

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2015**

Vice President Ralph Simek called the May 6, 2015 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:50 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said. Leonard White was unable to attend; the other member in attendance was Barbara Ghoston. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established with two members present. Staff present was Executive Director Matt Lake, Attorney James Meyer, financial advisor Karl Cender from Cender & Company and secretary Liz Bushemi. Others present were Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering and Darren Olson and David Buckley from Christopher Burke Engineering.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the April 7, 2015 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 7, 2015 SWMB meeting, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. A voice vote was taken, and both members voted to approve the minutes from the April 7, 2015 meeting, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Also included in the agenda packet were copies of the accounts payable registers from April 14, 2015 and April 28, 2015. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from April 14 and April 28, 2015, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. A voice vote was taken, and both members voted to approve the accounts payable registers from April 14 and April 28, 2015, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Matt discussed the email from Kathy Luther from Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) for their 2015 MS4 agreement, where she said she assumed Merrillville Stormwater Utility was not participating this year and said they have built their budget around that and removed Merrillville from their program. Matt said Stormwater Utility will save \$4,000 by not participating with NIRPC's program and showed the members the new promotional stress balls and ink pens that were ordered to promote Merrillville Stormwater Utility. He said he can still attend training workshops at NIRPC. Ralph Simek said he is looking into Value Pak coupons, where we can possibly advertise Stormwater Utility public service announcements to all 46410 residents.

Regarding the 53rd Court lift station, Matt said Carrie Pintar from Robinson Engineering is working on the preliminary design for a 100-year storm event. He said Carrie should have the information available at the June meeting. Ralph Simek asked if some of the pumps and parts from the old lift station can be recycled or salvaged, and Ron said Carrie will address that in her proposal since Metropolitan Builders may consider that.

Matt said the 2015 rain barrel program was successful, with 40 rain barrels being sold this year to residents and non-residents. He is happy that residents are getting involved in harvesting rain water to use in the gardens and at their homes. Information is posted on the website how people can still order a rain barrel if they are interested.

Members had received a copy of the April 23, 2015 memorandum from Christopher Burke Engineering (CBBEL) in their packets showing existing conditions, proposed

conditions and the engineer's estimate of probable cost to solve the problem at Ross Meadow Farms. Darren Olson and David Buckley from CBBEL explained, showing drawings of the existing tributary area map and the proposed drainage improvement project. A cost estimate for construction, design, easements and survey work is \$180,300. Attorney Jim Meyer said the problem with the owner of the pond needs to be addressed before work begins, and Matt asked Mr. Meyer to assist him in proceeding with the owner since the statute of limitations has expired from when the original manipulation was done in 2002 or 2003 by that homeowner. Mr. Meyer asked about the flat land that currently sits there, and Mr. Buckley said the culvert will be lowered and slopes will be pitched. Ralph Simek asked when the project would be started and completed, and Mr. Olson said he expects the plans and construction to take place in late fall. Barbara Ghoston asked about the deteriorating road at that area, and Matt said Councilman Pettit said 85th Avenue might possibly be repaved next year. Mr. Meyer asked about the wetlands, and Mr. Olson said their wetland staff will be sent out as soon as possible after the design contract is signed. Mr. Meyer asked how this project would be paid, and Matt said he is hopeful that the Mississippi Street TIF District can be expanded for the project, but the design work will be paid from stormwater funds.

NEW BUSINESS

Matt said there has been a drainage issue at 7108 Virginia Street, and he contacted Robinson Engineering, who submitted a proposal for engineering services to investigate a solution. Matt said for 13 or 14 years, residents have had a problem where the road dips, and a catch basin will be installed to run the water to Skinner's Pond, which is located nearby. Members were given a copy of Robinson Engineering's proposal for engineering services not to exceed \$1,500.00 for surveying the area and coordinating placement of the catch basin. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the contact with Robinson Engineering not to exceed \$1,500.00 for the investigation at 7108 Virginia Street, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. A roll call vote was taken, and both members voted yes, and the contract with Robinson Engineering not to exceed \$1,500.00 for the drainage investigation at 7108 Virginia Street was unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

Members were provided with a copy of the Grant of Easement with the Town of Merrillville and Calumet Park Cemetery in their agenda packet. Matt said the Town Council approved the Grant of Easement with the cemetery at its April 28, 2015 meeting, which calls for installation of an eight-foot by four-foot concrete box culvert to be installed, which will complete the Taft Street project. Mr. Meyer said in exchange for the cemetery's easement, Stormwater Utility will waive the stormwater fees for 16 parcels of open land at the cemetery. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the Grant of Easement agreement with Calumet Park Cemetery, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. A roll call vote was taken, and both members voted yes, and the Grant of Easement agreement with Calumet Park Cemetery was unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

Members were provided with a copy of the Agreement Between the Town of Merrillville and Stormwater Utility for small drainage projects to be done by the public works drainage crew in their agenda packet. Matt said the Town Council approved the agreement at its April 28, 2015 meeting. Matt said the agreement is basically a contract with public works, where they are treated as a contractor to provide work to Stormwater Utility for small drainage projects for \$100,000 for 2015. The contract guarantees up to five public works employees, and a report will be provided to Matt on a weekly basis; the

list of work to be done will be updated as necessary and is subject to change. Ralph Simek asked if Matt or Joe will check on the projects, and Matt said yes; materials ordered for these projects must also be approved by him. Barbara Ghoston asked about the contract with the Town of Winfield, and Matt said Merrillville projects take priority, and he has not heard from Winfield about the need for services. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the Agreement Between the Town of Merrillville and Stormwater Utility, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A roll call vote was taken, and both members voted yes, and the agreement with the town for public works drainage crew unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote. Attorney Jim Meyer said approval is needed for the transfer of funds from the Stormwater line item to the Stormwater contractual line. Ralph Simek made a motion to transfer \$100,000 from Stormwater Maintenance Crew line item 626010142 to Stormwater Seasonal Maintenance line item 626010396, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A roll call vote was taken, and both members voted yes, and the transfer of funds as stated above unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

Matt said he worked with Independence Hill Conservancy District (IHCD) to fix a drainage problem at 73rd Avenue and the northwest corner of Taft Street, where they repurposed a 12" sanitary sewer force main to become a stormwater drain.

The Stormwater Resource Center (SWRC) hosted the Indiana Urban Waters meeting in April, where federal representatives attended. Those attending were impressed with the facility and what is done here and would like to hold another regional meeting here.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ralph Simek asked if there have been any illegal dumping issues, and Matt said there's a problem at Taney Ditch at 79th Avenue where he found a pile of fresh-cut branches on the banks of the ditch. Matt also said NIPSCO is being held liable for the tree problem on Deerpath Lane, where Townsend Tree Service cut down trees and left them in the ditch that runs to Turkey Creek. Since they created a nuisance, NIPSCO and possibly Townsend Tree Service are liable for the \$475 cleanup fee and a \$2,500 citation fee. Matt is attempting to meet with NIPSCO about their tree-cutting policies for the future.

Barbara Ghoston asked about lunch and learns to be held at the SWRC, and Matt said everyone's been busy, but he hopes to hold some in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Liz said a peace lily plant was sent from the SWMB and staff to the funeral home on the passing of Councilman Goralczyk's mother.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Simek said the next Stormwater meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, 2015, at 4:30 p.m. at the Stormwater Resource Center.

Barbara Ghoston made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary