

**MINUTES OF THE  
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the January 7, 2020, Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:28 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. Town Council President Rick Bella, Town Council Member Leonard White, Clerk-Treasurer Kelly White-Gibson and residents Bob Cotton and Linda Neidlinger were also present.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Mr. Crist welcomed Town Council President Rick Bella and Councilman Leonard White to the meeting and said they are welcome to attend Stormwater meetings any time. He also welcomed Clerk-Treasurer Kelly White-Gibson when she arrived.

**MINUTES**

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the December 3, 2019 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held on December 3, 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.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL**

Included in the agenda packet were copies of the accounts payable registers from December 10 and December 23, 2019. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers from December 10 and December 23, 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**

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, and it was previously approved. Mr. Simek asked when the LCRBDC would pay the \$61,000.00, and Matt said upon receipt and approval of invoices from Stormwater. He said DLZ will take one to two months to complete the engineering, and once it's completed, they will try to get a cost share from the LCRBDC for construction of the project. Included in the members' packets was a copy of the contract with DLZ for engineering services for this project in the amount of \$61,000.00. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the contract with DLZ for the Kaiser Ditch project in the amount of \$61,000.00, 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**

Mr. Crist said the fall installment of stormwater fees was received on December 30, 2019, from the Lake County Treasurer in the amount of \$917,647.63. He said the amounts put into Stormwater's Fund 626 and Fund 627 were included on the handout at the members' places.

Matt said there was an emergency culvert repair at 8650 Grand Boulevard, and included in the members' packets was a copy of the Delta III, Inc. invoice in the amount of \$3,781.50. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve Delta's invoice in the amount of \$3,781.50, 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 the Delta III, Inc. invoice for emergency repair of a sinkhole at 57<sup>th</sup> Place West of Harrison Street in the amount of \$3,579.72, which Matt said was a public safety hazard. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve Delta's invoice in the amount of \$3,579.72, 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 the 2020 On-Call Engineering Services Agreement with DLZ Engineering in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the DLZ Engineering on-call services agreement in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, 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.

Matt said an application for funding for \$426,625 (50% cost share) with the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC) for construction of the north Meadowdale basin request was sent in by Christopher Burke Engineering on December 13, 2019. He said if additional funding is secured, he will also seek a 50% cost share for the south basin. Partnering with the LCRBDC assists us financially so we can complete larger projects without bonding.

Matt said he is also looking to submit a request for quotes for a project at 77<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Marshall Street. He said that he and Bud met with Merrillville School Board member Mark Lucas regarding a right of entry agreement for a project since a portion of the project crosses the Salk School property. The project will be constructed during non-school hours, perhaps at spring break, when school is closed so we do not disrupt their operations. He said he believes the school will approve the agreement, and a request for quotes will be submitted to contractors.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Matt said the Lake County Surveyor has secured a contractor to conduct maintenance on Lake County Regulated Drain - Lateral 6 - from 53<sup>rd</sup> to 61<sup>st</sup> Avenues which drains the Meadowdale area. He also met with the Greater Northwest Indiana Assn. of Realtors (GNIAR) regarding cross connections (and Gary Sanitary District and the Merrillville Conservancy District) and about marketing, sellers' disclosures, workshops and inspections. He also said he will be speaking at the Indiana Arborist Assn. Annual Conference later in January regarding stormwater and urban forest management. He said Lake & Pond Biologists, the consultant for Bon Air Lake, wants to address the SWMB about introducing tilapia into the lake for additional algae control, and they may attend the next meeting to discuss. Matt said he has concerns regarding the cost and potential ecological impacts to this approach.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Councilman Leonard White asked when the quotes for 77<sup>th</sup> & Marshall Street would be sent out, and Matt said later this month.

Resident Bob Cotton the logs in the culvert at Bon Aire Lake were cleaned out with a backhoe the day after last month's meeting, and he appreciated it. He asked when the lake would be lowered, and Matt said there will be a public meeting with residents; Matt said the south cove may become very shallow, and he wants the engineer, Butler, Fairman & Seufert, to check the existing and proposed normal water level in that area. Staff from Lake and Pond Biologist mentioned they had difficulties gaining access with their boat within that particular area to treat the lake due to shallow conditions last year. Matt said treatment may become more challenging

when the lake level is lowered. He said the non-toxic dye has worked well, and he'd like the lake to be kept as natural as possible. He said it's possible that Ed from Lake & Pond Biologists could speak next month. Councilman White asked where Bon Aire Lake is located, and Matt said approximately 58<sup>th</sup> and Waite Street (Lateral 7). Bud said he appreciates that Bob Cotton takes the oxygen levels every month. Mr. Cotton asked what will tilapia do to the fish and eggs in the lake, and Matt said tilapia eats algae, but they die in the winter time. Mr. Cotton said in Florida, tilapia works well. Matt said he'd like to see the lake as natural as possible since anything artificial upsets the balance.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Crist said the next SWMB meeting is set for Tuesday, February 4, 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 4:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Bushemi  
Staff Secretary