

Executive Director Presented “Excellence in Stormwater Management Award by INAFSM September, 2012

The Indiana Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management Inc. (INAFSM) presented Merrillville Stormwater Utility Executive Director Matt Lake with its “Excellence in Stormwater Management Award”. Mr. Lake was presented this award at the September 13, 2012, luncheon at INAFSM’s three-day fall conference held at the Brown County State Park in Nashville, Indiana, by Siavash Beik, P.E., CFM, D.WRE, Chair of the INAFSM Awards Committee.

Officials presenting the award said Lake has demonstrated promoting public awareness of proper floodplain and stormwater management and been an outstanding administrator in Indiana stormwater management. Established in 1997, this award recognizes an outstanding stormwater management program or stormwater manager statewide, and it may be bestowed annually upon a local unit of government or an individual affiliated with the state or a local government who has consistently demonstrated leadership in the area of stormwater management and has instituted a pro-active approach consistent with the INAFSM vision of sound water resources management in the State of Indiana.

Stormwater Board President L.J. “Bud” Crist said he is proud of the accomplishments that his Executive Director has done. “Matt is an outstanding stormwater manager, and Merrillville is lucky to have him. Merrillville is setting the gold standard for the State of Indiana in stormwater management issues. Matt is considered the best stormwater executive director in the state.” Matt Lake has served as the Merrillville Stormwater Utility executive director since July, 2011.

Councilwoman Chrissy Barron said, “Matt is an overachiever in his field, and it takes a lot of hard work and a very strong commitment to make sure projects being done are done right. He puts his whole heart into Stormwater and strives for excellence. He does not stop until this goal is reached, it has to be right. This protects Merrillville’s future for the proper water drainage and the right fit for landscaping, for there is proper vegetation for different areas,” she said.

Lake said he was honored to receive the award. “We have a great team here in Merrillville, and it’s an honor to be recognized for our efforts,” he said. Lake and his MS4 Compliance Officer Joe Fish presented a session, “Implementing an Effective Enforcement Program”, at the conference Thursday.

The Indiana Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management was founded in 1996 by professionals interested in and responsible for floodplain and stormwater management in the State of Indiana. INAFSM members include federal, state, and local agency staff, engineers, consultants, planners, elected officials, members of academia, students and floodplain residents.