

**DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING**

January 23, 2025

**Drainage Commissioners Present:**

Bruce Bell, II, Chair  
Kellen Dooley, Member  
James A. Miller, Vice-Chair

**Others Present:**

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

**Guests:**

None

**Absent:**

William L. Hartman, Member  
Steve Kelham, Member

Chair, Bruce Bell, called the January 23, 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 16, 2025, meeting. Mr. Bell asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Kellen Dooley motioned to approve the minutes as presented, and Jim Miller 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.

**2025 CERTIFICATION OF DRAINAGE ASSESSMENTS**

Mr. Bell then moved the meeting to the certification of drain assessments for collection. Mr. Tyler Lanning explained that the Surveyor's Office had brought the list of drains for collection. Mr. Kellen Dooley asked if there were any drains the Office did not collect, and Mr. Lanning said there were, and each year the parameters were set about which would be collected as the list rotated. Mr. Troy Bungard explained that a drain account could only carry four years of collections, and any drain with a negative account balance was put on the collection list. Mr. Dooley asked what would make a maintenance account carry a negative balance. Mr. Bungard answered that a maintenance project like dipping or repair could exceed the drain maintenance balance, but he also accounted for the balance of the drain maintenance account. He further explained he considered four parameters when he made the drain collection assessment list. As previously stated, any drain with a negative maintenance balance was placed on the list for collection in addition to any drain on the spray list, any drain with scheduled work, and any drain with a balance less than 50% of 4 years of collections.

Mr. Bruce Bell also asked about drains that were not on maintenance, and Mr. Glenn Crawford answered that there were many drains not on maintenance, but the Board would have to hold a hearing for each drain to put them on maintenance. During the hearing, the Board would have to establish a maintenance rate and an account for each drain they wished to add. Ms. Shannon Kruse asked how many drains were not on maintenance, and Troy Bungard said there were 138 drains not on maintenance, but some were laterals that could fall under the parent drain for maintenance if necessary. The Board discussed why some drains were not on maintenance, and Mr. Jim Miller commented that he favored adding more drains to the collection assessment so more maintenance could occur. He asked if separate hearings would need to be held to set up an account and collect

funds, but Ms. Kruse answered that one hearing could accomplish both purposes. Mr. Miller pointed out that the Surveyor's Office could add a drain to the list if it knew it needed maintenance, but landowners could also request a drain be added. Surveyor Glenn Crawford suggested adding multiple drains at once by having drain hearings in consecutive weeks, and Ms. Kruse agreed that it would be possible. Mr. Dooley clarified that only taxes collected for a specific drain could be used to repair or maintain that drain, and Mr. Glenn Crawford nodded and said that adding more to the collection list would benefit the county. The Board and the Surveyor's Office discussed how different counties addressed funding and the maintenance of drains.

Ms. Kruse explained that many drains were not on maintenance because they had not been reconstructed since the inception of the drainage code in 1964. Upon completion of a reconstruction project, the Board placed a drain on maintenance for assessment, so only drains that had been reconstructed or added by landowners or The Surveyor's Office would have maintenance accounts. Mr. Jim Miller explained that taxpayers have five years to repay the assessed cost of a reconstruction project, but after the first year, a 10% interest fee would be assessed. They were billed for the acres they owned that benefited from the reconstruction.

Mr. Bell asked if there was further discussion about the certification of drain assessments. He then asked for a motion to approve the drain assessment list, and Mr. Jim Miller made the motion to accept the drain assessment list for taxation. Mr. Kellen Dooley seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The 2025 list of drains for certification is as follows:

Drain_No.	Drain Name	Jurisdiction
1-00-0	John Smith	
5-00-0	George H. Drew	
14-02-0	Frank Albright Lateral 2	Joint Noble DeKalb Control
15-00-0	Terry Lake	Joint Steuben Control
17-00-0	Thomas Hardwood	
27-00-0	Frank Yarde	Joint Noble DeKalb Control
28-01-0	Solomon Shank Lateral 1	
29-00-0	Martin Wagner	
32-00-0	John Leason	
37-00-0	O. B. Diehl	
38-00-0	William Egbert (Open)	
39-02-0	John Potts Lateral 2	
40-00-0	Don Van Fliet Open	
42-00-0	John Weicht	
44-20-0	Garrett City Tile	
45-07-1	John Diehl Lateral 7 Spur 1	Joint Noble DeKalb Control
49-00-0	John Bemenderfer	Joint Steuben DeKalb Control
53-00-0	Ora E. Baker	
56-00-0	Lewis Scattergood	
57-00-0	J. J. Hampshire	
66-00-0	Delbert McBride	

68-00-0	Mathias Schifflli Main	
73-04-0	George Matson Lateral 4	
73-05-0	George Matson Lateral 5	
73-24-0	George Matson Tile Lateral 4	
76-00-0	Henry Emme	
77-00-0	George T. Walters	
79-00-0	William Hollabaugh	
81-00-0	Evan Collins	
83-00-0	Cliff Metcalf	
83-01-0	Cliff Metcalf Lateral 1	
84-00-0	Adam Richey	
85-00-0	William C. Carmer	
86-00-0	James Ferguson	
86-43-0	James Ferguson Miller Lateral	
87-00-0	G. B. Collins	Joint Steuben DeKalb Control
88-00-0	Manoah Miller	
89-02-0	Nancy Davis Lateral 2	
95-00-0	Lewis Traster	Joint Noble DeKalb Control
97-00-0	Noah Smith	Joint Noble DeKalb Control
98-00-0	William Tritch	Joint Noble DeKalb Control
109-00-0	Harry Shull	
113-20-0	James Goings Tile	
114-00-0	Brown-Albright	
114-03-0	Brown Albright Lateral 3	
116-00-0	Alvin Keesler	
119-60-0	Daniel Wagner North	
119-80-0	Daniel Wagner South	
127-00-0	Frank Teutsch	
130-00-0	Charles Sharp Tile	Joint Steuben DeKalb Control
135-00-0	Ambrose Heitz	
147-00-0	Michael Treesh	
153-02-0	John Hoffelder Lateral 2	
160-00-0	P. A. Walker	
175-00-0	Ozro Freeman	
177-00-0	Almira Teutsch	
179-00-0	Albert Fisher	Joint Steuben DeKalb Control
180-00-0	Marion Haverstock	
181-00-0	Harvey Guthrie	
183-00-0	Alva Coburn	
187-00-0	Levi Ober	
188-00-0	John Hamman	
191-00-0	Jerry Davis	

196-00-0	Gustave Mader	Urban Drain 15' on each side
212-00-0	David Bair	
214-00-0	Harley Cobbs Tile	
228-00-0	Dayspring Church Drain	
235-00-0	Harley Cobbs Open	
236-00-0	Franklin Grogg	
251-00-0	Russell Coburn	
261-00-0	Mary Metcalf	
262-00-0	Nowlin Rafine Yoder	
264-00-0	Eber cole	
278-00-0	Henry Frick	
304-00-0	Ezra Weicht	
307-00-0	Robert Arford	Joint Williams DeKalb Control
317-00-0	Levi Dennison	
363-00-0	John Means	
408-00-0	Fritz Bartels	
429-00-0	F. H. Gee	
432-00-0	Charles Kaellner	
439-00-0	Erwin Selke	
454-00-0	Ernest Warner	
455-00-0	Big Run	Joint Defiance/Williams/DeKalb Control
459-00-0	Arlo King	
463-00-0	Grover Boyd	
465-00-0	Ed Riccius	Joint Noble DeKalb Control
470-00-0	Cedar Creek	Cedar Creek Board
1150-00-0	Paul Freeman	Joint Allen Control
1414-00-0	DanielMetcalfJt	Joint Allen Control
2005-00-0	Sycamore Creek	Joint Noble Control
3001-00-0	Hiram Sweet Lower	Joint Steuben Control
3002-00-0	Thomas Malone	Joint Steuben Control
3003-00-0	Robert Johnson	Joint Steuben Control
3004-00-0	Charles Conrad	Joint Steuben Control
3005-00-0	Frank Nelson	Joint Steuben Control
3005-06-0	Frank Nelson Lateral 6	Joint Steuben Control
3006-00-0	Hiram Sweet Middle	Joint Steuben Control
3007-00-0	Hiram Sweet Upper	Joint Steuben Control
3007-04-2	Hiram Sweet Lateral 4 Spur 2	Joint Steuben Control
3012-00-0	Ottomer Chasey	Joint Steuben Control
3013-00-0	Crampton-Gaetz	Joint Steuben Control
3014-00-0	Alexander Nichols	Joint Steuben Control
4444-00-0	Tamarack	Joint Williams Control
4444-32-0	Buel Branch	Joint Williams Control

4670-00-0	Gary Herman	Joint Unknown
1008-00-0	Krumlauf	Joint Allen Control
1151-00-0	(51-00-0) Willmina Ringwalt Open Ditch	

Ms. Shannon Kruse added that the Surveyor's Office was to keep two main lists for the Drainage Board: A list of reconstruction projects in order of importance and how it came to be on the list, i.e. if The Surveyor placed it on the list or if a landowner petitioned for it to be reconstructed; and a list of what was on maintenance (and therefore what was not on maintenance but was still considered a county-regulated drain). The code said every drain should be in line to be vacated, in line to be maintained, or in line to be reconstructed. The Board and members of The Surveyor's Office finished by discussing options for funding future reconstruction projects and placing drains on maintenance instead of vacating them.

### **SURVEYOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Bell asked for the Surveyor's Report, and Mr. Tyler Lanning began it by saying the Melissa Kelly Reconstruction had been slow going this week in the extreme cold, but Tri-County Excavating had made progress, and the project was going well. The Office was also conducting maintenance and had development plans coming through. It was working with engineers to bring them to The Drainage Board in the upcoming weeks. The last item The Office wished to discuss was a Pond Ordinance.

### **DISCUSSION**

Tyler Lanning introduced the Pond Ordinance for the Board to review. If the Drainage Board approved, The Office planned to have the ordinance reviewed and approved by the County Commissioners. He explained the Office had created the documents to provide landowners with some direction in the construction of ponds. He added that no ordinance was in place, and The Office felt one should be adopted to provide consistency in the application and approval process. Surveyor Glenn Crawford explained that the Office had received pond applications with a circle on a map indicating where the landowner wanted to construct the pond. This made the approval process difficult and lengthy as The Office had to redesign the pond and exchange numerous messages with the applicant before a design could be approved. A clear ordinance would streamline this process for everyone.


Ms. Shannon Kruse made a note to add a separate item directing landowners to contact necessary agencies (IDEM, DNR, Army Corp of Engineers, etc.) to avoid state and federal violations. Mr. Lanning agreed that the document would be amended to make the necessary changes. The Board asked several questions about different aspects of the ordinance, and Mr. Lanning answered them. Mr. Bell asked if there was any more discussion about the ordinance.

He then asked about a priority list of drains for reconstruction. Tyler Lanning replied he would bring it next week. He added that The Office had two they were working on currently. One was the Erwin Selke Drain No. 439-00-0 at the southern end of the county. He said the drains the Office was working on were threatening to flood homes or roads. After the Selke, The Office had the EP Griffin Drain No. 224-00-0 on County Road 19. The hope was to eliminate flooding across the road. Mr. Bell asked about a timeline for the EP Griffin, and Mr. Crawford responded that it was a matter of collecting on other drains and reconstruction projects to have the funding to begin.

Mr. Lanning said he also knew the Ora Bohler Drain No. 54-00-0 flooded roads, but until The Office could line up the funding to reconstruct some of the larger projects, it would continue taking care of the smaller projects.

Bruce Bell asked if there was any further business to discuss, but since there was none, he adjourned the meeting at 9:04 a.m.

  
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Bruce Bell, II, Chairman

  
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Rebecca Wright, Secretary