

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011**

President Bud Crist called the March 1, 2011 Stormwater Management Board meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. Members in attendance were Barbara Ghoston and Dorinda Gregor. Staff present included Attorney T. Edward Page for Steve Bower, Matt Lake from Christopher Burke Engineering, Jon Derwinski from Robinson Engineering, Karl Cender from Cender & Company, and Liz Bushemi.

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes of the February 8, 2011 meeting minutes. Upon motion by Barbara Ghoston and second by Dorinda Gregor, the minutes of the February 8, 2011 SWMB meeting were unanimously approved.

Bud Crist officially welcomed Liz Bushemi as the secretary for the Stormwater Utility office and welcomed back Dorinda Gregor as a SWM Board member only.

Included in the agenda packet were the current accounts payable register and department appropriation report. Upon motion by Barbara Ghoston and second by Dorinda Gregor, the accounts payable register and appropriation report were unanimously approved.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Bud Crist presented (1) an invoice from Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) for dues in the amount of \$10,140.00 (\$2,500.00 base annual fee and \$7,640.00 for dues based on population of 30,560); (2) invoice #11020047 from Robinson Engineering for professional services for Chapel Manor in the amount of \$6,404.75, and (3) invoice #11020045 from Robinson Engineering for miscellaneous projects in the amount of \$627.00. Upon motion by Dorinda Gregor and second by Barbara Ghoston, the three (3) above invoices were unanimously approved to be paid.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Crist presented a contract from Cender & Company LLC indicating scope of services and fees and rates for professional services, which fees are the same as 2010. The contract was reviewed by Board members and approved by Attorney Page. Upon motion by Dorinda Gregor and second by Barbara Ghoston, the contract was unanimously approved and signed by President Bud Crist.

Attorney Page indicated that he will be serving as the attorney for the SWMB in the future. He gave a brief biography of himself, indicating he has 33 years legal experience and has been with Thiros & Stracci for ten years. Having served previously as a Lake Superior Court Criminal Division magistrate for many years, he now serves as a Senior Judge for the State of Indiana and is certified in parliamentary procedure.

Mr. Crist presented a chart of current and completed stormwater projects, and copies were distributed to all present. The Broadfield retention pond tile project and 57th Avenue culvert replacement projects were split with Lake County, and both projects have been completed. Other completed projects were a drain tile project at 78th & Noble Street, the Old Mill Creek Enhancement Project at 73rd & Madison, a culvert replacement project on 61st Avenue at the Intermediate School and a culvert replacement project at 59th & Roosevelt Place. The Chapel Manor drainage project is almost complete. Future projects are the Lincoln Gardens drainage project, the Credit Union rain garden project and the Taft Street drainage project.

Mr. Crist also advised that he met with Ron McColly this week regarding the pond. Mr. McColly said there is a lawsuit pending against Merrillville Conservancy District. Another meeting will be held with him and County Surveyor George VanTil to further discuss the matter. Mr. Crist said they are also reviewing a large pond on the Depping property on 78th Avenue.

Mr. Crist announced that the Stormwater Utility is now seeking an Executive Director. The first step is advising the Town Council members of its intent to post the position, and the letter will be sent to the Town Council members soon. Ms. Gregor questioned if public notice is required, and Mr. Crist indicated that Howard Fink said an ad should be placed after 14 days. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to proceed to hire an executive director and forward the letters to the Town Council, and it was seconded by Dorinda Gregor and unanimously approved.

Mr. Crist said the GIS plotter is now up and running in the Stormwater Utility office. The street sweeper and backhoe have also arrived, and the Vac Jet truck will arrive shortly. The three pieces of equipment cost \$503,000.

The sandpit meeting was held with Bud, Dorinda, Attorney Steve Bower, Scott Reeder (the owner) and Attorney Randy Wiley for the sandpit at 73rd Avenue & Whitcomb Street. Mr. Reinhart is interested in having it filled, and the SWMB is working with them to remove debris. Tipping fees and a bond would have to be set for the road repair, and the matter will have to be presented to the BZA and Town Council for a permit. Matt Lake showed everyone present a picture of the site and indicated it's a very dangerous sandpit, and it will need to be fenced for public safety. The sandpit will accept clean fill, have a design detention, and the project will take approximately five years to complete.

OLD BUSINESS

Jon Derwinski from Robinson Engineering said the Chapel Manor project is nearly complete. The silk fence remains up until Public Works does the restoration and vegetation, and some sidewalks and driveways need to be addressed. Grates are being discussed for safety. Mr. Crist said shop drawings will be made, and bids for the grates will be let. Mr. Crist intends to meet with Chapel Manor residents regarding re-seeding and other residential issues they may have.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Crist said he, Matt, Jon and Bruce met at property on 54th Court east of Broadway and west of Carolina Street and had a blotter picture at the meeting. The intent is to make the street pervious concrete to slope and transform it into a rain garden for stormwater, replace and/or remove sidewalks on 54th Court and make green space. This will be done as a "pilot project", where the neighborhood will be enhanced by the project. Attorney Page questioned safety of the water height, and Matt said the rain garden will be set with wetland plants and native vegetation. Matt will get some cost estimates.

Mr. Crist attended a meeting with Councilmen Richard Hardaway and Andy Sylwestrowicz regarding 56th & Grant at Hickory Ridge Apartments. Two manhole covers were located, and residents were asked to call the stormwater office if backups occur. Bud and Matt will take dye samples and check on backups.

Mr. Lake said a public outreach article was being submitted. He attended a February 22, 2011 marketing meeting at NIRPC as to how to better market stormwater issues to the public. Matt suggested that NIRPC hire a professional for marketing.

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Mr. Lake met with Lake County Data Processing regarding stormwater fees for 14,000 parcels of land for 2011. It is estimated Stormwater will receive \$1,146,194.01 (or \$1,200.00 less). Mr. Crist is waiting for the official amount from Lake County.

Mr. Lake met with the Lake County Auditor's Office to remove detention pond parcels from the tax sale list.

Mr. Lake said a roundtable discussion will be held at NIRPC regarding outfall testing protocol to determine a standard testing protocol for stormwater.

Mr. Lake said GIS maps can be made now that the plotter is in place, and he will prepare zoning maps for Dorinda and updated street maps. There is a scan feature in the GIS where old plans can be scanned for new use.

Mr. Lake said two applications have been prepared for federal funding for beet juice and rain gardens. Although Howard Fink does not believe the funding will be available, the applications will still be sent.

Regarding easement agreements, Mr. Lake said they are looking to get permanent easements along ditches where stormwater personnel would be able to do maintenance without liability of trespassing on a resident's property. Attorney Page will follow up with Attorney Bower regarding the easement permission forms and will also discuss with Mr. Bower the ability to compel residents to allow stormwater personnel on their property. Discussion was held about residents allowing personnel if they have a drainage problems, but may resist if it's merely maintenance. Although there may be some disturbance to residents and reluctance if easement permission is given, staff may have to cut trees, remove debris, bring in equipment in order to repair/replace drains. Currently there are no easements in ditches. Attorney Page to check legal provisions in the event of an emergency situation.

Mr. Crist said Sam Wright from Wright Insurance may have an LCD Projector that the SWMB can have or buy. Mr. Crist said prices vary from \$600-\$700. An LCD projector will be used for public education projects and meetings.

Mr. Lake said projects waiting for approval for stormwater are Taft Street, the Taft Street Market, Acura and the McDonald's project. CVS has not formally applied for a permit, and they have received no response from Tire Barn.

Since the stormwater master plan dates back to 1987, Mr. Lake said a current one needs to be prepared, and he will begin work on an updated master plan.

Dorinda Gregor questioned the Acura Dealership abatement. Mr. Lake said we need to see the formal plans. Mr. Derwinski said Acura came in with plans two weeks ago, but is re-working the plans. Stormwater fees depend on acreage and parcel. Matt will look into mitigation.

Mr. Lake would like to see the Stormwater Utility set up an Arbor Day program, and he will talk to Terri and Tree City USA to further discuss.

Mr. Lake will look into prices for a camera with GPS for documentation purposes.

Mr. Crist met with Maxim Powersports regarding a toolbox for the ATV. The cost is \$199.95. The toolbox can carry the GPS and other small equipment. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to purchase the toolbox for \$199.95 from Maxim Powersports, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston and unanimously approved.

Mr. Crist met with Terpstra's Blue Water Marine regarding a heavy-duty outboard motor for the Argo vehicle, and the cost of a Mercury 2011 from Terpstra's is \$2,350.00; Cabela's price was \$2,485.00, and Bass Pro Shop's price was also \$2,485.00. Terpstra's indicated there would be some labor costs at \$85.00 per hour for hook-up to the fuel tank and minor part charges for the brass valve and cable. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to purchase the outboard motor from Terpstra's in the amount of \$2,350.00 and pay labor and parts associated with installation. The motion was seconded by Barbara Ghoston and unanimously approved.

Bud Crist said he met with Councilwoman Chrissy Barron and Paul Sur regarding Bridgewood property located off 91st Avenue behind the Lake County Government Center regarding the pond there and low water levels. A future meeting will be held to discuss it further.

ANNOUCEMENT

Since it was decided that the public works conference room was not large enough to hold meetings in that location, Bud Crist announced that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2011, at 4:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Upon motion by Dorinda Gregor and second by Barbara Ghoston, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Secretary