

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2015**

President Leonard White called the September 1, 2015 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said. The other members in attendance were Ralph Simek and Barbara Ghoston, who arrived at 4:42 pm. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. Staff present was Executive Director Matt Lake, financial advisor Karl Cender, Attorney James Meyer, and secretary Liz Bushemi. Others present were resident Dolores Flaska and Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Leonard White said the Stormwater Board members attended the Shared Ethics Advisory Commission dinner meeting on August 31st, and they all thought it was a good meeting. Matt said other Merrillville board members were there, including police, zoning appeals and plan commission, along with other area agencies.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the August 4, 2015 SWMB meeting. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 4, 2015 SWMB meeting, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A voice vote was taken, and all three members voted to approve the minutes from the August 4, 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 August 11 and August 25, 2015. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from August 11 and August 25, 2015, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A voice vote was taken, and all three members voted to approve the accounts payable registers from August 11 and August 25, 2015, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Matt gave updates on pending stormwater projects. He said Delta III will begin work on the 79th Place and Taney project, and Dave Buckley from Christopher Burke Engineering (CBBEL) said the Ross Meadow Farms project is expected to be bid soon.

Regarding the 53rd Court Meadowdale drainage project, Matt said he just today received three (3) bids from Robinson Engineering for removal of the existing lift station and work to be done at the Meadowdale location. Members were given copies of the bids at the meeting. Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering presented their letter recommending that Gatlin Plumbing & Heating of Griffith be awarded the bid for the total amount of \$134,000, the lowest and most responsive bid. The other bids were from B&D Sewer of Schererville for \$161,987.50 and Grimmer Construction of Highland for \$178,974.50. Mr. Wiedeman said the project was presented to four (4) contractors and three (3) responded. Leonard White asked about a sealed bid process, and Attorney Jim Meyer said as long as the quote is lower than the engineer's estimate, the bid is legal, although they should have been in sealed envelopes. Mr. Wiedeman said Gatlin's bid was \$27,000 lower than the engineer's estimate of \$161,265. Attorney Meyer said if a bid is \$150,000 or more, the statute states you must go through the sealed bid process. Matt said the board had already approved a contract with Robinson Engineering for

construction observation. Mr. White asked if the area would have to be jet vacced, and Matt said yes, routine maintenance as with any stormwater pipes. Financial advisor Karl Cender asked if the \$134,000 would be paid out of Stormwater's contractual services line item, and Matt said yes; Mr. Simek asked about funding for the Ross Meadow Farms project, and Matt said money may have to come from Stormwater Fund 627. Mr. Simek asked about removal of trees, and Matt said silver maple trees would be removed and may be replaced with trees without as many leaves and needles. Mr. Wiedeman said the storm sewer pipe size is being increased, and the velocity will help keep the drains clean. Mrs. Ghoston asked about salvaging parts from the existing lift station, and Matt said the working pump and other good parts will be kept. Leonard asked the location of the project, and Matt said 53rd and Pierce Street; Mr. Simek asked what percentage would help the City of Gary drainage issues, and Matt said none. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the bid from Gatlin Plumbing & Heating, Inc. in the amount of \$134,000, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A roll call vote was taken, and all three members voted yes; the motion to accept the bid from Gatlin Plumbing & Heating in the amount of \$134,000 unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote. Mr. Wiedeman said the project would take three to four weeks to complete. He said they requested proposals because of timing, and that official bidding would have taken at least one more month, and construction could not have begun until next spring. He expects Gatlin to start the project in two to three weeks after a contract is signed and they receive a notice to proceed.

Matt said a Hoosier Riverwatch workshop was held at the Stormwater Resource Center, where an Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Riverwatch volunteer held the program for Merrillville elementary school teachers. They had the workshop both inside and outside, where water sampling was done. The information gathered will be part of the teacher curriculum for the future. Matt said more workshops will be held here.

Matt said the IDNR toured the 54th Court rain garden and viewed it and projects they've funded through the Coastal Zone Grant Program. Matt said when new development comes to town, he recommends rain gardens because of their low-impact development.

Matt is one of ten (10) members of the Little Calumet River Advisory Board, and he attended a meeting on August 19th. The Board members review funding requests and grant proposals for the ten (10) communities involved. He said the group is just getting off the ground, and he is the Merrillville representative. He said the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission has an estimated \$7 million in annual revenue because of the fees paid by residents in the watershed area, but also have debt to the Army Corps of Engineers and Regional Development Agency (RDA). The purpose of the Advisory Board is to offer a cost-share to communities in the watershed area since residents are charged a \$45 annual payment on their tax bill. Merrillville has an application pending.

Matt said he and Attorney Jim Meyer have met twice with representatives from Indiana American Water (IAW) to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding for when a water main break occurs; since Stormwater has issued IAW citations in the past, this memorandum will be in place for IAW to use best management practices (BMPs) and follow a written procedure to avoid citations. Once it is finalized, the Board will review the memorandum of understanding for approval. It will be an indefinite contract unless terminated by either party.

NEW BUSINESS

Matt said there was a sink hole located at 73rd and Arthur Street outside the Towne Center facility, and three quotes were obtained from the following companies for the following amounts: Delta III, Inc. - \$14,850, with an additional \$1,650 if alternatively a PVC pipe was installed in lieu of a CMP; H&G Underground Utilities, LLC - \$18,695; and Rex Construction Co., Inc. - \$22,830. Members were given copies of the three quotes. Matt said because the sidewalk was falling apart due to a large sink hole, and there was a serious public safety issue, they had to move forward and hired Delta to do the work because it was an emergency situation. He said this pipe extends from the edge of the pavement (the easement from Savannah Ridge, which was built in the late 1970's) to the Towne Center pond, draining from south to the north side of 73rd Avenue. Mr. Simek questioned the Delta alternate in installing PVC pipe, and Mr. Wiedeman said the PVC pipe will last longer. Mr. Simek made a motion to accept the proposal from Delta III, Inc. for \$14,850, with the alternate installation of PVC pipe in lieu of CMP for an additional \$1,650, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A roll call vote was taken, and all three members voted yes; the motion to accept the proposal from Delta III, Inc. for \$14,850, with the alternate installation of PVC pipe in lieu of CMP for an additional \$1,650 unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt said a Lunch & Learn sponsored by Siltworm will be held at the Stormwater Resource Center on September 16th. It is being held to educate contractors, engineers and others about Siltworm and erosion control measures. He said other workshops will be held and possibly a "Stormwater 101" for residents to learn about stormwater issues.

Leonard White asked about the town newsletter and asked how people learn about Stormwater. Matt said we have been informing residents and the public about Stormwater. He said whether it is a town issue or private property matter, we inform the person on what can be done; if it's a private property matter, the person is given a list of companies they can hire to have the work done. Liz said Matt has an informational article for each town newsletter, and the Stormwater page of the town website is updated. Ron Wiedeman said residents for affected projects are informed prior to beginning.

OTHER BUSINESS

Matt showed everyone a "No Mow Zone" sign, and said the signs are important for wetland mitigation programs in the town, like the Mississippi Street project. He said he is also working with the Parks Department on a "Grow Zone" sign for native plants.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. White announced that the Stormwater Office will be closed on September 7th in observance of Labor Day, and the office will re-open on September 8th. He said the next Stormwater meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6, 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 5:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi, Staff Secretary