

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2016**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the June 7, 2016 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:43 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said. The other members in attendance were Ralph Simek and Barbara Ghoston, who arrived at 4:49 pm. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. Staff present was Executive Director Matt Lake, Attorney James Meyer and secretary Liz Bushemi. Others present were Councilwoman Chrissy Barron, Councilman Richard Hardaway for part of the meeting, Dolores Flaska and Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

None.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the May 4, 2016 SWMB meeting. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 4, 2016 SWMB meeting, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and both members voted to approve the minutes from the May 4, 2016 meeting, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Also included in the agenda packet was a copy of the accounts payable registers from May 10, 2016 and May 24, 2016. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from May 10, 2016 and May 24, 2016, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and both members voted to approve the accounts payable registers from May 10, 2016 and May 24, 2016, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Matt said the Ross Meadow Farms project is almost complete, with hydro seeding still to be done. Bud Crist has been out to the project and said it looks good. Matt said a “Stormwater Project in Progress” sign was made, which will be added to the Stormwater page of the town website. Ralph Simek suggested that the project be included in the next town newsletter.

Matt said a drainage investigation has been started on the Sunset Road matter. Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering said a topographical survey will be done in the area to be presented and analyzed, and then they will attempt to get an analysis of the situation, a cost estimate and then a formal proposal once a solution is determined.

Matt met with Hon Sung from Robinson Engineering in Illinois regarding the map atlas; he asked for a disclaimer so the Town of Merrillville is not responsible for its contents since it was not prepared by the town. The document will be 24”X36” with a cover page containing a complete atlas of stormwater infrastructure. There may be a web design also; it is expected to be put on a maintenance cycle to possibly update every year or so. Ron Wiedeman recommended that as new subdivisions come to town and once final as-builts are approved, they be added to the map atlas.

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Matt said that Bud, Ralph, Councilwoman Barron and he attended the MS4 Annual Meeting in May, and there were about 400 attendees this year. He presented on illicit discharge enforcement and has been receiving a lot of calls from communities requesting information on the Merrillville program. The cities of Warsaw and Gary are coming to the Stormwater Resource Center to view Merrillville's documents and Stormwater program, and Matt said he is willing to share information to help other communities. Bud said Matt's presentation was standing room only at the MS4 conference.

Members had received a copy of the recommendation letter from Robinson Engineering and proposals received from contractors for the 7100 block of Virginia Street drainage project. Five quotes were solicited, and four companies responded, with Rex Construction Company being the lowest bidder at \$31,250. Mr. Simek asked about their bid being so much lower, and Mr. Wiedeman said Rex Construction has been used on several Merrillville projects, and they were the closest to the engineer's estimate. Matt said Stormwater will do this drainage project, and then the town will have Walsh & Kelly do their milling and resurfacing once drainage is complete. Mr. Crist said an approval can be made, but Stormwater needs to determine what fund the payment will come from. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the bid of Rex Construction for \$31,250 for the 7100 block of Virginia Street drainage project with the stipulation that funds are available, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken, and all three members voted to approve Rex Construction's bid for the 7100 block of Virginia Street drainage project in the amount of \$31,250, with the stipulation that funds are available, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt said the rain barrel program concluded in May, and residents can order rain barrels directly from UpCycle Products through their home delivery program. Information is on the town website.

The August StormCon Conference was again discussed. Matt recommended that all board members attend this national conference since it is being held in Indiana this year. Members were asked to advise Liz by the end of the week.

NEW BUSINESS

Members had received a copy of the Gough, Inc. pay request #2 in the amount of \$50,906.59, which included change order #1 regarding pipe size, reducing Gough's original bid amount by \$132.12. At the recommendation of Attorney James Meyer, Ralph Simek made a motion to approve change order #1 regarding pipe size, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and all three members voted to approve change order #1, and the motion to approve change order #1 unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve Gough, Inc.'s pay request #2 for work on the Ross Meadow Farms project in the amount of \$50,906.59, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no questions. A roll call vote was taken, and all three members voted to approve Gough, Inc.'s pay request #2 in the amount of \$50,906.59, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt said there are several companies with recycled pipe products, and Prinsco has products that are made with 40% recycled materials; he would like to use more recycled products. Matt intends to talk to the Lake County Solid Waste Management District about the possibility of cost sharing since the companies indicated prices are the same. Matt met with Jim Mandon from Robinson Engineering regarding the 86th Avenue project, and some Prinsco products will be used; he is also working with public works on using recycled products since they are more durable than what we've been purchasing. Matt said Florida has the highest roadway standards, and he is following them. A lunch and learn may be held. Mr. Simek asked where Prinsco products are manufactured; Matt said their headquarters is in Minnesota and they have a manufacturing plant in Illinois. Matt said the top riser ring in a catch basin turns to powder with the beet juice that is used by public works in the winter for slick roads. He hopes to get these products part of Merrillville's roadway standards, along with a driveway culvert policy that he and Jim Meyer are working on. The companies have told him that worker's compensation rates are less because laborers are working with plastic instead of concrete; recycled plastic is also less likely to be stolen, as opposed to other pipes that are stolen and scrapped.

Matt is also emphasizing pond safety for detention ponds; Stormwater sent out a press release about it, and an article is also on the town website. More Stormwater signage has been ordered, and he is sharing information with businesses having ponds, especially apartment complexes for pond safety with children. He said most of the town's ponds are dry detention; some others, like the Broadfield ponds, will have safety features built in. He said the town needs to minimize taking over any ponds because of the safety risk involved and liability for the town. Bud Crist suggested that someone contact Mr. Reinhart to install signage at the 73rd Avenue sand pit, and Matt said the planning department and the town council attorney were supposed to contact him regarding fencing. Mr. Meyer said the town cannot legally put up any signs unless it is a nuisance or safety issue. Mr. Simek asked whose responsibility it is to mow a dry pond, and Matt said the owner is always responsible to maintain it; he said the problem with property owner associations (POAs) is that if there are no members of the POA, no one does it. He said possibly the Lake County Sheriff's Community Workforce program can do it. He said the Meijer pond is almost at full capacity storage now, and they are working to keep it in check because of Stormwater's enforcement issues. Sedona and Mesa Ridge subdivisions' ponds all go to the Meijer pond and go from there to our watershed.

Matt said he is working with the Purdue University Extension office to have a 2-day rain garden conference at the Stormwater Resource Center. All members will be invited.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 5, 2016, at 4:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center.

Ralph Simek made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi, Staff Secretary