

**DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING**

January 16, 2025

**Drainage Commissioners Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

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

**Guests:**

Angie Wallace  
Joe Gabet

**Absent:**

Glenn Crawford, County Surveyor

Chair, Bruce Bell, called the January 16, 2025, regular meeting of the DeKalb County Drainage Board to order at 8:30 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The first item of business was the approval of minutes from the January 9, 2025, meeting. Mr. Bell asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Jim Miller motioned to approve the minutes as presented, and Bill Hartman seconded the motion. Mr. Bell asked if there were any questions or discussion about the minutes. Since there were none, he called for a vote to approve the minutes. The motion carried. Bruce Bell abstained from the vote as he did not attend the meeting.

**SUBDIVISIONS**

Mr. Bell introduced the first of three minor subdivisions. Ms. Angie Wallace was present to discuss the **Our Place Minor Subdivision** on CR 20. She said it was a 1-lot residential subdivision that was 4.07 acres after the right-of-way was dedicated. Mr. Lanning added that the Surveyor's Office approved the subdivision. Mr. Bill Hartman asked about the property line, and Ms. Wallace answered that the property owner requested it.

Since there were no more questions, Mr. Bell asked for a motion regarding the Our Place Subdivision on CR 20 in the NW ¼ of Section 36 at T35N R12E in Fairfield Township involving the Henry Schuster Drain Number 291-00-0, the Frank Albright Drain Number 14-00-0, and the Cedar Creek Drain Number 470-00-0 with the Surveyor's favorable recommendation. Steve Kelham motioned to approve the minor subdivision as recommended by the Surveyor, and Kellen Dooley seconded the motion. Mr. Bell asked if there was any discussion, but since there was none, he called for a vote, and the motion carried.

Angie Wallace also represented the **Ward Acres Minor Subdivision** on CR 34 Mr. Bell introduced next. She explained that it was a residential subdivision, and it was lined up with the eastern subdivision to stay continuous with the depth of the lots along the line. The property owners intended to build a house. Mr. Lanning added that the Surveyor's Office approved.

Bruce Bell asked for a motion to approve the Ward Acres Subdivision on CR 34 in the NE ¼ of Section 13 of Grant Township at T34N R14E involving the Walter Smith Drain Number 20-00-0, the Solomon Shank Drain Number 28-00-0, and the Cedar Creek Drain number 470-00-0. Mr. Jim Miller motioned to approve the minor subdivision with the favorable report by the Surveyor, Bill

Hartman seconded it. Bruce Bell asked if there was further discussion, but hearing none, he called for a vote, and the motion carried.

Finally, Bruce Bell introduced the last minor subdivision on the agenda, **Wittwer Woods**. Joe Gabet with Foresite Consulting stepped to the podium to explain the project. He said the owners were not planning on changing anything with the drainage or the forest. The subdivision would be used for a single-family residential dwelling on 16 acres on County Road 68. Tyler Lanning added that the Surveyor's Office approved the minor subdivision.

Bruce Bell asked for a motion to approve the Wittwer Woods Minor Subdivision located on County Road 68 in the SE ¼ of Section 26 in Spencer Township at T33N and R14E involving the Russell G. Coburn Drain Number 251-00-0. Kellen Dooley motioned to approve the minor subdivision at the Surveyor's recommendation. Steve Kelham seconded it. Mr. Bell asked if there was any discussion, but since there was none, he called for a vote, and the motion carried.

Moving to the final item on the agenda, Bruce Bell introduced a replat called **Our Lady of Hope** located on County Road 50 in Auburn. Tyler Lanning explained that originally the plat was divided into two separate lots, but the landowners wanted to replat the location into one large parcel. He continued that a regulated drain went through the 31.01-acre lot, and the Surveyor's Office approved the replat.

Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Bell asked for a motion to accept the Our Lady of Hope Replat on County Road 50 in Auburn located in Section 2 of Jackson Township involving the Daniel Hursey Drain Number 48-00-0 and the Marion Cramer Drain Number 78-00-0. Mr. Bill Hartman made the motion, and Kellen Dooley seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

### **SURVEYOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Bell asked for the Surveyor's Report, and Tyler Lanning began it by saying the Melissa Kelly Reconstruction began this week with clearing a fence line and going through the woods. Tri-County was still planning to break ground this week. He added that the Office needed to take care of some beaver dams and find a new trapper. He finished the report by saying the field technicians were busy with maintenance.

Bruce Bell asked about changing the meeting schedule from every week to every other week. Mr. Lanning stated, as far as The Surveyor's Office was concerned, it would mean people would have to wait longer for their approval. The Office had brought two schedules for The Board to consider: one with meetings on the first and third Thursdays of the month and one with meetings every other Thursday. The Board Members discussed their feelings about the different schedules, and Mr. Jim Miller suggested that a separate Drainage Board Meeting be scheduled for hearings. The Board Members also discussed how the different schedules would be impacted by other board schedules like Plan Commission Meetings and Commissioner's Meetings. The Drainage Board and The Surveyor's Office concluded that setting meetings on the first and third Thursday of each month would allow for clearer communication of the meeting schedule with the public. It would also allow the public, other offices, and committees to anticipate the meeting schedule rather than access a calendar provided by The Surveyor's Office each year.

Bruce Bell asked if there was a motion to set Drainage Board Meetings on the first and third meetings of the month. Mr. Jim Miller motioned to change the Drainage Board Meeting schedule beginning in February 2025, to every first and third Thursday of the month with the stipulation that

extra meetings would be scheduled as needed. Kellen Dooley seconded the motion. Mr. Bell asked if there was further discussion regarding the motion to begin meetings the first and third Thursday of the month on February 6, 2025. Hearing no more, he called for a vote, and the motion carried unanimously.

Kellen Dooley asked about “zooming” in during meetings. Ms. Kruse stated she would check the law on voting via video attendance. The Board also discussed how the video recording policy would impact Drainage Board Meetings.

Since there was no further business or discussion, Bruce Bell adjourned the meeting at 8:56 a.m.

  
Bruce Bell, II, Chairman

  
Rebecca Wright, Secretary

# DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

NO.	NAME	PHONE (HOME)	PHONE (CELL)	EMAIL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	PETITION OF INTEREST
1	Audie Wilburne	260-417-3643			1710 N. Main Street	Ward / Per Piece
2	Jose Gabriel	260-760-3873			1910 St. Joe Ct Rd	W. H.
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DATE  
1/16/2025