

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2012**

President Bud Crist called the April 3, 2012 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. Members in attendance were Dorinda Gregor and Barbara Ghoston. Staff present were Executive Director Matt Lake, Compliance Officer Joe Fish, Attorney James Meyer, Karl Cender from Cender & Company, Jon Derwinski from Robinson Engineering, and Secretary Liz Bushemi. Also present were Town Councilwoman Chrissy Barron--the Town Council Liaison to the Stormwater Management Board, Town Councilmen Donald Spann and Richard Hardaway, Karen Caffarini from the *Post-Tribune*, Dan Vicari from CDM Smith, and Town Administrator Howard Fink.

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the March 6, 2012 SWMB meeting. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 6, 2012 meeting, and it was seconded by Bud Crist; there were no questions, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried.

Also included in the agenda packet was the current appropriation report and accounts payable registers. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from March 13, 2012 and March 27, 2012, and it was seconded by Bud Crist; there were no questions, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried. Secretary Liz Bushemi apologized that the appropriation reports for the Stormwater 626 general fund and Stormwater 627 construction fund did not indicate balances.

OLD BUSINESS

Matt Lake reported on an illicit discharge that he and Compliance Officer Joe Fish dealt with today at a lift station on U.S. 30 directly behind the Wonder Bread store. He said the Lake County Health Department, NIPSCO, Merrillville Conservancy District and Stormwater Utility representatives were all at the site today, and they are pursuing enforcement actions. Matt said Stormwater Utility is in existence because of the Clean Water Act, and enforcement of violations is a big part of the program; he commended Joe Fish for pursuing enforcement of violations. There is a possibility that Merrillville Conservancy District will take over the lift station. Attorney Jim Meyer said we need to look at the sanitary lift station and it needs to be part of the town code. The Indiana Department of Environment Management (IDEM) was notified, and the Lake County Health Department took samples and pictures.

Attorney Jim Meyer said the contract with First Group has been reviewed, and they need to submit their \$1 million liability insurance certificate to the contract. He said he and Karl Cender will talk to the Clerk-Treasurer about splitting violation/stormwater citation monies that will be received by Stormwater Utility.

Karl Cender said the \$3.5 million sale of bonds was successful, with bids being let on March 15 and the closing held on March 29th. The interest rate was 2.998%, which will help the Stormwater budget in the future. He and Bud Crist will meet with the Clerk-Treasurer's office to list specific line items for projects to be done on the Stormwater 627 budget. He will also check to see if a resolution is necessary for violation money that

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will be coming in. Regarding the \$3.5 million bond issue, Bud Crist said there will be a lot of billing and retainages, and they will meet with the Clerk-Treasurer about this also. Mr. Crist thanked Karl Cender and Jim Meyer for their help with the conference call and getting an A+ rating from Standard & Poors.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Crist said he attended the Sustainability and Environmental Health & Safety Symposium, which was a good conference attended by 300 people from Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio. The keynote speaker was a representative from the Cincinnati Zoo, who emphasized having 0% run off by the end of the year. He quoted Ben Franklin and said, "When the well is dry, we will know the worth of water." He said there was an air pollution session, and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reps were there; Matt said EPA is gearing up for more enforcement.

Mr. Crist attended the Avicenna Academy community garden groundbreaking, and children from the school were present for the event. Food grown in the garden will be donated to a local food bank.

Dan Vicari from CDM Smith was present to give an update and presentation about the architectural design of the new building. Although the intent is to be responsible with taxpayer money, he also wants the building to be "eye-popping". He said CDM Smith is working on sustainability issues, floor plans and specifics of the building. He hopes that by Friday, April 13, 60% of the design plans will be completed, with plans to be submitted to the state. They are working with Skillman Corporation for coordination of the project. He said by May 28, the full plans will be submitted, and it will take two to three weeks for approval by the state. The Rule 5 permit is being reviewed by the Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Mr. Crist said he will be attending tonight's Planning & Building Committee meeting regarding the proposed zone change and subdivision change. He has been working with Dorinda at the Planning department on various aspects of rezoning for the new building

Matt Lake said the MCM3 Illicit Discharge audit with IDEM on March 9, 2012 went well, and he has received good comments from Reggie Korthals, the state MS4 coordinator. Reggie will report on the audit at the May 17, 2012 Annual Meeting.

Matt attended the LTAP Road School conference March 6-8, and the roadside drainage sessions were helpful. He said it is a good conference to attend.

Matt also has been attending the Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy conferences, which is run through Purdue University. He is working on stormwater quality regarding streams and a habitat assessment.

Matt said Joe Fish has been busy sending violation notices to people not in compliance, and he has been very effective monitoring sites. He and Joe have met with Attorney Jim Meyer and Merrillville Town Court staff regarding violations; citation books are being ordered, and he is developing a brochure to accompany the citations.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Crist asked Jon Derwinski from Robinson Engineering to address the members regarding the 54th Court reconstruction project. Jon said the plan is to advertise next week in order to have bids opened by the end of the month, hopefully to be awarded at the next monthly meeting. His concern about the project is Indiana American Water's plan to lower the main for the rain garden; rather than having the road break, he says now is the time to upsize the main and put in a fire hydrant. Matt said he will try to approach Indiana American Water again. Matt also said Stormwater will be receiving a grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources coastal program in the sum of \$17,000 for promoting green BMPs. Information has been submitted to the state as to the town's ownership of the property.

Regarding the bond rating, invoices were submitted to Stormwater Management Board from Standard & Poors, the bond company, for \$10,000 and also from Cender & Company, for processing of the bond, for \$22,500. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to pay both invoices, and it was seconded by Dorinda Gregor. Mr. Crist said the funds to pay these bills will be taken out of the \$3.5 million bond issue. Upon a roll call vote, all three members voted yes, and the motion was unanimously approved and carried.

Regarding the Taft Street project, Mr. Crist said a small portion of the "McColly" property will be grated, and they are measuring for a metering station in this area. Attorney Meyer said there needs to be an inter-local easement agreement before the Board votes, and he said he will prepare the agreement.

Matt said although the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) provides MCM1 educational outreach to communities, he and others have established a Northwest Indiana Stormwater Committee for MS4 networking. The first meeting was well-attended with representatives from 12 communities. They hope to share ideas, successes and failures, regarding illicit discharges, good housekeeping and Rule 5 issues.

Matt said the last Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps were prepared in 2003, and FEMA has prepared new maps distinguishing flood zones. He said mortgage companies are contacting insurance companies to advise people who need flood insurance. Many people have called him to see if they are located within a flood zone, and he is recommending that homeowners obtain an elevation certificate to prove the property is elevated, where they will either not be required to purchase flood insurance or obtain the flood insurance at a reduced rate. He said FEMA will be posting flood zone information on their GIS site.

Mr. Lake said grants have been obtained in the amount of \$94,335. He thinks it is a great way to supplement the Stormwater budget, and he also said it is a good example of using a grant writer to obtain the assistance needed. He said he and Val from Robinson Engineering continue to work together to obtain grant funding.

Regarding miscellaneous items, Matt said the camera truck has been in Savannah Ridge. Robinson Engineering is still working on the mapping project in the town. He is working with Robinson Engineering on the stormwater pollution plans for the new building. As part of his and Dorinda's membership on the town's Environmental Committee, they are reviewing landscape plans in the town. He met with Christopher Burke Engineering regarding the stormwater master plan, which is outdated; he said they are incorporating water quality as part of the plan, with stormwater quantity and quality issues being a key area. He said Christopher Burke Engineering is 90% done with the design of the Taft Street project. At the Indiana Watershed Academy Conference, Matt said Porter County Planning Director Robert Thompson attended, and he said they have a very good comprehensive plan, which can serve as a good template for update on our town's comprehensive plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Crist asked Councilman Hardaway if he wanted to schedule a meeting with residents of 54th Court in order to answer any questions they may have about the reconstruction project and keep them informed, and Mr. Hardaway said he will contact the residents to schedule a meeting, and he will advise Mr. Crist of the date and time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Stormwater Management Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 1, 2012, at 4:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi
Secretary