

DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

January 9, 2025

Drainage Commissioners Present:

Kellen Dooley, Member
 William L. Hartman, Member
 Steve Kelham, Member
 James A. Miller, Vice-Chair

Others Present:

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

Guests:**Absent:**

Bruce Bell, II, Chair

Vice Chair, Jim Miller, called the January 9, 2025, regular meeting of the DeKalb County Drainage Board to order at 8:30 a.m. and turned the meeting over to Attorney Shannon Kruse to conduct the nominations and elections vote for the Board Chair.

2025 BOARD ORGANIZATION AND APPOINTMENTS

BOARD CHAIRMAN: Ms. Kruse asked for nominations for the 2025 DeKalb County Drainage Board Chairman. Mr. Bill Hartman nominated Bruce Bell, II for the position with Kellen Dooley seconding the nomination. Shannon Kruse asked for discussion and other nominations. Bill Hartman said Mr. Bell did a nice job as chairman in 2024, and Mr. Miller explained he discussed continuing as chairman with Mr. Bell, and Mr. Bell was willing to do so. There were no other nominees, so Ms. Kruse called for a vote for Mr. Bell's nomination, with all members voting affirmatively.

BOARD VICE CHAIR: Shannon Kruse then asked for nominations for the position of Board Vice Chair. Kellen Dooley nominated Jim Miller, and Bill Hartman seconded the nomination. Shannon Kruse asked if there were other nominations, and since there were none, she asked for a vote for Mr. Miller's nomination, with all members voting affirmatively. She then turned the meeting over to Mr. Jim Miller, the Board Vice Chair.

BOARD SECRETARY: Mr. Miller thanked the new board members and said he appreciated their willingness to serve. Jim Miller nominated Becky Wright for secretary of The Drainage Board. Bill Hartman seconded the motion. Jim Miller asked if there was discussion, but since there was none, he called for a vote, and the motion carried.

BOARD ATTORNEY: Jim Miller asked for nominations for the Board Attorney. Bill Hartman nominated Shannon Kruse, and Steve Kelham seconded the motion. Jim Miller asked if there were any other nominations, but since there were none, he asked for a vote for Ms. Kruse's nomination, with all members voting affirmatively.

JOINT BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Mr. Jim Miller asked for volunteers for Joint Drainage Board appointees. The following appointments were nominated:

DeKalb County/Allen County Board: Bill Hartman and Kellen Dooley

DeKalb County/Noble County Board: Bill Hartman and Steve Kelham

DeKalb County/Steuben County Board: Jim Miller and Kellen Dooley

Allen County/DeKalb County/Noble County Board: Bill Hartman and Kelley Dooley

DeKalb County/LaGrange County/Noble County/Steuben County Board: Steve Kelham and Jim Miller

Interstate Joint Boards with Ohio: Jim Miller, Kellen Dooley, and Bill Hartman

Jim Miller asked for a motion to approve the appointments of the joint boards as presented, Steve Kelham made the motion, and Kellen Dooley seconded the motion. Jim Miller called for a vote, and all members voted affirmatively.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Jim Miller then moved the meeting to regular business and introduced the approval of minutes from the December 19, 2024, meeting. Bill Hartman motioned to accept the minutes of December 19, 2024, as presented. Jim Miller seconded the motion. There was some discussion about a quorum for voting, and Ms. Kruse clarified the meaning as it pertained to this situation. Mr. Miller thanked Ms. Kruse for the information and then asked if there were any questions or discussion about the minutes. Since there were none, he called for a vote to approve the minutes of December 19, 2024. The motion carried. Kellen Dooley abstained from the vote since he was not in attendance on December 19, 2024.

ATTORNEY'S CONTRACT

Mr. Jim Miller then moved the meeting to the approval of the attorney contract for Ms. Shannon Kruse. He stated the Board would approve the contract and January payment in the amount of \$1295.00. Bill Hartman moved to approve the 2025 attorney contract and fees as presented, and Kellen Dooley seconded the motion. Mr. Miller called for a vote, and the motion carried to approve the attorney's contract and pay the January attorney fees.

UTILITY PERMIT

Mr. Jim Miller introduced the final business item on the meeting's agenda which was a utility permit for the St. Joe Spencerville Regional Sewer District at 6219 St. Joe Road in Spencer Township, Section 22 on the William Hollabaugh Open Ditch No. 79-00-0. Mr. Tyler Lanning explained that INDOT expanded the State Road 1 bridge over the William Hollabaugh open ditch 79-00-0. In doing so, they required the town of St. Joe to move its forced main sanitary from the East side of State Road 1 approximately 15'. The Sewer District thought INDOT would take care of the permit. INDOT thought the Sewer District would take care of the permit. The office was made aware of the work being done when a landowner came in to complain about the work encroaching on his yard past the right-of-way. The bridge and new culvert had been installed when Mr. Lanning initially observed the location. However, he felt that a utility permit should be issued and signed so it was on file in case any issues occurred. Mr. Lanning continued he had communicated with the St. Joe Spencerville Regional Sewer District about the permitting process so they were aware for future projects.

Mr. Miller noted the Board would need to accept the utility permit for the William Hollabaugh Open Ditch No. 79-00-0. Kellen Dooley clarified that the oversight in permitting was due to miscommunication between INDOT and the Sewer District, and Mr. Lanning answered it was. Mr. Miller asked for a motion to accept the utility permit for the St. Joe Spencerville Regional Sewer District on the William Hollabaugh Open Ditch No. 79-00-0 based on the Surveyor's recommendation. Mr. Kellen Dooley made the motion, Mr. Bill Hartman seconded the motion, and the Board voted to approve the utility permit for the St. Joe Spencerville Regional Sewer District at 6219 St. Joe Road in Spencer Township, Section 22 on the William Hollabaugh Open Ditch No. 79-00-0.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Miller asked for the Surveyor's Report and Surveyor Glenn Crawford began the report.

Mr. Crawford explained that the Melissa Kelly Dr. No. 30-04-0 Reconstruction Project was on its way with pipe being delivered and office staff planning to stake it. He added that the contractor should be on-site next week. Tyler Lanning updated the Board about a Consent and Waiver involving the George Wade Dr. No. 31-00-0. He explained that landowners wanted to tile and fill in the open portion of the drain on their land. They had received approval from DNR to do so. He had been working on a plan with the landowners. He discussed crossing County Road 60, removing a culvert, running tile across the road, and making an outlet into an open ditch.

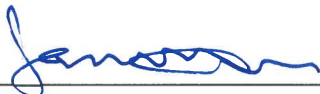
Mr. Lanning answered several questions regarding the consent and waiver. He added that a consent-and-waiver meant that the landowners would take responsibility for paying the cost of the reconstruction under the supervision of The Surveyor's Office. Mr. Lanning continued that The Office planned to reconstruct the George Wade in the future as it had suck holes and low areas. Mr. Hartman asked about Lateral 1 of the George Wade, and Mr. Lanning answered that there were no plans for Lateral 1. Ms. Kruse clarified that the landowners knew they would have to pay a portion of the reconstruction as they lived in the watershed and all landowners benefitted by a reconstruction shared in the cost based on the benefitted land they owned. The Office said they were.

Mr. Miller asked if there were any other questions or points of discussion. Ms. Kruse asked where The Office was with the City of Butler Drain and turning it over to the Butler. Troy Bungard answered that The Office had been looking into settling the reconstruction account. She reiterated the importance of turning a drain over to its local sewer district. Mr. Crawford also mentioned the importance of wrapping up the John Ketcham Reconstruction so The Office could turn it over to The City of Auburn. Tyler Lanning reported that the office needed to bill INDOT for their portion of the project, and then it could wrap up the project.

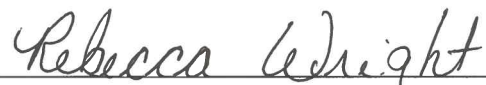
There was a lengthy discussion about the Garrett City Dr. No. 44-00-0. The Office explained that the cost to reconstruct the drain could exceed \$7 million which was why it was not on the reconstruction list.

Jim Miller welcomed Steve Kelham and Kellen Dooley to the Board.

There being no further business or discussion, Mr. Miller thanked everyone for attending the meeting and declared the meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m.



James Miller, Vice-Chairman


Rebecca Wright, Secretary

DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

NO.	NAME	PHONE (HOME)	PHONE (CELL)	EMAIL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	PETITION OF INTEREST
1						
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DATE
1/09/2025