

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2017**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the March 14, 2017, Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said. The other members in attendance were Barbara Ghoston and Ralph Simek. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. Staff members present were Executive Director Matt Lake, Attorney James Meyer, Financial Advisor Karl Cender and secretary Liz Bushemi. Other individuals present were Town Manager Bruce Spires and Dolly Flaska.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Bud Crist said in Matt’s absence last week while he was at Road School, he took care of removing debris from storm sewer manholes at 56th & Grant and 54th & Johnson; he also said there was a water main break at 62nd & Johnson, which Indiana American Water addressed.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the February 7, 2017 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held on February 7, 2017, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting of February 7, 2017, 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 February 14, 2017, February 28, 2017 and March 14, 2017. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers from February 14, 2017, February 28, 2017 and March 14, 2017, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the accounts payable registers from February 14, 2017, February 28, 2017 and March 14, 2017, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Bud Crist said Ordinance 17-03 would be on tonight’s Town Council meeting for first reading, a copy of which members received in their packets. The ordinance addresses 2017 stormwater budget matters that have previously been approved by the SWMB. Second reading will take place at the March 28, 2017 Town Council meeting. Attorney Jim Meyer recommended the approval of the letter from SW President Bud Crist to the Town Council, recommending they approve Ordinance No. 17-03. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the letter to the Town Council based on Attorney Meyer’s recommendation, that the Council approves Ordinance 17-03, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the letter from President Bud Crist to the Town Council, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt Lake commented on the status of various stormwater projects: He said Sunset Road design is being finalized, and a pre-bid meeting will be held so a potential contractor will understand the obstacles in the residents’ back yards that they would deal with. Regarding Southmoor Park, he said Sedrick Green is looking at utility re-locates and is working with Indiana American Water, and he is waiting on final plans from Robinson Engineering.

For the Meadowdale project near 57th and Grant Street, Matt said he and Darren Olson from Christopher Burke Engineering met with representatives of the Lake Michigan Coastal Grant program about an existing grant project at Pruzin Park. Matt said there will be two separate

basins with 42 acre feet of storage, and there will be no impact on the existing coastal grant; the basins will be located to the west of the street department north barn, which is already owned by the town, and north of 57th Avenue at Grant Street. Christopher Burke Engineering is expected to have plans completed in two months.

Matt said for the 54th & Adams Street project, trees have been removed, and Robinson Engineering says they are nearing the end of the design on this project. He has not heard anything from Robinson Engineering regarding the 69th & Connecticut Street project, which will basically eliminate the sump pump currently at that location. Matt talked to Tim Brown from the Lake County Community Development Office about the Independence Street project, and he is hopeful to use economic development funds for a portion of that project. He also said Butler Fairman & Seufert is working on the Highway 55 and Bon Aire Lake project; they may attend next month's meeting to provide an update.

Matt attended the LTAP Stormwater Drainage Conference, where EPA had a lot of discussion about low impact development (LID) and research on outlet devices. He said a lunch and learn was held here at the Stormwater Resource Center with Prinsco Products, where they focused on an eco flow pipe with 40% recycled materials. Matt has talked to John Minear at Lake County Solid Waste about future use of the products and may use them as standard inventory for future projects. Monty Storms from Prinsco Products is working with local vendors to see if they can be sold here. Matt also attended LTAP Road School, where he attended sessions on green infrastructure and ethics; he said they also discussed trials and tribulations of rain gardens.

NEW BUSINESS

Matt gave the board members a handout regarding the Meadowdale project. He received a proposal from Christopher Burke Engineering regarding a project at Hickory Ridge Lake Apartments. During the 2008 storm, apartments on the first floor flooded out. Matt met with representatives of the apartments asking about an easement to the east end of their property to create storage which would flow into Turkey Creek Lateral #6; if the easement is approved, it would be a dry basin for storage. Christopher Burke's proposal is for preliminary engineering and surveying services at Hickory Ridge Apts. and 56th and Grant for up to \$29,870. Preparation of the easement document is \$3,500, and Matt said the project will not be designed if the easement is not granted by Hickory Ridge Apts. Matt said this would be a complete re-design of the area and creation of a substantial amount of storage; he said when Lateral #6 was created, nothing was designed with storage in mind. Mrs. Ghoston asked about permitting, and Matt said permitting would follow if the easement is granted. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the Christopher Burke Engineering proposal for preliminary engineering and surveying services at Hickory Ridge Apts. and 56th Street drainage improvements provided that the Hickory Ridge Apts. easement is granted, in an amount not to exceed \$29,870.00, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There was no further discussion or questions. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the Christopher Burke Engineering proposal for preliminary engineering and surveying services at Hickory Ridge Apts. and 56th Street drainage improvements provided that the Hickory Ridge Apts. easement is granted, in an amount not to exceed \$29,870.00, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt said Indiana American Water (IAW) has several water main projects going on in Merrillville, and a pre-construction meeting will be held; then he will permit them all together, and then IAW will get their Rule 5 permit. He said IAW has been cited by Stormwater, and now they are implementing best management practices (BMPs) at construction sites. He said the company was embarrassed that they were cited, but Matt said they will be fined if necessary.

Matt applied for a 319 grant through the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) as part of their watershed grant money. There is a small project near SS. Peter and Paul Church on 58th Avenue where Gary Sanitary District had plugged a sanitary sewer pipe. Matt has already received an easement from the church and came up with a preliminary plan. The grant could pay one-half (1/2) the amount of this project up to \$25,000.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Mrs. Ghoston said she attended the Prinsco Lunch & Learn held at the Stormwater Resource Center and thought it was an interesting presentation. Since Prinsco has such a good recycled 40% HPD product, she asked how they will get it on the market; Matt said the presenters intend to contact local big box stores to sell the product. Since recycled products hopefully will become the norm, supply and demand will be greater. When Stormwater uses Prinsco products, a construction observation tech will be available.

Matt said Stormwater received some erosion control materials donated by D2 Land & Water for the Stormwater premises. Some companies are donating their products for demonstration projects to be done here. Signage will be installed as to product identification.

Matt is hoping to do the prescribed burns at the two Taft Street ponds soon, and the Merrillville Fire Department will assist with the burns.

Mr. Simek asked about the Indiana MS4 Annual Meeting, and Matt said it is set for May 15 and 16 in Indianapolis. Liz will get members information as soon as it becomes finalized.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the next SWMB meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2017, 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 5:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary