

**MINUTES OF THE  
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015**

President Leonard White called the October 6, 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, 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 when buildings are built, they usually have a plaque for when the building is dedicated asked that a plaque be made for the Stormwater Resource Center. Matt said he will look into it.

**MINUTES**

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the September 1, 2015 SWMB meeting. Leonard White made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 1, 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 September 1, 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 September 8 and September 22, 2015. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from September 8 and September 22, 2015, and it was seconded by Leonard White. A voice vote was taken, and all three members voted to approve the accounts payable registers from September 8 and September 22, 2015, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Matt gave updates on various stormwater projects, saying there are sinkholes, culvert replacements and resident issues addressed daily. He said the project at 79<sup>th</sup> & Taney was completed in four days, and the resident Rebecca Lee is happy with the work that was done and thanks the SWMB; a little rip rap will be installed to finish the job. The Taney Ditch clearing and snagging job was just completed and possibly in the spring may be sprayed to control the woody vegetation; he's been receiving nice comments from the residents along the ditch.

Regarding the 53<sup>rd</sup> Court Meadowdale drainage project, Matt said Gatlin Plumbing and Heating received their Notice to Proceed on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering said Gatlin is approximately half done with the project. Matt said a new resident just moved into the 53<sup>rd</sup> Court area, and they said it was not disclosed to them that there was prior flooding in the neighborhood.

The Ross Meadow Farms permitting has been done by Christopher Burke Engineering, and all easement agreements have been sent to the affected residents. The engineer's estimate for this project is under \$150,000, and Matt asked the board if they want a sealed bid process or request for quotes. Mr. White asked Attorney Jim Meyer his opinion, and Mr. Meyer said the only difference is you have to advertise for sealed bids, and it is

simpler to have a request for quotes as long as they are under \$150,000. He said quotes should be sealed and opened at a public meeting; then the board could authorize awarding the project to the lowest, most responsible bidder. Mr. Simek said he is concerned about the seeding, and Matt said we can request the bids now and start the project in the spring; Mr. Simek said the request for bids should state “to be done in the spring”.

Matt attended the Indiana Assn. for Floodplain Management (INAFSM) conference September 9-11, and they had some good sessions. He said Butler Fairman engineers had a presentation about drone technology for site inspections. Matt thinks it would not be a good idea because of the cost of the drone and aviation paperwork. Matt said Stormwater was nominated for its Stormwater Master Plan but did not receive an award.

A Lunch & Learn sponsored by Siltworm, Moore & Moore Erosion Control, was held at the Stormwater Resource Center on September 16<sup>th</sup> about erosion and sediment control. Ralph Simek attended the lunch and learn and thought it was very interesting. Matt said the fill in Siltworm socks can be used as mulch after use for erosion control. He said another lunch and learn may be held in November regarding polypropylene pipes.

All members had a copy of the Indiana American Water (IAW) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at their places. Matt had met with Attorney Jim Meyer and representatives from IAW to have an agreement where they will respond in a certain way to any water main breaks in Merrillville and have materials on their trucks in order to prevent debris in storm sewers at a water main break. Matt said if they follow the procedure outlined in the MOU, they would not be cited and fined by Stormwater. He said if it is approved by the board, it will then be presented to the Town Council for their Tuesday meeting and then onto IAW. The agreement is indefinite with no end date, but either party could terminate the agreement with not less than thirty (30) days prior written notice. He said IAW is working on best management practices (BMPs) – silt socks and other erosion control. Matt said if this works well, he will approach Utilities, Inc. to have a similar agreement with them since they are the other water company in town. Mrs. Ghoston asked about the Dechlorination policy, and Matt said IAW thought it was an appropriate attachment to the document since it is IAW’s standard operating procedure for dechlorination. Matt said several IAW members were present at the Siltworm Lunch & Learn, so they are making an effort prior to the agreement being in effect. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to affix the signatures to the IAW contract and approve same, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. A roll call vote was taken, and all three members voted yes, and the motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Town of Merrillville Stormwater Utility and Indiana American Water unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Members had received a copy of Dyer Construction Company’s Pay Request #12 for \$14,250 for the final payment of retainage held on the Taft Street project. Matt said the two Taft Street ponds have not over topped since the work was done, and we may not proceed with the other work through the cemetery because it does not seem critical at this time; the balance of funds in Stormwater Construction Fund 627 may be used on other Stormwater projects. Christopher Burke Engineering recommends payment of this final payment on retainage. Mrs. Ghoston asked if a certificate of completion is needed, and

Matt said he already has the as-builts for the project and will get the certificate of completion. Mrs. Ghoston made a motion to release the amount of \$14,250 to Dyer Construction Company as final retainage of the Taft Street project contingent upon receiving the Certificate of Completion from the engineers, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. A roll call vote was taken, and all three members voted yes, and the motion to approve payment of \$14,250 to Dyer Construction Company as final retainage of the Taft Street project contingent upon receiving the Certificate of Completion from the engineers unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt submitted an article entitled “Stormwater Fall Tips” for the town newsletter which mentions some things residents can do to prepare for winter. Ralph Simek asked about winterizing rain barrels, and Matt said it should be done so they don’t freeze or crack.

Matt said three individuals were appointed in Merrillville to be employee trainers for the Shared Ethics Commission, and he is an alternate. He was assigned to do training for Public Works, Parks Dept. and Stormwater employees, which he did on September 30<sup>th</sup>. He made a PowerPoint presentation and showed the Lake County Ethics Commission video and answered a few questions. He will continue with his duties as assigned.

Matt had a conference telephone call with Standard and Poor’s Ratings Services and Susan Gray from Karl Cender’s office, and Stormwater was once again rated A+. Karl Cender said when the bonds were sold in 2012, Stormwater got its rating from Standard & Poor, who will review Stormwater’s financials and projects annually or bi-annually.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Matt said he updated the town’s Stormwater ordinance for flood hazards since the town’s ordinance has old reference numbers for FIRMs (flood insurance rate maps), and the ordinance has to reflect the changes. The new ordinance will be presented to the Town Council for its approval on October 13<sup>th</sup>. This will help ensure that Merrillville remains eligible for federal flood disaster relief, grants and lower rates for flood insurance through NFIP, the National Flood Insurance Program.

Since Merrillville has been named an “IDEM Clean Community”, Matt had some “Grow Zone” signs made and showed everyone one. He says people need to know that in some cases, it is not “neglect”, and that there is a reason for a natural area not to be mowed. He shared a few signs with the Park Department for their natural area at Pruzin Center.

Mrs. Ghoston asked about the contract with Kieser Consulting and Shrewsberry Engineering, and Matt said Keiser could not get the information they needed in time for the deadline. She also asked about the Taft Street detention ponds looking bad, and Matt said he may try a prescribed burn, and he has a meeting this week with Cardno about permitting for a prescribed burn. Matt said in a lot of cases, a private company or property owner association (POA) owns a detention pond, and it is their responsibility to take care of them; Matt said Stormwater does not want to own ponds due to liability and other issues. He said in the past, ponds were not built as they are today, and functionality is number one. He said no other town has a special assessment for POAs/subdivisions specifically for pond maintenance, and he does not want Merrillville to be the first; older ponds have safety and liability issues.

Mrs. Ghoston also said she listens to Matt each month at the board meetings, and after the last rain event, she saw Joe out checking on things, and she is very impressed.

Matt said although he has been appointed as a member of the Little Calumet River Advisory Board, they have only had two meetings. Matt is trying to keep tabs on what they are doing because the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission receives a lot of revenue, and that money should be used on communities' projects since residents pay an annual \$45 fee on their tax bills. He said the Merrillville application is still pending. There is a vacancy on the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission for a Governor's appointment for the Lake County Commissioners.

Mr. White said he wanted to laud everyone that works with the Stormwater Board – Financial Advisor Karl Cender, Attorney Jim Meyer and Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering. He said he is very impressed with Matt, and he's been doing a good job and does not hear any complaints. He complimented Matt for doing an excellent job.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. White said the next Stormwater meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, 2015, at 4:30 p.m. at the Stormwater Resource Center. It is being held on Wednesday since Tuesday, November 3, 2015, is an election day.

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