

DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

May 16, 2024

Drainage Commissioners Present:

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

Others Present:

Glenn Crawford, County Surveyor
Michelle Lassiter, Sec./Drainage Board Adm.Asst.
Shannon Kruse, Attorney
Troy Bungard, Survey Tech

Guests:

Kristine Krummen, ERI Consulting

Absent:

Tyler Lanning, Lead Survey Tech

Chair Bruce Bell, II, called the May 16, 2024, regular DeKalb County Drainage Board meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bill Hartman moved to accept the Minutes of May 9, 2024, as presented as the standard minutes of the DeKalb County Drainage Board. Sandy Harrison seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN DRAINAGE PLANS

AUBURN DAIRY QUEEN – 1018 WEST SEVENTH STREET, AUBURN

The Board reviewed the drainage plan for the Development Plans for the new Auburn Dairy Queen proposed for 1018 West Seventh Street, Auburn, IN, in Section 30, Union Township, and within the watersheds of the Isaac Hague Drain No. 219-00-0, the John Diehl Drain No. 45-00-0, and the Cedar Creek Open Regulated Drain No. 470-00-0.

Kristine Krummen of Engineering Resources, Inc., presented the plans for a complete tear-down and reconstruction of the existing Auburn Dairy Queen, stating that the reconstruction will improve the site drainage system by decreasing the hard surface from one hundred percent to eighty-eight-point seven percent lot coverage. Ms. Krummen noted that the project would be tied to the drainage system to the west of the parcel. The owner was applying for a Board of Zoning Appeals Standards Variance for the lot coverage from the City of Auburn.

Mr. Crawford stated that the front and side of the lot would be grass which would reduce the stormwater runoff rate.

The Board accepted the Surveyor's Report, stating, "Regarding the drainage plan, I approve these plans as the water will go into City of Auburn structures. There will be a reduction in stormwater runoff due to the decrease in hard surface on the site."

Mike Watson moved to approve the drainage plan as presented, signed on April 9, 2024, by Mark D. Reinhard, Professional Engineer with Engineering Resources, Inc. (ERI), and with the County Surveyor's recommendations. Sandy Harrison seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Bell asked for the Surveyor's Report. The surveyor's staff provided the following information:

Mr. Crawford informed the Board that the *Fred Groscup Regulated Tile Drain No. 352-00-0* reconstruction was getting underway. Mrs. Lassiter informed the Board that the McFerrons located at 1701 Woodview Drive, Garrett, had installed a fence within thirty-five feet of the *Fred Groscup Drain No. 352-00-0*. The McFerrons acquired a permit from the City of Garrett. However, due to

Milton Otero resigning as the City's Planning Director, Tara Smurr, a retired police officer, who is Garrett's current Ordinance Enforcement Office was issuing permits. Ms. Smurr did not have a planning background and was not aware of the county-regulated drains and the setbacks required when she was issued this fence permit. Mrs. Lassiter stated she shared the drainage code with Ms. Smurr and that Ms. Smurr would be consulting with the Surveyor & Drainage Board Office when there is a county-regulated drain involved. The McFerrons had been sent the variance application information and would be applying to the Board soon.

Mr. Crawford stated that the *William Bickel Tile Drain No. 133-00-0* reconstruction was back underway.

Mr. Crawford also informed the Board that the first change order for the *John Ketcham Drain No. 334-00-0* reconstruction for the special backfill for the drain to be installed under the west side of the Kroger parking lot would be presented soon.

Mr. Bungard informed the Board that the office was working on plans for the reconstruction of the *Melissa Kelly Lateral 4 Regulated Tile Drain No. 30-04-0*, a joint drain with Defiance County, Ohio. The office had been in contact with Defiance County regarding this drain needing reconstruction and Defiance County had stated that since the watershed for this lateral is completely within DeKalb County, they were comfortable with letting DeKalb County handle the entire process.

The Board was reminded that the public hearing for the *Levi O. Dennison Regulated Tile Drain No. 317-00-0* was next week.

Mrs. Lassiter and Mr. Crawford informed the Board that Byler Lane Winery had contacted the office due to some filling, grading, and seeding they would be doing in the rights-of-way of the *Ellen Reed Regulated Open Drain No. 151-00-0* and the *Nowlin, Rafine, Yoder Regulated Drain No. 262-00-0*. Mr. Crawford stated that the dirt was coming from a Fox Contractor project down the road. They would not be creating a berm, and the overland flow paths would not be affected. Mrs. Lassiter stated that she had noted that the grape vines were in the right-of-way of the *Ellen Reed Drain* but so far had not found any variances granted. The Board was asked if it were found that no variance was granted would they want to have a variance request submitted, or to leave well enough alone? Ms. Kruse noted that variances ran with the land and had parameters set with them, that was why they were recorded. Ms. Kruse further noted that the bigger risk was if there were no variance future landowners would assume and/or argue that permanent structures and plantings were allowed since the grape vines had been allowed. Mr. Crawford explained that the field crew usually measured to get an accurate distance from a drain for a variance agreement and looked at the opposite side of the drain to determine if the requested variance would cause any issues with the maintenance or reconstruction of the drain. Mr. Crawford also stated that the grapes were more of an issue regarding spraying the drain. Mr. Bell stated that he would prefer to see the grape vines as a crop and not issue a variance. Mr. Miller stated that the USDA categorized grape vines as a crop, but they also categorized apple trees the same way, and the Board would require a variance for an apple orchard. Mrs. Lassiter was going to continue looking through the records to see if there was a variance for the grape vines.

Mr. Bungard informed the Board that the office was working on plans for the *Erwin Selke Regulated Tile Drain No. 439-00-0* as it was causing near flooding for the homes close by. The tile had been rooted as a temporary fix, but it was in dire need of reconstruction.

DISCUSSION

Mrs. Harrison asked what was happening with the *John Bemenderfer Lateral 3 Spur 1 Tile Drain No. 49-03-1* and the *John Bemenderfer Lateral 1 Tile Drain No. 49-01-0* along Old US Hwy 27 at the DeKalb County Line and into Steuben County regarding the repairs needed to be completed by

NIPSCO. Mr. Crawford stated that NIPSCO's subcontractor Pipe Strong was working in Steuben County on Steuben County regulated drains that they had damaged. Pipe Strong was working from the north to the south to try to repair all the drains they had damaged with the NIPSCO gas line installation.

Mr. Crawford was asked if any work had been done in the last year on the *Ernest Warner Lateral 2 Regulated Tile Drain No. 454-00-0* located north of County Road 12, west of County Road 13 as there were issues with the tile. Mr. Crawford stated he would have the field check out the drain.

There being no further business or discussion, Mr. Bell thanked everyone for attending the meeting and declared the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.


Bruce Bell, II, Chair


Michelle Lassiter, Secretary