

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the November 4, 2020 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 3:31 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, Attorney James Meyer, Financial Advisor Karl Cender and staff secretary Liz Bushemi. Karen Caffarini from the *Post-Tribune* was also present.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the October 6, 2020, SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held on October 6, 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.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Also included in the agenda packet were copies of the accounts payable registers from October 13 and October 27, 2020. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers from October 13 and October 27, 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.

OLD BUSINESS

Included in the members’ packets was an Agreement with Dyer Construction Company, Inc. for the Meadowdale project. Matt Lake said once the document is signed, he will send a notice to proceed to Dyer Construction to begin work on the basins. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the Agreement with Merrillville Stormwater Utility and Dyer Construction Company for the Meadowdale Lateral Flood Storage Basins in the amount of \$1,367,254.84, 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Matt said they are close to getting the Bon Aire Lake elevation lowering project ready for bid, but he doesn’t want that project to take place until the tilapia are gone. He said in the event fish die in the lake, he said we may have to contact our damage control specialist from Shelby to remove the fish; he said he contacted the Isaac Walton to see if they wanted to hold a fishing derby, but hasn’t heard from them. He said use of the tilapia has helped diminish the algae growth in the lake and cove area; the last challenge is to have the tilapia removed. Matt will then pursue a public meeting and bidding the project. He said the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC) will pay half the cost of the project, and he again thanked the LCRBDC for its support of this project. Mr. Simek asked about the cost of use of the tilapia, and Matt said it may have been about \$1,000 more than the typical chemical algae treatments; Mr. Simek is wondering if the people who live along the lake can be taxed for the costs. Mr. Crist said the chemicals used to wash down the ditch, and Matt said the tilapia worked 24/7.

Members had at their places a copy of a VS Engineering proposal for engineering design work at the Merrillville lift station at 69th and Connecticut Street in an amount not to exceed \$5,954.00. Matt said there is a sump pump at this location near the school and ball field, which has acted like a “lift station” for this area; Matt said this is the only “lift station” that Stormwater still has. VS will attempt to design plans to route water to drain to the corner, and bids could be solicited next year. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the proposal from VS Engineering for design

work at 69th and Connecticut Street in an amount not to exceed \$5,954.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston, with a question about the time frame; Matt said maybe next spring, and he will have to see if a permanent easement with the school would be required. Mr. Simek then asked if students would be in school, and Matt said the project would not interfere with school. Matt said after seeing the engineer's estimate, either quotes could be solicited if the estimate is under \$150,000.00, or the project would be bid out. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt also said that in the event the current Pruzin Center is sold once the new community center is built, he will see about obtaining a permanent easement from the Town of Merrillville for the area where the Meadowdale project basins will be built.

Matt said the Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management (IDEM) permit process has changed, and the state is changing Rule 13 compliance. He will be involved in the process and said Stormwater may be audited in the spring. He said there will be intensive outfall testing, and he has been working with Purdue University students on an app for use at site inspections; he expects the app to be available next year. He said the students became involved in real problems faced by municipalities, and they may give a presentation next year. Attorney Jim Meyer asked how an outfall was defined, and Matt said he designed it where point source pollution can occur. He said with the state's new protocol, the app will be helpful since waters of the state will be tested. Matt went into detail about the parameters of the testing and the new permit process. Mr. Crist asked if the students could do Stormwater's testing as volunteers, and Matt said possibly, but that we would have to purchase water testing equipment. Matt said the goal is to reduce pollution in waterways.

Mr. Crist asked about Stormwater vendors, and Matt said Liz has all vendors on our accounting system, Access. Liz said all vendors have the town's tax-exempt forms, and federal W-9 forms are obtained from vendors to submit to the Clerk-Treasurer. Mr. Crist said Stormwater might want to get an account at Northern Tool Equipment since they opened a new store in Merrillville.

PUBLIC COMMENT. None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the next Stormwater Management meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, December 1, 2020, at 3:30 pm at the Merrillville Stormwater Resource Center. Matt said budget balancing will have to be done by the end of the year.

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 3:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary