

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the February 4, 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. Also present were Town Council Member Leonard White, Bob Csanyi from Robinson Engineering, Ed Spanopoulos and Jesse Mickley from Lake & Pond Biologists and residents Bob Cotton and Linda Neidlinger.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Crist said that member Ralph Simek was re-appointed to the Stormwater Management Board, and his term expires in December, 2022.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF 2019 OFFICERS

Ralph Simek made a motion to retain all current Stormwater Management Board officers as they currently exist for the year 2020 - L.J. “Bud” Crist as president, Ralph Simek as vice president and Barbara Ghoston as secretary; the motion was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no other nominations, and Mr. Crist made a motion to close the nominations, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken, and both motions unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the January 7, 2020, SWMB meeting. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held on January 7, 2020. 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

Included in the agenda packet were copies of the accounts payable registers from January 14 and January 28, 2020. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers from January 14 and January 28, 2020, 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

Included in the members’ packets were copies of a Quote Tabulation Form and quotes from four (4) companies for a drainage improvement project south of 77th and Marshall Street. The lowest responsible and responsive quoter was Austgen Equipment Company, Inc. of Crown Point with a quote of \$53,361.00. Matt said we have worked with Austgen Equipment in the past, have had no issues with them, and they are also currently a contractor for work at the new community center. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the quote from Austgen Equipment Company, Inc. in the amount of \$53,361.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt said he presented “Incorporating Urban Forestry into Stormwater Management” at the 2020 Indiana Arborist Assn. Annual Conference in January and spoke to about 300 people. He said Purdue University professors want more information on EPA, stormwater management and urban forestry. The Indiana Arborist Assn. paid all the costs. Bud Crist thanked Matt for representing us at the state in this manner.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Crist said included in the members' packets was a copy of a Right of Entry and Construction Agreement with Merrillville Community School Corporation for the 77th Avenue & Marshall Street project. He said there is a small section of Salk School property to be affected, and he and Matt met with School Board Member Mark Lucas, who has no reservations about approving the right of entry and construction agreement. The Merrillville School Board is meeting tonight and will approve the Right of Entry agreement at their meeting, but the SWMB also needs to approve it. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the Right of Entry and Construction Agreement with Merrillville Community School Corporation for the 77th Avenue & Marshall Street 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.

Matt Lake said a large oak tree fell over the ditch at 31 Deer Path Road, and Stormwater hired Howard's Tree Service for emergency removal of the tree and cleaning out the ditch area. Members had a copy of the invoice for \$3,800.00 in their packets, along with photos of the fallen tree and ditch area. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve Howard's Tree Service's invoice in the amount of \$3,800.00, 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 also said that he submitted paperwork for the Community Rating System (CRS) recertification, and it was approved on January 30, 2020. The CRS rating of Class 7 was retained for Merrillville residents, which is the best ranking in the State of Indiana.

Matt said he will be sending out a request for quotes for a small project designed by DLZ in the rear-yard easement area of 77th Avenue and Noble Street. He said the request for quotes will be sent out later in the week, and approval of the lowest quoter can be on the next SWMB agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS

Matt said at everyone's places was a copy of Change Order No. 2 from Dyer Construction for the Taft Street project in the amount of \$2,815.00. He said the pond on 73rd Avenue behind the Dairy Queen does not retain as much water as the north pond, and they'd like to lower the overflow saddle on the west side. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve Change Order No. 2 from Dyer Construction in the amount of \$2,815.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt said he also received a letter today from Keith Kegebein from Dyer Construction about a trash rack near the north pond at the Taft Street project in the amount of \$11,116.00; members were given a copy. Matt is concerned that about debris and public safety which necessitates this structure and asked for consideration of payment for the trash rack. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve payment of \$11,116.00 for the trash rack at the Taft Street 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.

Matt said that he asked Attorney Jim Meyer to prepare a letter to INDOT about a sink hole at 7481 Broadway and other INDOT-related safety matters like defects in state right-of-ways which is INDOT's responsibility, and Jim sent INDOT a letter.

Matt said he will make a presentation to the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC) Advisory Board for approval of an application for the Meadowdale basin; he said the LCRBDC has already invested \$161,000.00 for this project. The LCRBDC Advisory Board will be meeting soon, and since Matt is a member, he will abstain from voting on our project. Our request will be for \$426,625 towards construction of this project.

Ed Spanopoulos and Jesse Mickley from Lake & Pond Biologists were present to discuss alternatives at Bon Aire Lake. Ed said there have been challenges at Bon Aire Lake because of water level concerns, and the only access for treatments of the Bon Aire Lake is shallow; they don't own a swamp buddy to get in shallow areas. He wanted to inform the SWMB that tilapia added to the lake would be an alternative to the chemicals they have sprayed in the past. He said tilapia has been very successful in eating all the algae, and with the shallowness of the lake, it will help the lake. He said chemicals can be a risk to the fish. He said the negative aspect of using tilapia is they feed on algae and blue gill eggs, but they die off in the fall and will either float or sink; then he said heron or birds of prey will eat the dead tilapia. He suggested starting out with 600 tilapia, and the cost would be \$6,720.00 He also said until the water temperature in the lake is 70 degrees, at least one chemical treatment would be required, and a sonar treatment in the amount of \$1,800.00 may have to be done. He will send Matt an email with cost estimates for the next SWMB meeting. Matt said the lake has never looked so good until Lake & Pond Biologists started with the chemical and dye treatments. Councilman Leonard White asked about phosphorous, and Ed said there are high levels of phosphorous in the lake already; Ed said if the lake level is lowered, they will need to look at that, and Matt said an underground topo may be required. Ed said tilapia will curb phosphorous levels. He'd like to look at tilapia as a treatment since he said his equipment took a beating last year at Bon Aire Lake. Jesse said the cove (shallow) area is only one to one and a half feet. Ed said the oxygen level is generally good (5-7), and if it gets below 5, there will be a problem. Matt said a public hearing will be held, an application will be submitted to the LCRBDC for financial assistance on the project; he will also talk to the Dept. of Natural Resources about Bon Aire Lake. Ed will send an estimate for consideration at the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the next SWMB meeting is set for Tuesday, March 3, 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 5:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary