



13 West 73rd
Merrillville, Indiana 46410



TO: NORTHWEST INDIANA NEWS MEDIA
FROM: BUD CRIST, PRESIDENT, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD
DATE: AUGUST 9, 2011
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Merrillville Stormwater Management Board is announcing the hiring of Matthew Lake as its Executive Director.

Since 2005, Matt Lake provided professional stormwater consulting services with Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. in the Water Resources Division as a Resource Planner. Mr. Lake was responsible for providing professional technical assistance to implement National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Storm Water Regulations for multiple MS4 entities. Through these activities and given Matt's versatile background, he was involved with several projects and award-winning efforts that entail best management practices to improve water quality and quantity. Lake was often called upon to address complex stormwater/environmental issues to make assessments, delineations and regulatory determinations. Prior to joining Christopher Burke Engineering, Mr. Lake was with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for several years. Holding a senior level position with the Division of Soil Conservation as a Statewide Programs Coordinator, Matt was responsible for implementing watershed-based cost-share programs and served as a statewide specialist for lakes, rivers and watersheds, integrating the principles and practices of environmental science, geology, hydrology, and engineering in the area of soil and water conservation. Matt has extensive field experience and was an IDNR Resource Specialist. Having engineering approval authority, Matt worked in partnership with Natural Resource Conservation Service to oversee design and installation of conservation practices on agricultural lands, as well as providing technical expertise for urbanized areas. Matt also has forestry experience and was IDNR's Statewide Urban Forester assigned to help establish sustainable urban forestry management programs throughout Indiana. With the Community and Urban Forestry Program, Matt was involved in special projects including pilot studies for public tree inventories and urban forest health monitoring in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service.

Mr. Lake received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Michigan State University and a Master of Science Degree in Environmental Biology from Governor's State University, where he also received their Environmental Science Research Award. He has also published several research and technical documents.

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Mr. Lake has served as the stormwater consultant for the Town of Merrillville over the past year and has achieved success with Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) audits, as well as maintaining regulatory compliance through other program activities. He is regarded by his peers as one of the leading professionals in his field and has provided technical support for local, state and federal agencies, as well as numerous engineering firms.

As executive director, Mr. Lake will manage the town's stormwater program by serving as the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Coordinator to ensure compliance with NPDES Phase II regulations. He will be responsible for protecting the town's stormwater resources through development and implementation of a comprehensive stormwater quality management plan designed to ensure compliance with NPDES regulations. Among other things, he will focus on and correct water quality and quantity problems that significantly affect public health and safety, as well as implement and refine local ordinances relating to water resource protection. Additionally, he will supervise the operation and maintenance of stormwater best management practices.

"The Stormwater Management Board reaches another goal with the hiring of Matt Lake as its executive director", Board President Bud Crist said. "We're proud to have Matt with us on a daily basis. We know we've got the best there is", he said.

The Merrillville Stormwater Utility office is currently located in the Public Works office at 13 West 73rd Avenue.