

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015**

President Leonard White called the March 3, 2015 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said. The other members in attendance were Ralph Simek and Barbara Ghoston; a roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. Staff present was Executive Director Matt Lake, financial advisor Karl Cender from Cender & Company, Attorney James Meyer and secretary Liz Bushemi. Others present were Councilman Tom Goralczyk, Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering and Dolores Flaska.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the February 3, 2015 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2015 SWMB meeting, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. A voice vote was taken, and all three members voted to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2015 meeting, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Also included in the agenda packet were copies of the accounts payable registers from February 10, 2015 and February 24, 2015. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from February 10 and February 24, 2015, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. Mrs. Ghoston asked on the February 10 register, where the East Jordan replacement grate was located; Matt said at 73rd and Taft Place. A voice vote was taken, and all three members voted to approve the accounts payable registers from February 10 and February 24, 2015, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Matt attended the Indiana LTAP Stormwater Drainage Conference on February 12th at Purdue West Lafayette, where he said he attended a good session on contamination due to spills. He said the session was so good that they are repeating it at the Indiana Annual MS4 meeting in May. They also discussed changes to stormwater permitting which will occur within the next 18 months. He said Merrillville is the benchmark for state audits, and he is not sure how the new permitting changes will affect us.

Included in the members' packets was a copy of the MS4 agreement with Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) for 2015. Matt said there is one less workshop, and the regional advertising does not say Merrillville is a partnering agency. Mrs. Ghoston asked that Matt contact NIRPC about it; Matt said that is why Merrillville ordered its own promotional giveaways. Mrs. Ghoston asked if this is a standard contract sent to all MS4s, and Matt said yes, and they have discussed it at NISWAG meetings. Attorney Jim Meyer said from a legal perspective, the contract is fine. Leonard White made a motion to defer the matter until the April meeting, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. A voice vote was taken, and all three members voted to defer the NIRPC agreement until April, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt is on the Indiana Annual MS4 Meeting committee and will also be speaking on good housekeeping. Liz emailed everyone notice that the annual meeting is being held May 11-12, 2015; in Indianapolis; copies of some event details was at each member's place. Members were asked to let staff know if they plan to attend. Mrs. Ghoston said she will try to attend and would like information on contamination if she is unable to attend. Liz will get final information to members as soon as it is available online.

NEW BUSINESS

Matt said he is attending the Indiana LTAP Road School March 10-12 and speaking on street trees and stormwater quality. There are approximately 3,000 people attending, and this is the first time he is speaking.

Matt met with DVG Engineering about the possibility of hosting a Lunch & Learn at the Stormwater Resource Center. DVG is looking into engineers getting credit for CEU's. Staff has sent letters to various companies requesting samples of their stormwater products and erosion control materials for use at the lunch and learns. The Indiana Landscape Association says CEU's can be given.

Mrs. Ghoston said she would like to see the Stormwater Resource Center having some type of annual open house where it is accessible to the public, and Town Council members can bring information to the public. Matt said he wants to finish the Stormwater Resource Center grounds, and some workshops can be held to accomplish that. Matt would like to showcase what the Stormwater Utility is all about and have residents learn more about stormwater. Matt said projects at the resource center will have to be done in phases because there is a cost involved, but he would like to continue to provide materials and giveaways to the public. A "green tour" and a "Stormwater 101" workshop were also discussed.

A meeting was held with Kurt Wanninger from Indiana American Water (IAW), and Matt said they are working on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for standard operating procedures in the event of a water main break. IAW has been fined by Stormwater in the past, and IAW is looking to providing pollution prevention training to all of its workers so they implement a plan in a timely fashion and work with Merrillville and all communities in the future. This is a new concept that is being discussed because of IAW being fined. Councilman Goralczyk suggests the same take place with Utilities, Inc. and also Merrillville Conservancy District, Independence Hill Conservancy District and all utilities so Merrillville can work together and benefit both Stormwater Utility and utilities. This may be a session at the annual meeting and possibly Road School next year. Mr. White asked if a MOU is in place, can the utility still be fined; Attorney Jim Meyer said the town can't waive a violation if they don't comply with a town stormwater ordinance, and they must follow the Clean Water Act and EPA rules and procedures.

Matt said he, Joe and Liz had CPR and AED (defibrillator) training at the Merrillville Fire Department on February 25th. He said the Stormwater office has an AED already, but the town is making an effort to have the same machine for first responders. Leonard said he would like to attend the next event. Liz will ask Chief Ed Yerga and let Leonard know.

Matt said the town's annual rain barrel program will be in April or May, and Liz will call UpCycle Products to schedule the event. Everything is done through UpCycle Products, and our office will do the advertising and promote it. Matt also said that Andean High School is decorating the rain barrel that is generally on display at the Stormwater office.

Regarding the 53rd Court lift station, Ron Wiedemann from Robinson Engineering said they have been looking at what is currently there, and there are under-sized 6-inch storm sewer pipes leading up to the lift station. He said they are doing an early study on

installing a gravities sewer and keeping the lift station working. He said there may just need an upgrade to the size of pipes or upgrades or purchase of a new lift station. From the topographic information, he said there is enough drop naturally to get water to the ditch. He will discuss the various scopes with Matt and have more information by the April meeting. Matt said there are cost and reliability issues involved, and reliability is most important and cost is also important.

OTHER BUSINESS

Matt said he attended a pre-construction meeting for the 73rd Avenue and Mississippi Street town road projects, which also include drainage improvements. He also said there are vortex separators, which is a spin-through for total suspended solids being trapped.

The Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Winfield has been approved by the Town Council and sent to Winfield for their approval. Mr. White asked if this is being done with other communities; Matt said Winfield is unique because they don't have much equipment and it is good to partner with an adjoining community for equipment.

Regarding Ross Meadow Farms, Matt said Darren Olson from Christopher Burke Engineering said they have enough information now, and a meeting will be held soon and also with the residents of the affected area so they are aware of the project.

Matt said the City of Valparaiso is copying Merrillville's low impact development (LID) standards, and there was an article in the paper about this.

Matt said there was an enforcement situation where a drain tile was protruding out of a curb, causing significant icing on the roadway. The residents were contacted, and they corrected the problem. Attorney Jim Meyer said the resident was in violation of the town ordinance, and the town has the legal right to plug the drain. A spray foam would be used to plug the drain since there is a public safety issue and drainage issue.

Mrs. Ghoston asked about the property tax sale listing that was in the local newspaper, and Matt said Stormwater is looking at it to make sure none of our properties are listed. Attorney Jim Meyer said this is the commissioners' tax sale, and the town's redevelopment commission can try to obtain properties.

A copy of the updated Stormwater communications chart was distributed.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. White said the next Stormwater meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 2015, at 4:30 p.m. at the Stormwater Resource Center.

Leonard White made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary