

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2019**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the November 6, 2019, Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:31 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 residents Bob Cotton, Linda Neidlinger and Karen Billick.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the October 1, 2019 SWMB meeting. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meetings held on October 1, 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 October 8 and October 22, 2019. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers from October 8 and October 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

Bud Crist said that he attended the October 9, 2019 Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC) meeting with Matt and Darren Olson, where they gave an outstanding presentation on the Meadowdale project. He thanked Matt and said we are well represented.

Included in the members’ packets was a copy of the Delta III, Inc. change order for rip rap and geo-fabric to stabilize outlets in the amount of \$1,500.00 and their total invoice in the amount of \$46,850.00 for the Lakewood Estates project. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the change order in the amount of \$1,500.00, 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. Mr. Simek then made a motion to approve the total invoice in the amount of \$46,850.00 from Delta III, Inc. for the Lakewood Estates 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.

Also included in the members’ packets was a copy of an invoice from Ryan Construction, Inc. for the Indiana Street and 83rd Avenue drainage project in the amount of \$20,770.00. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve payment of the Ryan Construction invoice the amount of \$20,770.00, 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.

Also included in the members’ packets was a copy of an invoice from Ellas Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$21,250.00 for one-half of the bridge repair at 78th Avenue and Hendricks Street, which was a cost share with Public Works. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve payment of the Ellas Construction invoice the amount of \$21,250.00, 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. Bud Crist asked if the bridge needs repair in the future, would Public Works cost share again, and Matt said the crossing was inspected by our engineers and the repair was adequate. Any future cost-share will have to be evaluated and discussed as needed.

Also included in the members' packets was a copy of the Christopher Burke Engineering recommendation that the \$117,973.18 pay request #1 from Dyer Construction Company, Inc. be paid for the Taft Street project, including their change order in the amount of \$10,393.13 for pavement removal and erosion control. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the change order in the amount of \$10,393.13, 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 said there is a 5% retainage being held on the work done to date. Mr. Simek then made a motion to approve the total pay request #1 in the amount of \$117,973.18 from Dyer Construction Company, Inc., 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 said the LCRBDC reimbursed Stormwater for engineering costs of the Meadowdale project in the amount of \$149,805.50 that has been billed to them and received to date, which amount was 100% engineering costs. He said he also plans to submit an application to the LCRBDC for 50% of construction costs for the project.

Matt has also submitted an application with DLZ to the LCRBDC for \$61,000.00 to cover 100% of the engineering costs for the Taney Ditch Drainage Improvement project within the Kaiser Ditch Sub-watershed and an application with BF&S to cover 50% of the construction costs for the Bon Aire Lake Culvert project in the amount of \$74,000.00. Mr. Simek asked about the Little Cal helping Stormwater with projects, and Matt said some applications are for engineering costs and some are for construction costs so we will continue to submit applications to request funding. Matt said during our presentation on the Meadowdale Drainage Study in October, Darren Olson showed to the LCRBDC Board the ideal location for a regional detention basin which includes 18 select parcels in Gary that are currently on tax sale. The first step is land acquisition in partnership with LCRBDC, Lake County Parks Dept., City of Gary, City of Hobart and Lake County Surveyor. The LCRBDC Board responded favorably regarding the results of our study and anticipation of a regional multi-purpose stormwater flood control basin, especially since this type of project aligns with the mission of the LCRBDC. Once the properties are acquired, we will ideally partner to design this project and then seek federal dollars for funding to construct the project in three phases. Our town attorney is working with the county on obtaining 18 of the parcels for the project that are currently on tax sale, and Matt is coordinating with Lake County Parks to start discussions regarding the vision of this flood control project that will also be a regional nature preserve that is part of their open space plan.

Matt also said he has met two times with representatives from the Gary Sanitary District (GSD) and Merrillville Conservancy District (MCD) for strategic planning to reduce I & I (infiltration and inflow). Both sanitary utilities are considering several initiatives including a sanitary system study of select areas, educational outreach and private property inspections. Matt said he has been in touch with the Greater Northern Indiana Assn. of Realtors (GNIAR) in efforts to review seller disclosure forms and see if they can add specific inspections to identify any sanitary cross-connections before homes are sold. He said GSD intends to have information on back water valves in their newsletter. The group is looking at a workshop with representatives from Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids, MI, where the workshop can be held at Merrillville Town Hall to help residents. MCD will be receiving a proposal from Robinson Engineering to do a study of the MCD system that services the Turkey Creek subdivision.

Mr. Simek asked if we have all the permitting done for Bon Aire Lake and lowering of the culvert, and Matt said 99% of the permitting has been secured. A public meeting will be held with the local residents, and then it will be put out for bid. We also want to see if the LCRBDC will approve the cost-share for construction. Resident Bob Cotton asked when, and Matt said he anticipates this spring.

NEW BUSINESS

Included in the members' packets was a copy of Stormwater Resolution 19-03 increasing the Stormwater Contractual Services line item by \$150,000.00. Mr. Crist asked the SWMB secretary Barbara Ghoston to read the resolution aloud. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve Resolution 19-03, 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. Mr. Crist said the money came from the LCRBDC grant money for the Meadowdale project engineering.

Also included in the members' packets was a copy of a letter from Curtis Pearson thanking Stormwater Utility for their work on the Lakewood Estates project. Mr. Crist asked Mrs. Ghoston to read the thank you letter aloud.

Matt said our Compliance Inspector, Joe Fish, has contacted select residents to relocate sump pump discharge to the new storm drain system we installed within Lakewood Estates.

Financial Advisor Karl Cender said the stormwater billing for 2020 is being prepared and will be sent to Lake County shortly.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Bob Cotton said everything is moving along at Bon Aire Lake.

Mrs. Ghoston asked Matt if the 54th Court rain garden matter is being resolved, and Matt said yes; the town attorney is getting that parcel off of the tax sale rolls.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the next SWRC meeting is set for Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at 4:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center.

Ralph Simek made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary