed the Board there was water standing on approximately a third of the reconstructed portion of the drain. Mr. Deetz stated the Surveyor’s Office had installed a standpipe last year to pick up a missed lateral, with a “T” being stalled for a future private lateral connection. Mr. Deetz further stated he had not been able to farm on top of the drain since the reconstruction. He wanted to know what remedy could be offered for his situation. Mr. Kline and Mr. Hartman discussed the installation of additional “T”s and standpipes under maintenance. Mr. Kline stated he would have a contractor do a deep soil ripping over the drain to try and get the water to release into the drain. Mr. Kline further stated he would work with LaGrange County to repair the Maumee Creek bank slide and to dip the outlet of the Bickel Drain.

Tom Miller of 4094 County Road 12, Waterloo spoke regarding the *G. B. Collins Drain No. 87-00-0*. Mr. Miller requested that the Board hire an outside engineering firm to work with Mr. Miller on the dipping of the drain. Mr. Miller stated he would pay the fees associated with the engineering firm. Mr. Miller stated he would get approval from the other landowners within the drain’s watershed. Mr. Miller stated he did not intend to deepen or widen the drain.

Mr. Kline stated he had looked for the drain records and could not find any that were good due to the drain having been moved several times over the years. Mr. Kline stated his office would work with Mr. Miller to dip the drain, which due to the drain being located in a floodplain the muck taken from the drain would need to be placed directly into a truck and removed from the area. Mr. Miller would need to work with the DeKalb County Highway Dept. regarding the culvert replacement under the road. Mr. Miller would need to sign the Surveyor’s standard short-form contract for the work to be done.

Mr. Kline informed the Board the Army Corps of Engineers and IDEM had reprimanded both Steuben and Noble Counties for work done incorrectly in wetlands and floodplain areas and were looking at DeKalb County. Mr. Kline was being careful not to be put in a similar situation as the other two counties.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT

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

- ✓ *E. P. GRIFFIN TILE DRAIN NO. 224-00-0*: Mr. Kline the drain is working better. There was a mulberry tree on top of the drain removed. There were 300 feet of vegetation removed from the drain and the drain had been rooted. The area has dried up considerably. One of the property owners wanted the Surveyor to tile her property. Mr. Kline explained to her he could not, as the area appears to be wetlands. LaOtto Excavating opened up the sandbar at the outlet, but his office will have to keep an eye on it, as it will silt shut quickly. Mr. Kline was working on reconstruction plans. Mr. Kline was looking at whether to include Lateral 2 in the plans as a property adjacent was have water entering the underground garage.
- ✓ *E. P. SHERWOOD TILE DRAIN NO. 224-00-0*: Mr. Kline stated he was waiting on quotes for clearing the trees over the tile.
- ✓ *GUY PLATTER TILE DRAIN NO. 112-00-0*: Mr. Kline stated he was waiting on quotes for jack and bore. He informed the Board it may be more expedient to pay for the crossing costs, rather than wait on INDOT, as INDOT is swamped.
- ✓ *FRED GROSCUP SOUTH DRAIN NO. 352-80-0*: Mr. Kline stated there were still flooded yards along the drain. Mr. Kline spoke with Garrett's Mayor. They are working together to find a solution. Mr. Kline will be recommending the drain be reclassified as an urban drain.
- ✓ *JOHN KETCHAM DRAIN NO. 334-00-0*: Mr. Kline informed the Board that he and Ms. Kruse would be meeting in the afternoon with the City of Auburn Attorney and Director of Engineering to put together an interlocal agreement for the reconstruction of the drain. Due to proposed development in the area the project needed to move along quickly. The County Commissioners may need to help with the reconstruction costs.
- ✓ *HARRY SHULL TILE DRAIN NO. 109-00-0*: Mr. Kline stated North Main Street (CR 427) was all buttoned up. There would need to be standpipes installed and clean-up done. The tile to the west still needed to be installed. The drain was now in one piece and partially working. As soon as the contractor could he would return to the site and complete the project.
- ✓ *FRED GROSCUP JR TILE DRAIN NO. 335-00-0*: Mr. Kline explained the request for bids had been sent out. The office had received four material bids and no labor bids to date. Mr. Kline stated that he anticipated at least one labor bid forthcoming. Mr. Kline had conversations with other contractors who stated they were too busy but would be available next year. It was suggested that the invitation to bid is to be sent to Casselman Excavating.

DISCUSSION

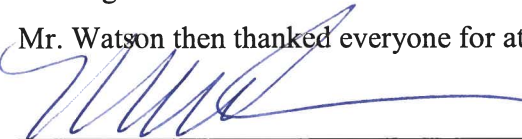
Mrs. Harrison stated she felt there needed to be ramifications for individuals who cut county-regulated tiles without repairing them. Ms. Kruse was to research the State Code to see how the individuals could be held accountable. The example Mrs. Harrison used was the *Levi Dennison Regulated Tile Drain No. 317-00-0*. Due to it having been cut there great effect on neighboring property.

Mr. Miller informed the Board that Indiana Farm Bureau had released the date for the 2022 Drainage School to be August 31, with registration opening on July 7. The cost would be \$50 for members and \$100 for non-members, and free to the Drainage Board.

Mr. Hartman stated the landowner and the County Highway Dept. were working together in the 1900 block of County Road 10 to clean up the area starting to encroach on the road. There were beaver dams that would need to be removed. Mr. Kline informed Mr. Hartman that the beaver needed to be removed or they would rebuild the dams. Mrs. Lassiter would send the contact information to Mr. Hartman and Mark Goodrich of the Highway Dept. for who the Surveyor's Office used to remove beaver.

It was also noted there were beavers in the drain east of Indian Lake between the spillway and lake. There were two LARE grants awarded for log jam removal in the Saint Joe River. The Cedar Creek Drainage Board had not met for a while. It might be good for them to meet in July.

Mr. Watson then thanked everyone for attending the meeting and declared it adjourned at 9:22 a.m.



Michael V. Watson, Chairman



Michelle Lassiter, Administrative Assistant