

**MINUTES OF THE  
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 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, Damon Tsouklis from Cender & Company, Attorney James Meyer and staff secretary Liz Bushemi. Also present were resident Dolores Flaska and Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Mr. Crist complimented Matt Lake on the article that featured him and Stormwater Utility in the national *Municipal Sewer & Water* February, 2019, magazine. Matt said our work is a team effort, and this article gets information out about low impact development to other communities.

**MINUTES**

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the January 2, 2019 SWMB meeting. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held January 2, 2019, 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.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL**

Also included in the agenda packet were copies of the accounts payable registers from January 8 and January 22, 2019. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to accept the claims on the accounts payable registers from January 8 and January 22, 2019, 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.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Regarding the Windy Hill Court project, Matt said the project will be completed when weather permits. He also said the Taft Street, Meadowdale and Bon Aire Lake projects are continuing with regards to engineering and permitting, and updates will be provided when they are available.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Included in the members’ packets was a copy of Amma Properties’ Stormwater Appeal for Fee Determination for their property at 7101 Broadway. At the members’ places was a copy of an excel document prepared by Damon Tsouklis from Cender & Company regarding the refund amount for the November, 2018, installment. Damon said since Amma Properties paid the November installment on their taxes on December 5, 2018 (after the November 13, 2018 tax deadline), the stormwater fees would be received by us in June, 2019. Ralph Simek made a motion to defer action on the Amma Properties’ Stormwater Appeal for Fee Determination until June, 2019, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There was no further discussion, and there were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Also included in the members’ packets was a copy of the Cardno Professional Services Agreement for maintenance work to be done for Crescent Lake in an amount not to exceed \$21,500.00. Matt said regarding the scope of services, Cardno may use a native wetland seed mix instead of plant plugs for the Crescent Lake detention area which will lower the cost.

Cardno is also leasing a Marsh Master which would mow down the existing phragmites; they would then spray to control the invasive plants and revegetate the area with native plants. Since this may be considered be a wetland restoration project, he talked to Joe Exl at NIRPC, who may be able to get some funding from a 319 grant to supplement the cost of the project. Mrs. Ghoston asked how they will get rid of the phragmites, and Matt said Cardno will cut and spray them to deter regrowth. He said since Crescent Lake is in a residential neighborhood, they cannot prescribe burn the area, and there is a safety concern. Mr. Simek asked how many acres the Marsh Master can mow, and Matt said it can mow the entire area which is almost five (5) acres. He said if we eventually want to purchase a Marsh Master, the cost for a refurbished one is about \$130,000, it has additional attachment options including a backhoe that can be added. Matt recommended seeing it in action first at Crescent Lake before considering any purchase. Matt said Cardno also looked at some other detention parcels that the town owns, and Cardno will give Matt prices for managing vegetation for those areas. He said another possible option would be for adjacent communities that are members of the Northwestern Indiana Stormwater Advisory Group (NISWAG) to partner together to collectively purchase a Mulch Master and share its use for mowing detention ponds within each community. Mrs. Ghoston made a motion to approve the Cardno Professional Services Agreement for work to be done for Crescent Lake in an amount not to exceed \$21,500.00, 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.

Matt said several engineering firms had on-call engineering services contracts with Stormwater last year, and some are on the agenda for 2019 services as an addendum to their existing contracts for on-call services. Members received copies of the Addenda (the Addendum for each firm). Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the Addendum for on-call engineering services in 2019 with Robinson Engineering, 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.

Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the Addendum for on-call engineering services in 2019 with Butler, Fairman & Seufert, 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.

Members had at their places a copy of the Addendum to the VS Engineering contract. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the Addendum for on-call engineering services in 2019 with VS Engineering, 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.

Matt has requested quotes for a drainage project at 57<sup>th</sup> & Massachusetts Street for installation of a catch basin, HDPE pipe and grading to form a swale within an existing ditch. Quotes are due at the Stormwater office by Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, and the Board will vote on the lowest bidder at the March meeting.

Matt will be attending the LTAP Stormwater Drainage Conference on February 7, 2019 in West Lafayette, IN. He also said there is a free Northwest Indiana Trained Contractors Workshop on February 26, 2019 at Lake County Fairgrounds, and Joe Fish and Bud Crist will be attending.

Mr. Simek asked about the guardrail on Taft Street, south of 73<sup>rd</sup> and Matt said that INDOT determined years ago not to have a guardrail at that location. Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering said INDOT was not in favor of it because of liability. He said their general rule to consider a guardrail is a two-in-one five-foot drop in order to warrant a guardrail. Matt also said INDOT is proposing a roundabout at that intersection.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Crist said the Stormwater Utility office and all non-emergency town offices will be closed on Monday, February 18, 2019, for the Presidents' Day holiday.

Because Matt will be attending LTAP Road School on March 5<sup>th</sup> and has a conflict, the next SWMB meeting will be on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at 4:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center.

There being no further business, Ralph Simek made a motion to adjourn; the meeting was adjourned at 4:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Bushemi  
Staff Secretary