

DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

November 14, 2024

Drainage Commissioners Present:

Bruce Bell, II, Chair
James A. Miller, Vice-Chair
William L. Hartman, Member

Others Present:

Troy Bungard, Survey Tech
Glenn Crawford, County Surveyor
Shannon Kruse, Attorney
Tyler Lanning, Lead Survey Tech
Katie Rutan, Office Clerk
Rebecca Wright, Office Manager

Absent:

Michael V. Watson, Member
Sandra M. Harrison, Member

Guests:

Rodney Breeding
Jesse Zehr
Steve Maxwell
James Deetz

Mr. Bruce Bell called the November 14, 2024, Dekalb County Drainage Board meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

Approval of Minutes

He introduced the first order of business, the approval of the minutes from the November 7, 2024, Drainage Board meeting. Jim Miller made the motion to approve the minutes, and Bill Hartman seconded the motion. Mr. Bell asked if there was any discussion, and The Drainage Board moved to accept minutes, and the motion carried.

Approval of the December Attorney Claim of \$1295.00

Mr. Bell introduced the next business item, approving the December attorney fees. Mr. Jim Miller moved to accept the attorney claim for December of 2024. Mr. Bill Hartman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Variance

Bruce Bell then moved the meeting to a variance for the CGB Zen Noh Drain Corporation on US 6 in Waterloo, IN. Rodney Breeding attended the meeting to represent CGB and explain the project to the board. He reported that the company wished to extend a spur of the rail as the market grew and required them to grow and change with it. He added that the Ora Bohler Regulated Drain Tile ran under the location of the rail extension, but they had partnered with a contractor to maintain the integrity of the tile. Mr. Glenn Crawford asked if an engineer was involved in the partnership. Mr. Breeding confirmed the name of the engineer and that they intended to weld the casing onto the existing casing of the Ora Bohler and encase the pipe. Mr. Crawford said that there were future plans to reconstruct the drain, and the Office would like to see the plans from the engineer. Mr. Crawford expressed a desire to reconstruct the Ora Bohler at the same time as the construction of rail extension as that would limit cost to the CGB Zen Noh Grain Corporation and eliminate the

need to expose the drain multiple times or resize it after the grain corporation welded on to the existing casing.

Mr. Bell asked when the construction of the rail extension would commence. Mr. Breeding said if the weather cooperated, soon. Mr. Bell also asked Mr. Crawford if there was a way to reconstruct the portion of the drain the railroad would extend over sooner than the rest. The Board discussed the logistics of the plan. Mr. Bell asked Mr. Breeding how many spurs CGB had over the Ora Bohler, and he replied one. Mr. Bell also discussed how many times the company would have to pay for the construction and reconstruction of the drain. Mr. Glenn Crawford gave a few scenarios where The Office could support and partially reconstruct the portion of the drain concerning the rail extension. The Board also discussed several other reconstruction projects which required jack and boring situations which could compare to the situation required for the railroad expansion and the Ora Bohler.

Ms. Shannon Kruse suggested that if the rail spur was owned by a private landowner, the code would not require CGB to pay per acre and again for the crossing during the reconstruction. It would only have to pay for the infrastructure that it owned. Bruce Bell asked what CGB would have to pay for during the reconstruction of the Ora Bohler. Ms. Kruse answered that they would have to pay the base rate per acre and for what was in the crossing. Mr. Lanning added that it was difficult to recommend a course of action without knowing what the drain casing looked like. Mr. Bell explained that The Board would approve the variance, but it would be in the best interest of CGB for Mr. Breeding to take the information from the meeting back to his colleagues and discuss the timing of extending the railroad further.

Mr. Bell asked for a motion to approve the variance for the Zen-Noh Grain Corporation at US 6 Waterloo, IN, for parcel No. 17-06-01-400-004 in the Southeast Quarter of Section 1 of Grant Township on the Ora Bohler Regulated Tile Drain No. 54-00-0. Mr. Bill Hartman made the motion, and Mr. Jim Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ILP

Steve Maxwell attended the meeting to represent Brandon Zehr and a chicken barn project on CR 45. He reported that he had worked with County Surveyor Glenn Crawford to add a small retention area to the property to improve the drainage plan. Mr. Crawford added that Maxwell Surveying had added a retention area to catch storm run off on the north side of the drive with an 8" outlet. Mr. Crawford reported that with the added retention, the project matched existing drainage conditions.

Troy Bungard displayed the most recent update of the drainage plan.

Mr. Jim Miller asked where the retention area was located and where it would outlet. Mr. Crawford pointed out the location on the project map and explained the retention area would outlet and disperse to the open ditch. Mr. Bill Hartman asked about the proximity to neighboring homes. Mr. Crawford and Mr. Maxwell answered the barn, and the pond would sit roughly 1000 feet from the closest home. Mr. Bell asked what ditch the pond would outlet to, and Mr. Lanning answered it was the Daniel Hursey. Mr. Miller questioned if any communication had occurred between the petitioner and neighbors. Someone involved with the project answered from the gallery that he had

spoken to the neighbor within 1000 feet of the barn but had not spoken to the neighbor across the road.

Mr. Bell asked for a motion to approve the ILP for the Chicken Barn at 5318 County Road 45. Mr. Jim Miller made the motion. Mr. Bill Hartman did not second the motion, but Bruce Bell did. Before voting, Jim Miller addressed the gallery and “cautioned” him that it was in the petitioner’s best interest to speak to *all* his neighbors before construction commenced. The motion carried with a vote of 2-1.

Approval of the DeKalb County Private Pond Construction Requirements

Mr. Tyler Lanning explained that The Office had put together Private Pond Requirements to offer guidance to landowners requesting to install private ponds. The document would have to go to the Commissioner’s Meeting for approval, so no action was required today, but The Office wanted the input of the board, so they were asking The Board to review the requirements and give their input.

Discussion

Mr. Jim Deetz attended the meeting to discuss the Bickle drain. He expressed his desire to pay his assessment by the first of the year for tax purposes, so he wanted the drain to be closed. He questioned the cost of crop damage on the reconstruction. He explained he didn’t think it was fair that one landowner requested repayment for crop damage forcing the rest of the landowners to pay him when no one else had even though everyone had experienced crop damage. He also explained that while most people were in favor of reconstructing the drain, it was based on the understanding that, “they paid on tile they had water running through.” The landowners did not understand that the further up the line their property was located meant the more money they would be assessed. The older property owners felt that was unfair. He felt certain landowners benefited from the reconstruction without having to pay their fair share, and then to request repayment for crop damage, showed a lack of community awareness.

Mr. Bell asked about an approximate certification date. Mr. Bungard explained where The Office was in the process. The Office confirmed that Mr. Deetz could pay his portion as soon as the drain was certified, which should be before the end of the year. Mr. Deetz complimented The Surveyors Office and said, “I think you guys done a great job finishing that ditch up...” as he knew it must have been “a big headache.”

Reconstruction Bid Opening

Mr. Bruce Bell introduced the Melissa Kelly Lateral 4 Regulated Drain No. 30-04-0 Reconstruction Bid Opening. Surveyor Glenn Crawford presented an envelope which held several sealed envelopes from various contractors, and Troy Bungard projected a spreadsheet with the projected reconstruction costs and columns for the proposed contractors. Mr. Crawford opened the first envelope for a materials bid from Hixson Sand and Gravel for a total of \$14,775.20. The next envelope was a bid for gravel from Stafford Gravel for a total of \$12,758.53. The third envelope was from Baughman Tile for a materials bid total of \$16,069.60. Then Mr. Crawford opened an envelope with a bid from Core and Main for materials totaling \$18,194.69. The next envelope was a bid from Klink Trucking for #8 stone, for a total of \$17,586.07. Glenn Crawford opened the next envelope from Clifford Aggregate for #8 gravel for a total of \$15,275.74. Tri County Excavating submitted the next envelope with a labor bid of \$48,516.00. The final envelope was from Fry

Excavating with a labor totaling \$48,941.40. All bids came in under the engineer's estimate. Bids will be awarded next week.

Mr. Lanning complimented the competitive nature of the bids and reminded the Board that it was a small watershed.

Surveyor's Report

Tyler Lanning began the Surveyor's Report with The Levi Dennison drain reconstruction. He said it was progressing, and Gabe Pankop with Pankop Excavating was using the tile wheel machine, and it was a great experience. Bill Rychener was tagging the laterals and would go back and tie those in later. Glenn Crawford had made a couple of changes with standpipe, but everything was moving along well.

Bruce Bell asked a question about a tile repair on CR62 east of Nucor. The Office started working on it in June, and it had not finished yet. Tyler Lanning agreed that The Office had done some work there, but he was not sure if that specific issue was for the County Surveyor. Troy Bungard said it was the Henry Geddis Regulated Tile 159-00-0. Holman landowners were working on it. The Fry Brothers went and worked on some holes and water was flowing. Bruce Bell said there was tile laying in the field out there, and it was not finished. Tyler Lanning thought they had submitted a COI to work on the tile.

Bruce Bell then asked about the Willam Sechler Tile on CR 52. He said there was a section that was open with a tile going through, and he would like to fill it in over the tile. Mr. Lanning responded that he would look at it, but he thought covering the tile would be fine.

Mr. Bell then asked if anything had been done on the George Walters Tile on CR 59. Mr. Lanning replied that the tile there was in very poor condition. The office had dipped the ditch to try to lower it last spring on the east side of CR 59. Glenn Crawford added that the railroad had lowered the culvert. Tyler Lanning said he would check on the section of the road and the condition of the open drain.

Discussion

There being no further discussion, Bruce Bell adjourned the meeting at 9:29 AM.



Bruce Bell, II, Chair



Rebecca L. Wright
Drainage Board Secretary

DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

NO.	NAME	PHONE (HOME)	PHONE (CELL)	EMAIL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	PETITION OF INTEREST
1	Robney Breeding	309 201 1384	309 201 1384	RobneyBreeding@Cops.com	11304 Bethel Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46706	Clab
2	Jesse Zehr	200-627-0171		jesse@zehrcoabirds.com	4453 C. Rd. 60 Auburn, IN 46706	
3	Stewart Maxwell	260-433-1885		Stewart@maxserv.net	P.O. Box 5068 Huntington 46730 Zehrcoab	
4	JAMES DEER	260 349 8116		JL@CAZ	1001 Co St. 46716 IN	
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DATE
11/14/2024

