



## Minutes

### MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD

Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 3:30 PM

Merrillville Stormwater Resource Center, 7404 Broadway, Merrillville, IN

#### CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the April 5th, 2022 Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Crist led the pledge of allegiance.

#### ROLL CALL

Members in attendance were, President, Bud Crist, Vice President, Vice President Ralph Simek, and Secretary, Barbara Ghoston. A quorum was established. Staff members present were Executive Director Matt Lake and secretary Adra Breclaw-Csanyi.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT:

None

#### MINUTES

Stormwater Management Board Minutes (SWMB) from March 1st, 2022, approved. Bud Crist made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held March 1st, 2022, motion seconded by Secretary Barbara Ghoston. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passes with a 3/0 vote.

#### ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Included in the agenda packet were copies of the Accounts Payable Registers from March 8th, 2022 and March 22nd, 2022. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the Accounts Payable Registers from March 8th and March 22nd, 2022, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Accounts Payable Register for ARP, there are no Stormwater appropriations.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Bud Crist - None

Matt Lake - Matt stated we have Meadowdale Risk Tree Removal Phase 1, went through some of this before, last meeting it was the last day to submit quotes and we received four quotes. Cleamons Tree Service was the clear low bidder. A contract was prepared, the low bid amount was \$83,270.00 for Phase I for Meadowdale Subdivision. This project is funded through ARP and we will be soliciting quotes for Meadowdale Phase 2 soon. Bud Crist made a motion for approval, Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the Meadowdale Risk Tree Removal Phase I to Cleamons Tree Service in the amount of \$83,270.00, Ralph Simek seconded. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Bud Crist – None

Matt Lake - There are two proposals from DLZ Engineering. The first one is for Marcella Road Storm Sewer Infrastructure Replacement Project in the Georgia Heights Subdivision addendum number five, they did conceptual design, so we are looking at full engineering, construction observation, and bid services. This has to be a sealed bid process because of the estimated amount for engineering. Half of this project will come out of Community Development Block Grant money, the other half under ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds. There amount is not to exceed \$68,700.00. Bud Crist made a motion to entertain approval, Ralph Simek made a motion to approval this from DLZ in the amount of \$68,700.00, Barbara seconded. Bud Crist asked if they are ready to start, Matt Lake responded, because of the sealed bid process we need a full set of design engineering, we have a specified timeframe to complete the entire project by August 31<sup>st</sup> because of the grant program requirements, therefore we have to move forward so we can get construction started. The location is approximately from 55<sup>th</sup> Avenue down to around 53<sup>rd</sup> Place/Avenue in the Lincoln Garden Subdivision. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

The second proposal is for Kaiser Ditch Tributary Culvert Replacement for construction observation and bid services. This is half funded through cost share by the Little Calumet River Basin Commission and the other half by the American Recovery Act, it is addendum number six from DLZ with a not to exceed amount of \$38,800. Bud Crist made a motion for approval, Barbara Goston entered a motion to approve to DLZ for engineering services not to exceed \$38,000, Ralph Simek second. No additional questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Resident Bob Cotton commented that he saw at the December meeting that the funds were approved for survey for FEMA Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) project and hasn't heard any more. Matt Lake said, "VS has already completed the initial hydraulic analysis, they are working on the survey for each structure now." Matt said that he sent VS Engineers an email this morning and they provided a status report. Matt said the surveyors will contact each property owner before they enter the property. The contract was all approved at the December meeting and VS has been moving forward. Bob Cotton said that his insurance premium went up \$250 each year. Matt said unfortunately it's typical for flood insurance rates to increase, which is why we participate in the FEMA CRS program. The CRS program automatically lowers all flood insurance rates by 10% for high-risk policies since we are ranked as a Class 7. We just renewed our annual re-certification for 2022 and it is getting harder every year to do because the requirements are increasing, which is why we are 1 of only 3 CRS communities in Northwest Indiana. Mr. Cotton said he also thought he saw on one of the Council Meetings that we are going to be testing water samples at various streams and bodies of water and will Bon Aire be included. Matt responded Bon Aire is part of Turkey Creek Lateral 7. We are initiating our testing with Microbac on the Main Stem of Turkey Creek and Deep River. This is part of the new IDEM Stormwater permit requirements which are also increasing for all MS4s. Microbac Laboratories was contracted to collect and test samples at specified outfalls and will be sampling each location once a quarter. We will evaluate those results. our goal is to not only detect any illicit discharges and implement corrective actions but to determine if we are not detecting impairments like E. coli identified on the IDEM 303 D List of Impaired Water Bodies. To preserve the chain of custody of the samples for validity, the best approach is to have a professional company go out collect the samples, test them and provide us with the results. Microbac has initiated "round one" and we should be receiving results within a week. Bud Crist said they tested by him. They had to select areas that were safe to get into and accessible. Mr. Cotton asked if they are testing for mainly toxins or E. coli? Matt said mostly E. coli, phosphorus, nitrates, dissolved

oxygen, the standard battery of tests. If we detect E. coli at a high level then we can conduct an additional layer of DNA testing. This will allow us to further detect the source to see if its animal or human, so we can see if it's a failing septic or if the origin is animal or waterfowl like geese. Matt also received a call today about Turkey Creek Lateral & by Bon Aire which may be a potential beaver dam, Joe Fish will go out to assess.

Matt asked Mr. Cotton if he has seen blockages by the school on the west side of Bon Aire Lake. Mr. Cotton responded; he hadn't been over there. Stormwater will go to check it out, if something is seen we will notify the County Surveyor's Office since this is a Lake County Regulated Drain and their maintenance responsibility under Indiana Drainage Law IC 36-9-27-29. Mr. Cotton said that there is an American Mink on the lake and he was dragging a muskrat across the ice.

Matt Lake said our Tilapia Algae Control Program will continue this year and we will re-stock Bon Aire Lake the first week in June through our contract with Lake and Pond Biologists. He talked to our contractor Ed Spanopoulos this morning and he will let us know the exact day the tilapia will be released. Matt would like to be out there and take pictures and possibly promote this natural strategy of algae control through a news story.

Mr. Cotton said that he told Bud Crist that the boat ramp turned out nice, Matt said that we wanted it functional but not conspicuous because this is not for the public. Its primary purpose is for the contractor to get in and out safely for treatment of the lake, it was completed by Dyer Construction.

Barbara Ghoston asked what would the approximate start date of the Meadowdale tree removal? Clemons has been out there initiating some tree removal. Matt said that the contractor is starting at Pierce Street and 53<sup>rd</sup> Court. Barbara said people have been asking her if the tree is really dead, Matt said that it can be viable but a hazard because many are hollow and are structurally compromised, that's the challenge. For public safety reasons and we have a one-time opportunity with ARPA monies to do this type of work, we will be focused on Meadowdale Phase I and II, Meadowland Phase I and II, and Turkey Creek Phase I and II since those are the oldest subdivisions with the worst trees in the parkways. This is definitely needed; they are also grinding the stump out. The contractor will grind six inches below the surface. The rest of the root system will decompose and the ground will settle a bit more.

Matt Lake said that he is still waiting to hear back from the U.S. Forest Service on the grant for trees to get some replacement trees. When taking a lot of trees out we do not want the locations desolate, we want to add some and want proper species. Matt said that we will be getting some trees from a new transmission line maintenance project that will impact some trees in Merrillville right-of-way (ROW). Matt talked with their engineers to ensure they mitigation of loss of any trees. Replacement trees will be provided and installed in the appropriate location and with the proper species.

Barbara Ghoston had a question on water testing, should there be human waste causing contamination how would you rectify that, or animal, or unidentifiable how would you rectify it? Matt responded if its in an unincorporated area where there is septic it would be a reported to the Lake County Health Department, we would trace it back to see if it's failing septic systems and share all data and information with the County. If there is an issue with E. coli in an area where we have a sanitary district like MCD or IHCD we would coordinate with their team to trace the source to ensure a corrective action and report to IDEM as needed. We also have the option of enforcing this locally as an illicit discharge through our stormwater ordinance. Fortunately, we have mapping of our infrastructure and the sanitary district's infrastructure which is a great tool to trace potential sources of pollutants. We also have a protocol for testing and investigating illicit discharges. We have done investigations and reporting in the past in

other areas where MCD had issues right off of Taft Street just on the west side of the golf course. There was a structure there that had surcharged and blew the lid off, it was an infiltration and inflow issue. There was a fish kill back in 2007/2008 in Turkey Creek as a result, and it was a significant environmental incident. As a consultant at the time with Christopher Burke Engineering, I became involved through the Lake County Surveyor's Office because it was a regulated drain and worked with IDEM & IDNR on the investigation and reporting.

Going back to the tree removal, Ralph Simek asked if the trees that are over hanging the sidewalks especially where there is no parkway is part of this, Matt said trees on private property will not be part of the risk tree removal project, they need to be in the public ROW. Ralph clarified he was talking about Turkey Creek and Matt said there is a ROW and that it is still considered parkway even if there is no sidewalk it is green space within the public ROW, it has to be on public property it can't be on private property. The ROW typically extends past the curb. Arbor Metrics had the ROW widths and we always doublecheck to make sure that the tree is within the public ROW. Ralph said he has one tree on the southwest corner that spreads out well over the sidewalk. Matt said the overhang is still from a tree on private property in that example and therefore is a private property owner's responsibility. The main trunk needs to be within the public ROW. Barbara Ghoston stated that ROW exists whether you can identify it or not. Matt said that we know exactly how wide our ROWs are from the centerline of the road and measure it out. Arbor Metrics just finished the inventory in Turkey Creek, they collected GPS coordinates to locate each tree and didn't physically mark them so we will have a GIS shapefile. By the time we get to the Turkey Creek Subdivision it may be late fall or next spring.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Crist said the next SWMB meeting is set for May 3rd, 2022, at 3:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center.

The MS4 Annual Meeting will be coming up, May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, whom every wants to go let us know for reservations. The format will be the same.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Adra Breclaw-Csanyi, Staff Secretary