

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the April 3, 2018, 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 Adviser Karl Cender and secretary Liz Bushemi. Also present were Randy Strasser from VS Engineering, Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering and Karen Caffarini from the *Post-Tribune*.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the March 13, 2018 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held March 13, 2018, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Also included in the agenda packet was a copy of the accounts payable register from March 27, 2018. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the accounts payable register from March 27, 2018, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Regarding the Independence Street project, Matt said they are awaiting documents from Dyer Construction Company and supplemental information, and as soon as that is received, a pre-construction meeting will be held.

He said the 8720-8814 Old Lincoln Highway drainage project is complete except for seed and blanket restoration. Once that is done, a final pay request for Rex Construction will be turned in.

Matt said the Sunset Road project is also complete except for restoration in the back yards, which will be done soon. Once the seeding and blanketing is done and fences re-installed, Delta III, Inc. will submit its final pay request on the project.

Matt said Tracy Belongia from the Community Rating System (CRS) will conduct the two-day audit at the Stormwater Resource Center April 11th and 12th.

He also said Stormwater’s application for engineering costs for the Meadowdale storage project in the amount of \$133,000.00 will be on the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission agenda at its April 11th meeting, and he will attend.

Matt said there will be a court hearing in April in Merrillville Town Court for the Gary Sanitary District discharge violations that occurred after the heavy rain event in February; he said violations were filed, and all the information was documented. The Stormwater goal is to see that discharges and surcharges are prevented in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

Bud Crist said a Bon Aire Lake aerating system will be discussed at a later date. Matt said Bon Aire Lake is to be lowered seven (7) inches, and Butler, Fairman & Seufert is working on re-designing the culvert at Bon Aire Lake. A brief discussion was held about an aeration system.

Matt said there is a stormwater pipe failure at 6325 Harrison Street (72" pipe with 80 foot length), where six (6) companies were sent a request for a quote to repair the pipe: Delta III, Inc., Gough, Inc., Rex Construction Company, Inc., LGS Plumbing, Gatlin Plumbing and DeBoer Egolf Company. Of these companies, only two (2) companies responded. Gough, Inc.'s quote was for \$59,321.00, and Delta III, Inc.'s quote was for \$39,850.00. Bud Crist said Delta III did an emergency section of this pipe last year. The project is right at the edge of the road, and Matt said one lane would have to be closed. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the Delta III, Inc. quote for \$39,850.00 for the Harrison Street emergency project, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Ghoston asked the status of resident Ric Holtz's request, who attended last month's SWMB meeting. Matt visited the site the following day and determined there may be a problem with the swale in the subdivision but not at the resident's home. Mr. Holtz was told that the next time there is a heavy rain event, Matt would come back to check the problem in the subdivision, which is an older subdivision. Mr. Holtz understood the issue.

Matt said he attended a meeting with FEMA and other communities, where FEMA did a preliminary damage assessment following the February rain event; he said county-wide, the damage may be over \$1.9 million. Matt submitted the 74th and Iddings Court emergency culvert replacement project where Stormwater paid \$29,800.00, which may be reimbursed by FEMA.

Matt has been in contact with Purdue University's EPICS program, whose students are studying technology and engineering. They are working on a phone app for stormwater outfall sampling that could be used in the fall. It will be partially a mentoring situation for the students. He said a Purdue University researcher interviewed him last year about a "Common Ground Common Water" video, which is based on local stormwater issues. The video is on the town website.

Financial advisor Karl Cender was asked if he had any report, and he said no. Bud Crist asked that he make a note for the 2019 budget to have a line item for replacement of equipment since some stormwater equipment is getting old.

Attorney Jim Meyer had no comment.

Mr. Crist reminded members of the MS4 2018 Annual Meeting to be held on May 14 and 15 in Indianapolis. Liz said all members were registered for the conference itself, and hotel reservations would be made soon.

Members were given a copy of Matt's Spring 2018 town newsletter article, "Stormwater 101", where residents can learn ways to help protect their home. Mrs. Ghoston asked about lawn care companies that blow grass clippings into the street, and Matt said Stormwater can reach out to them on proper procedure so grass clippings don't go into stormwater drains. He said we will get a list of licensed contractors from the Clerk-Treasurer or Planning & Building office. He said he is promoting no mow fescue, where areas are only mowed once per year; that would minimize grass clippings in the streets. Matt said Stormwater's residential lawn brochure is helpful, too.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said next SWMB meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 1, 2018, at 4:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi

Staff Secretary