

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

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the December 3, 2019, Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:32 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. Resident Bob Cotton was also present.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the November 6, 2019 SWMB meeting. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meetings held on November 6, 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 November 12 and November 26, 2019. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers from November 12 and November 26, 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 DLZ Engineering submitted an application to the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC) for \$61,000.00 -- 100% of the engineering costs for the Taney Ditch Drainage Improvement project within the Kaiser Ditch Sub-watershed. He said this project will take place from the McDonald’s on U.S. 30 north to 73rd Avenue. He said the LCRBDC Board voted to accept it, and DLZ Engineering will submit a contract to Stormwater for the engineering costs.

Matt also said a 50% cost share on the Bon Aire Lake application for construction costs is still pending with the LCRBDC. Mr. Simek asked if Matt would also submit an application for the project itself, and Matt said yes. He said each application is screened by the LCRBDC Advisory Board and then a recommendation is made to the LCRBDC Executive Board which will make the decisive vote. An application request for funding may also be deferred by the LCRBDC and then placed on the agenda at a later date. Matt is encouraged to see the LCRBDC assisting with some engineering and project costs since residents pay the \$45 annual fee to the LCRBDC.

NEW BUSINESS

Included in the members packets was a copy of the tentative 2020 SWMB schedule of meetings. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the tentative 2020 schedule of meetings, 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 he and Christopher Burke Engineering (CBBEL) have drafted another application to request cost-share for construction of the two Meadowdale regional flood control basins – one at the north and one at the south – to the LCRBDC. The north basin is expected to be put out for bid in the winter. They are asking the LCRBDC for one-half of the construction costs. The engineers have provided estimates for the project, which are not public at this time due to the bid process. The LCRBDC has used details within the Merrillville Stormwater Master Plan in their regional watershed study that was prepared by SEH and DLZ Engineering. Therefore, LCRBDC

plan includes the Meadowdale regional flood control basins. Matt would encourage the LCRBDC to require all municipalities to have a stormwater master plans as a prerequisite for cost-share applications. Matt said both basins will cost approximately \$3 million for construction, and with the LCRBDC's help with funding, it will avoid Stormwater bonding for this project.

Matt also said there is a potential flood control project south of Schepel Buick, where a new development may incorporate a 20 Ac-FT expansion of an existing detention basin, which was included in our Stormwater Master Plan, and he will keep the board informed.

Bud said as the 2019 year comes to a close, he wanted to report that in 2019, Stormwater has done over \$312,000.00 worth of projects, not including engineering and not including the \$100,000 paid to Public Works each year for small drainage projects. He is looking forward to continue implementing the Master Plan projects and other drainage infrastructure improvements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Bob Cotton said there are some logs in the culvert at Bon Aire Lake, and one is about 200 pounds that he cannot move. He said one of the neighbor's yard flooded, and Matt said we will remove the obstructions immediately. Mr. Crist told Mr. Cotton that he does not have to wait for a monthly meeting to advise us of something like that.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the next SWMB meeting is set for Tuesday, January 7, 2020, 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 4:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary