

**MINUTES OF THE  
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2019**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the Wednesday, May 8, 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, Attorney James Meyer and staff secretary Liz Bushemi. Also present were Bon Aire Lake residents Linda Neidlinger, Bob Cotton and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Sinclair.

**MINUTES**

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

Also included in the agenda packet was a copy of the accounts payable registers from April 9, 2019 and April 23, 2019. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to accept the claims on the accounts payable registers for April 9, 2019 and April 23, 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**

Matt said the small project at 57<sup>th</sup> & Massachusetts Street was completed. Included in the members’ packets was a copy of Delta III, Inc.’s Pay Application in the amount of \$13,250.00. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the Delta III pay application in the amount of \$13,250.00, 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.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Crist said there was a transfer of Public Works employee Mike Mahy to Stormwater Utility. At the members’ places was a copy of a SWMB Resolution No. 19-01 (which was previously emailed to them) approving amendments to the utility’s 2019 budgets for Funds 626 and 627 to create and pay for the new Stormwater Operator II position. Mrs. Ghoston was asked to read aloud the resolution, which transferred a total of \$58,500.00 from Fund 627 to Fund 626 for the pay, Social Security, PERF and longevity for the new employee. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve SWMB Resolution 19-01, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston, who asked about the duties for the position. Matt Lake said his responsibilities include operation of the jet vac truck and camera truck and manual labor of any other blockages; Matt said Mike Mahy is the laborer with skills who has operated the stormwater vehicles in the past for our department, and he will be trained on the backhoe and do other work needed at the Stormwater office. This is a transfer of the employee from Public Works to Stormwater Utility. No further discussion was held. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt said the Taft Street box culvert project across from Calumet Park Cemetery will be ready to be put out for bid since all permits have been received. Included in the members’ packets was a copy of the Christopher Burke Engineering (CBBEL) contract for construction observation in the amount of \$23,880.00. Matt said the contract is based on four (4) weeks of construction

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observation. He said the road will be closed during the project, and the project may not take four (4) weeks to complete. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the CBBEL construction observation contract for an amount not to exceed \$23,880,00; the motion was seconded by Barbara Ghoston with the condition that if the project is completed before four (4) weeks' time, that the contract price may be adjusted to a lower amount. There was no discussion or further comments. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt said there is a collapsed pipe at 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Indiana Street across from Starbucks on Mississippi Street, and Matt emailed out a request for quotes to six or seven contractors for this project. He said the pipe drains at the pond behind the Enspect building on 83<sup>rd</sup> and Mississippi Street.

Matt said the Meadowdale storage basin project is moving along. Christopher Burke Engineering is studying parts of Gary to relieve Lateral 6 for more storage. Most permits have been received; we will need to advertise this project, and he said we are on target to bid this project soon. Funding for construction observation for this project will also be presented to the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission.

Last year Matt approached the Lake County Surveyor for maintenance to be done and sediment and debris removal on Lateral 6 (Turkey Creek). The surveyor's office intends to work on Lateral 6 from 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to 61<sup>st</sup> Avenue by MIS School to help with flow of the ditch.

Resident Bob Cotton said Lake & Pond Biologists have been out twice to treat Bon Aire Lake, but the lake was too high and wet to do the second treatment. Matt said the town had 4.2" of rain in twelve (12) hours last week with a big surge for an intense rain event, and a lot of areas were inundated. Matt said the south end of Bon Aire Lake got more water. Bob Cotton said he heard that one person got water in their home, which may have been seepage through the walls; Matt said the homeowner needs to look at the tiles around the house.

Matt said they went out and observed all the hot spots for flooding, and some ponds were overflowing. Catch basins were cleared. He said that some projects that were done previously worked, like Independence Street where "Independence Bowl" had no flooding. There were a few areas where high water signs had to be installed by public works. He said there were some residents on 53<sup>rd</sup> Court who had some flooding because there are no areas for storage of water near them. Some new homeowners had never had prior flooding disclosed when they bought their homes. Matt said we received many sanitary sewer calls, and they were referred to the Gary Sanitary District and Merrillville Conservancy District; he recommended to several people that they purchase a back water valve to help with sanitary sewer backups in the house. There was also a NIPSCO power outage which affected people with sump pumps, and he said battery backup sump pumps can help with that.

Bob Cotton said he's been keeping an eye on the Taft Street ponds and noticed that the pond on 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue east of the Dairy Queen had some water, but the pond on 69<sup>th</sup> & Taft Street across from Calumet Park Cemetery had a lot of water. Matt said the box culvert project will help that since that pond fills up quickly. Since the cemetery has refused to allow new infrastructure on its property, the box culvert project is being done in lieu of using eminent domain for the cemetery property.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Ralph Simek said the homeowner at the corner of 68<sup>th</sup> Place and Merrillville Road on the southeast side has had a lot of trees cut down, and Matt said he was aware of it and had Joe Fish go there to make sure they were not putting the trees in the ditch.

Matt also said that NIPSCO is doing line cleaning around trees through Arbor Metrics and Townsend Tree Service throughout the town; Townsend will stack trees near the road for public works to pick up. He said if a resident wants, they can request complete removal of the tree, but it is up to Townsend if they will remove the entire tree; residents may have to hire a contractor to remove what is left.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bob Cotton asked about the Bon Aire Lake culvert project, and Matt said the plans are being finalized for the lake to hold more water, and they are getting all the permits for the work to be done, including a permit from the Lake County Surveyor since it is a regulated drain. Matt intends to hold a public meeting to convey information about the project to residents.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Crist said the next SWMB meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 4, 2019, 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 4:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Bushemi  
Staff Secretary