



AGENDA

MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD Merrillville Stormwater Resource Center, 7404 Broadway, Merrillville, IN Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at 3:30 PM

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the October 5, 2021, Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Crist led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Members in attendance were President Bud Crist, Secretary Barbara Ghoston. 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 Secretary Adra Breclaw-Csanyi.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

None

MINUTES

Stormwater Management Board Minutes (SWMB) from September 7, 2021 – Approved. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held September 7, 2021, it was seconded by Bud Crist. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed with a 2/0 vote.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Accounts payable registers from September 9, 2021 and September 23, 2021 were approved as provided. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to accept the accounts payable register for funds 626 and 627, seconded by Bud Crist. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed with a 2/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Bud Crist - None

Matt Lake - None

NEW BUSINESS

Bud Crist - Approval of 2022 Stormwater Budgets – Funds 626, 627, 628 (**VOICE VOTE**)
Karl Cender stated that the budget is a little different format, these come right off of the Department of Local Government Finance Gateway Site that the Towns has input, he stated he will give a quick summary for 626 the proposed budget is \$1,236,522 at the bottom of page two, for 627 is the Stormwater Construction Fund of \$1,330,000 for various projects, and then traditionally we budget for Stormwater Grant Funds, \$70,000. Motion to approve 2022 budgets for 626, 627, 628 made, a voice vote taken and the motion passes with a 2/0 vote, no questions asked. Karl said that the Town Council will be adopting their budgets within the next week or two and does not foresee and problems with them approving. Barbara asked on Fund 628 the \$70,000 is that received? Matt explained that this has been in there for a while; it's in there in case we need additional funds to match grants. Karl said that was from prior year grants where the money was expended in 626. Barbara said for future grants the money should be dropped into that, Karl said we should.

Matt Lake - American Recovery Act Plan (ARP) - Phase I – Update, there is a meeting tomorrow, Wednesday 10-6-21, Matt will present the Access database for tracking purchase orders and review the new draft APV Form with the Clerk Treasurer and staff. Matt sent out an email inviting each of the council members to meet with him and review recommended stormwater projects in their respective wards and estimated costs so that it can get approved by the ARP Committee. Everything needs to be tracked, identified and itemized within the proper eligible category. Trista wanted Matt to bring in our purchase order database to see if something similar can be developed for tracking ARP funds by each department that are involved with ARP projects. Matt will make an itemized spreadsheet for each of the stormwater projects and so that it can be submitted and it can be officially approved before soliciting bids. Jim said it will be a little complicated, because the checks have to be written directly from the ARP fund to the contractor. Matt is already getting a proposal for risk-tree inventory within Meadowdale and Turkey Creek subdivisions, since they are the oldest neighborhoods with the worst trees in the rights-of-way. He is getting a proposal to identify the trees, location, trunk diameter and condition and recommendation for removal. This information will be used for the bidding process for contractors that are eligible to remove those trees. The town has four years to spend the ARP funds but we want to move forward on the most critical projects soon. Jim said contracts need to be signed by 12-31-24 and money spent by 12-31-26.

Tree City USA Renewal for 2022- Matt has sent in the renewal for Tree City USA. At some point he would like transition this renewal process and Arbor Day events to the Parks Department. Jim asked if a replacement has been made for Jan Orlich, Matt said no, an assistant parks director has been hired. The town is conducting a nation-wide search for a new Parks Director. Meanwhile Matt has been meeting with BF&S to assist with a grant application for Next Level Trails funds for phase three for the C&O trail. This includes meetings with IDNR for next level trails with Butler Fairman, and filling in the gaps where necessary. Matt is also assisting with the design of the proposed conceptual design of the dog park with Lehman & Lehman.

Plan Review Professional Brochure – Update, per Matt the brochure is done, this is on plan reviews, and “we wanted something to hand to developers and investors.” The front page lists the development team, and when you open it up you have a flow chart of the plan review process, on the left hand side you have meeting locations and where they are at, below is advertisements when they should be done. We are on the right hand side for plan reviews that get tied into everything else. On the back side is for state and federal permits needed. This is something to hand to a developer or someone coming in so they understand the process and who to contact. On the back are ordinances and references. This is a reference brochure to help things along.

NISWAG – A three-hour Construction Inspection Training Session through NISWAG was attended by Matt Lake and Joe Fish. Some good discussion presented, “we may host the annual contractor training in partnership with NISWAG at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center next year.” Matt noted that we are preparing to attend the MS4 Annual meeting this month where Matt will be presenting a technical session on Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Program Compliance Associated with the New NPDES Permit.

Resilient Infrastructure for Sustainable Communities (RISC) representatives contacted Matt and wanted him to serve on their committee. There was a select group of people recommended nationally by the EPA to be part of the group. He said he talked to them to find out what they are about, they get a lot of federal dollars for projects in communities with the emphasis on sustainability and green infrastructure. These are priority objectives at the federal level resulting in many multi-million-dollar projects. It would be a benefit for us to be involved to get on the ground floor for funding opportunities. Matt is on the committee and will meet once every quarter virtually and go through activities involving the organization.

Application Submittal to LCRBDC for 2022 Construction for Kaiser Ditch Lateral (Taney Ditch) Crossings – **(VOICE VOTE)**. Matt wanted to get approval to submit an application for the Little Cal for the Kaiser Ditch Crossings, it is already engineered, so what he wants to do is one through one of the ARP projects,

Matt states “I’m anticipating to fund this project with 50% from ARP funds and the other 50% Little Cal so I want to get the board’s approval on submitting the application.” Jim asked what is the estimated cost, Matt responded the engineer estimate is \$687,130. Matt said he was going to ask for 50%, since the Little Cal Board was receptive to that percentage from the Meadowdale Project. We have demonstrated to Little Cal that we have completed projects they help fund; they have already paid for the engineering, so they are committed to this project and understand the hydraulic benefits. This is in Marge’s ward and can be one of the ARP projects her Ward, this way we can combine the two. Barbara Ghoston made a motion, a voice vote taken Bud Crist seconded and the motion passes with a 2/0 vote.

Merrillville Greenhouse Gas Inventory – Update, Matt said the inventory essentially done; we will have a climate action plan that will be developed from the data collected from the greenhouse gas inventory. We will approach South Shore Clean Cities about input and partnership as a part of our plans.

OTHER BUSINESS

A state-of-the-art auto collision center project was approved and will have innovative environmental air quality practices, and the owner wants the facility have zero emissions. The owner would like to seek recognition or special designation from IDEM to showcase this facility and their air quality practices. He was told to also contact Southshore Clean Cities to see if they can help promote these best management practices to reduce emissions. The business will be located at the northeast corner of Merrillville Road and 84th Avenue.

We have gotten all the data from the County, Karl Cinder went through it, tagged the stormwater fee, Matt reviewed it on his end, sent it back to Karl and he will send it in. Bud Crist asked if there was any idea on percent of collection. Matt said Karl has it laid out, and that we have gained from last year, our revenue is stable.

Just east of the old sand mine off 73rd Avenue, there is a property that has about thirty-eight concrete box culverts. The new property owner offered them to us if we can use them. We will inspect the condition of them to see if they are in usable condition and then have contractors give us quotes on cost to relocated. If possible, we could line them up with the Taney Ditch Crossing project and have them staged ready to go, if good, we would need to secure and get it off their property onto a property the Town owns. First, they need to be inspected.

Community Development Block grant was submitted earlier in the year and we were awarded the grant for \$144,430. The grant is for new drainage along Marcella Road off of 53rd in Georgia Heights. We already have the layout design from DLZ. Matt will finalize the cost and then figure out the method of bidding.

MS4 Annual Meeting October 26th, 2021-Matt will be a presenter and wants to focus on IDDE and the new permit changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 2, 2021, at 3:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Adra A. Breclaw-Csanyi
Recording Secretary