

**MINUTES OF THE  
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the September 3, 2019, Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:34 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, Financial Advisor Karl Cender, Attorney James Meyer and staff secretary Liz Bushemi. Others present were Councilwoman Chrissy Barron, Ed Spanopoulos from Lake & Pond Biologists and residents Bob Cotton and Linda Neidlinger.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Mr. Crist asked everyone to remember the people on the East Coast and the Bahamas during Hurricane Dorian.

**MINUTES**

Approval of the August 6, 2019 SWMB meeting minutes was deferred to the October 1, 2019 meeting.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL**

Also included in the agenda packet were copies of the accounts payable registers from August 13 and August 27, 2019. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers from August 13 and August 27, 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.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Included in the members’ packets were copies of two quotes for and pictures of amphibious mowers:

From Coast Machinery, LLC – a Marsh Master	-	\$176,821.00
From Wilco Manufacturing, LLC – a Marsh-Runner-		\$180,875.00

Matt said he did a search of comparable amphibious mowers closest to the Marsh Master, which he, Bud, Barbara, Joe Fish and Mike Mahy saw in action when Stormwater contracted with Cardno to mow town ponds earlier this year and requested quotes from these companies. Attorney Jim Meyer said that are certain requirements for federal procedure, and Matt said he requested quotes by email to the two companies. Mr. Simek asked if the quote from Coast Machinery was a for refurbished Marsh Master, and Matt said no. Bud Crist said a vote on purchase of an amphibious mower should take place now so it can be ordered for delivery in the spring. Mr. Meyer asked about Cardno being hired to mow the town ponds, and Matt said they mowed and sprayed five or six basins in Merrillville. Matt also looked at the Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR’s) machine with the sprayer, and he said this equipment is becoming more a standard piece of equipment for stormwater departments. Coast Machinery will deliver the Marsh Master and give a tutorial, and employee Mike Mahy will be trained and operate the equipment. Mr. Crist and Mrs. Ghoston said they saw it, too, and were pleased with the results. Mrs. Ghoston said the quotes are comparable. Mr. Simek asked where the equipment would be stored, and Matt said at the Stormwater Resource Center (SWRC). Mrs. Ghoston asked about Wilco requiring 20% down, and Matt said that a down payment is required in order for them to start building it. Mr. Simek asked about the overhead rack, and Matt said it is for tool storage, which DNR also has. Matt said both pieces of equipment have the cutter attachment.

Based on the lengthy previous discussion and knowing it is something Stormwater should do, Mrs. Ghoston made a motion to move ahead with purchase of the Marsh Master from Coast Machinery, LLC in the amount of \$176,821.00, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There was no further discussion and no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote. Mr. Meyer asked if there is a line item for this equipment, and Matt said Stormwater will have to move some money to pay for the equipment.

Included in the members' packets was a copy of Change Order #2 from Delta III, Inc. for the Windy Hill Court project. At members' places was a copy of an invoice from Delta III, Inc. for payment of Change Order #2 in the amount of \$1,754.00. Matt said the change was for a drainage inlet for the project. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve Change Order #2 in the amount of \$1,754.00, 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. Ralph Simek made a second motion to approve payment of the invoice the amount of \$1,754.00, 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.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Matt said he will be attending the Indiana Assn. for Floodplain Management (INAFSM) conference this week, and he will obtain information and report back at next month's meeting.

Matt asked Ed Spanopoulos from Lake & Pond Biologists to attend to talk about the concern of blue-green algae at Bon Aire Lake. Mr. Spanopoulos said there are problems with this bacteria at all lakes and ponds in the region. He is aware of the history of green algae at Bon Aire Lake and said nationwide, there are high phosphorous levels at lakes, more sunlight and warmer weather. He said it's difficult to navigate with all the algae, and he noticed the bacteria last week at Bon Aire Lake. He said people need to understand that blue-green algae is a bacteria, and that if ingested, it can be dangerous. He said people need to wash their hands if they come into contact with it, and humans and pets should not drink the water because of the toxins and danger in ingesting it. Treating blue-green algae is very costly, he said; bacteria pallets are thrown into the lake periodically since the lake cannot be dredged. He was asked if blue-green algae is toxic to fish, and Mr. Spanopoulos said if there is an upward bloom of the blue-green algae, there would be a fish kill at the lake because it depletes the dissolved oxygen. Resident Bob Cotton said the dissolved oxygen (DO) level is at 8 now which is perfect, and if it gets higher than 12, he will notify Matt Lake. Mr. Cotton said he has already notified people living near algae areas to keep humans and pets away and not to allow children to wade in it. Mr. Spanopoulos said heavy rain events can make it worse, and he is attempting to stay on top of the treatment at the lake. Mr. Crist asked if it will help when the lake level is lowered with less water, and Matt said a lower level makes it difficult getting the Lake & Pond Biologist boat in the water. Matt wants residents to stay away from the blue-green algae and not drink the water from the lake. Mr. Spanopoulos left copies of two documents he brought regarding the blue-green algae issue.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Cotton asked the status of the Bon Aire Lake culvert, and Matt said they are still waiting on permits. A public hearing will be held possibly at town hall or at the church near Bon Aire Lake before the project begins.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Crist said the next SWRC meeting is set for Tuesday, October 1, 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 5:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi

Staff Secretary