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January 17, 2012

**STORMWATER UTILITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MATT LAKE
NAMED TO 2012 INDIANA WATERSHED LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

Merrillville Stormwater Management Board President Bud Crist is pleased to announce that the Merrillville Stormwater Utility Office Executive Director, Matthew Lake, has been appointed to the Northern Team of the 2012 Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy.

The watershed program's mission is to strengthen local capacity for successful watershed management. Through collaborative efforts, members work to improve watershed management skills, provide forums for exchange of problems and solutions and build an effective watershed support network in Indiana. The Academy educates watershed coordinators, teachers, volunteers, engineers, district staff, non-profit organizations and others to lead watershed efforts that improve water quality in Indiana.

"Northern Indiana is unique from a watershed perspective because we straddle the divide between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River basins. The area contains the Lake Michigan shoreline and the headwaters of several rivers draining large portions of Indiana," Lake said. "This will be a great experience serving as a member of the Academy because of the broader efforts to improve our environment. I not only will have the tools to accomplish goals for Merrillville Stormwater Utility, but goals of the Northern Indiana watershed plan, as well," he said.

The first session of the Watershed Academy is scheduled for January 18 and 19 at the Canyon Inn at McCormick's Creek State Park in Spencer.