



Minutes

MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD

Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 3:30 PM

Merrillville Stormwater Resource Center, 7404 Broadway, Merrillville, IN

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the June 7th, 2022 Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 3:30 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, Attorney James Meyers, Financial Advisor Karl Cender and Secretary Adra Breclaw-Csanyi.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT:

President Crist commented that both he and Matt attend the MS4 meeting in Indianapolis. Matt had an outstanding performance and was introduced as the mogul of Stormwater. Attendance was good, approximately 350 attendees.

MINUTES

Stormwater Management Board Minutes (SWMB) from May 3rd, 2022, approved. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held May 3rd, 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 May 10th, 2022 and May 24th, 2022. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to accept the Accounts Payable Registers from May 10th and May 24th, 2022 including the correction, seconded by Ralph Simek. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Approval of claims for Accounts Payable Register for ARP from May 10th, 2022 with three Stormwater appropriations/submissions. President Crist said that the committee approves it, Attorney Meyers said Stormwater can also approve it. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable Register for ARP from May 10th, 2022, seconded by Secretary Ghoston. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Bud Crist – None

Matt Lake – As part of the packet there is a Final Pay Request and Retainage No. 8 from Dyer Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$74,859.43 for the Meadowdale Storage Basin Project. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve and accept the final submission of \$74,859.43 for completion of the Meadowdale Storage Basin Project, seconded by Secretary Ghoston. There were no questions. President Crist confirmed with Attorney Meyers that everything is in order. Attorney Meyers said he is assuming that this is Matt Rosa’s signature on the pay estimate, it’s difficult to read, if so, it looks good. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Updates – Executive Director Matt Lake gave an update on the projects listed below:

- Pond ownership agreement for maintenance meeting update
Jim Meyers drafted an agreement that was shared with the Town for pond maintenance regarding Mesa Ridge Outlet A. The Town is currently reviewing it. Essentially, we would manage all aspects of it and they would cover the costs. In terms of actual mowing, it would be preformed through a contractor. Matt is getting quotes so that we know associated costs. This gives the Town time to review the agreement. There are no anticipated objections to the agreement. President Crist asked if they own it. Attorney Meyers said the owner has the right to redeem up until that time, June 30th, then it automatically goes to the commissioners who would then send it to the Town.
- Meadowdale Tree Removal Phase 1 is completed-final invoice, which was one invoice and was submitted to ARP.
- Contracts for Meadowdale Tree Removal Phase 2 and 3 are already signed by us and Homer Tree Service. It will be starting any day and would complete any Meadowdale at risk tree removal.
- Kaiser Ditch Lateral Project – we are waiting on one permit.
- 101st & Clay Street Drainage Project
Winfield is revising one part of the plan at the outlet side requiring more dredging in order to get the easement from the property owner. That is their project in our corporate boundaries which benefits both of us.
- Hickory Ridge Lake Apartment Regional Basin Design survey work has been commenced by Christopher B. Burke Engineering.
- Southmoor Park Drainage Project plans are about 50% complete by Robinson Engineering, Ltd.
- Independence Street Drainage Phase 2 is about 85% complete by Robinson Engineering, Ltd.
- Georgia Heights/Marcella ROW Drainage Replacement Project
Matt has met with DLZ, Frank Stewart, they are close to finalizing the plans. They had a few questions that will probably be addressed during construction in the field. There are a couple of things they won't know until they are dig up. Bud Crist asked if that was by 57th Matt said that is in Georgia Heights, west side of the viaduct. This will be half ARP money and half Community Block Grant money. Mat will see when the numbers come in. Matt would like to see this advertised and out for bids as soon as possible. This needs to be done as soon as possible, the CDBG money has a deadline on it.
- Grassfield Subdivision/9401 Randolph St Drainage Coordination with NRCS
The NRCS looked at all their programs and felt that it did not meet a natural resource need. Matt did coordinate with Christopher Burke; they sent a proposal to do all of the survey work in order to get the easement. The owner agreed to give the easement free of charge.
- Delta III Project:
Randolph @ 101st St-72” Roadway Culvert – It will take a day or less to do the project and they will have to shut the road down.

An email was sent out to Karl Cender to look at the 2023 budget in July. Matt said this was mentioned at the last Council meeting so he wanted to get together and talk about it. With inflation and costs, we need to gear up and adjust ourselves to meet the financial obligations.

Attorney Meyers said he noticed that there is a proposal from Christopher Burke. Matt responded, yes that is from Grassfield Subdivision and will be discussed later in the agenda.

Barbara Ghoston had a question regarding Georgia Heights Project status. Matt said they are 95% complete with the plans, they had a few questions, so Matt did meet with them to discuss what he wanted to see. Matt clarified what he wanted and what he wanted to see. They should be wrapping it up, they do not need what was once a Rule 5 permit now it's the IDEM Construction permit because it's under an acre of disturbance. This makes it a little easier because we don't have to wait for any permitting other than ourselves. At some point Matt would like to continue it on along 53rd Avenue because then it goes into Gary and outlets into Gary. There are a few sinkholes along 53rd street and while they are out there it might be a change order to fix these along 53rd. Bud Crist asked if there was a big culvert from Georgia St that goes out to the Lake, this is not tied into this.

NEW BUSINESS

Bud Crist –

Included in the members' packets was a copy of the May 16, 2022 Cender|Dalton Municipal Advisors memo to the Clerk-Treasurer regarding Fund 6501 transfer. Karl Cender memo was added to the agenda to cover deficiencies and balance out various line items. Bud Crist motioned to increase appropriation 6501010036 SW Building Maintenance \$5,000 and decrease appropriation 6501010361 SW Repair to Equipment \$5,000. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the transfers requested May 16, 2022, 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.

Invoice Approvals

Included in the members' packets was a copy of invoices from Contractors/Engineers for services below where work was already approved and exceeded \$2,500.00. (Attorney Meyers noted that they must be approved individually)

Howard's Tree Service invoice for three trees and stump removal in the amount of \$3,500.00. Matt said the location was as 5999 Waite Street. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the invoice in the amount of \$3,500.00, 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.

Delta III, Inc. invoice for 12" driveway culvert replacement Chase Street in the amount of \$8,500.00 Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve invoice payment to Delta III for work performed for \$8,500.00. Ralph Simek seconded. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Delta III, Inc. invoice for 12" driveway culvert replacement at 321 N County Line Road in the amount of \$8,500.00 Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve invoice payment to Delta III for work performed for \$8,500.00. Ralph Simek seconded. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Delta III, Inc. invoice for 12" driveway culvert replacement at 9730 Randolph Street in the amount of \$6,300.00 Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve invoice payment to Delta III for work performed for \$6,300.00. Ralph Simek seconded. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Delta III, Inc. invoice for Grant Street & 57th Av emergency sink hole repair in the amount of \$4,580.00 Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve invoice payment to Delta III for work performed for \$4,580.00. Ralph Simek seconded. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

EJ USA, Inc. invoice for frames, grates, and associated parts in the amount of \$2,776.45. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve invoice payment to EJUSA, Inc. in the amount of \$2,776.45, Secretary Ghoston seconded. There were no questions, Matt noted that many of these were damage from Town snow plows. Ralph Simek stated that in his neighborhood there were three mail boxes together and the middle one was hit by a snow plow and run over, it was never fixed. Matt said that they are supposed to, they need to call public works and they will replace it. If they hit it, they have to replace it. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC Contract for Engineering Services Grassfield Subdivision/9401 Randolph St Drainage Easement Survey and Documentation in an amount not to exceed \$5,397.00. Matt stated that we will get the easement for free, we do not have to pay the owner for the easement. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the contract with Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC Contract for Engineering Services Grassfield Subdivision/9401 Randolph St Drainage Easement, in the amount not to exceed \$5,397.00, Ralph Simek seconded. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

DLZ for professional services for Marcella Road Storm Sewer Project, Addendum #5, pay request #1 in amount due this invoice for \$12,630.00. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve invoice payment to DLZ in the amount of \$12,630.00 for the Marcella Road Storm Sewer Project. Barbara Ghoston seconded. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote. - *ARP Appropriation*. Barbara Ghoston asked how many Addendum/Pay Requests are there and what was the total amount? Attorney Meyers said \$68,700.00 was the total and that it's on the invoice, first column. Matt noted that there will be a few more.

Matt Lake – Update: Stormwater Ordinance Update/New IDEM Permit Regulations
Matt met with Darren Olson from Christopher Burke and that we are on the tail end of finalizing the Stormwater Ordinance updates. These are not only in compliance with the new state IDEM permit regulations but also with things we have wanted to change over the years. We are gearing up to submit our NOI for our new MS4 to the state, it is due July 5th, 2022. We are having a meeting before that because their pdf autofill form is not functioned properly. We are working directly with Randy from IDEM with regards to this and will need to make some modification based on what we are seeing. We will get this completed and sent in; we will need to do an advertisement. This will be a five-year permit.

IDEM audits will be coming up in a few weeks.

Just to mention, there was an article in the paper regarding the Tilapia release. Matt met with the contractor, resident Mr. Bob Cotton was there, this is so the public understands what we are doing in regard to the natural treatment of Algae for Bon Aire Lake. Algae is not an unlimited thing in terms of a resource, they can only produce so much of it and we are at the top of the list. If the demand for Talapia rises and becomes more popular, Matt hopes we will still be at the top of the list, it promotes the whole idea so then the growers or propagators business will grow rapidly. The fish are already a good size and ready to spawn, they are laying thousands of eggs. Each fish put in, about 1,200, will have about 1,000 eggs a piece, the cycle continues every month. The lake looks really good as far as clarity.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ralph Semik wanted to know what is the status of the Taft Street traffic roundabout? Matt said they were given all of the locates and were geared up, it should be any day now unless there is something hanging it up. Bid Crist said they have been marking the corners for weeks. Matt thinks there may

have been some going back and forth with the gas station, Luke Oil regarding property or other legal matters. They are gearing up but Matt does not know the exact date. As far as guard rails along there their crew made determinations, their engineers said that it didn't warrant a guard rail. On our end Robinson said they would like to see a guardrail there but its their right-of-way. With a roundabout there is less of a need for a guardrail because traffic is slowing down to get around the roundabout. What triggers some of this is safety, they look at how many accidents, its severity, and its triggered. It gets on a list and prioritized; they wouldn't do it unless they feel they need to. A roundabout it more expensive then a conventual intersection with traffic lights. Attorney Meyers asked who was designing it, Matt said that they switched designers and another one took over and switched engineers. Barbara Ghoston asked if they very in design, Matt said no, it's the same design. Attorney Meyers said the more traffic the bigger it is and hopefully it is big enough. The Town wanted to kick in for decorative lighting or illumined signs and things like that or even landscaping.

Currently the sidewalk project is going on and utility relocates, now they are going to start construction. At the very end they are going to put a rain garden. Next year they will do the west side and that's why plans were looked at with the Town Hall landscaping, making sure it was set back far enough back.

There will be a Fourth of July Parade, Matt has not seen a sign up for it yet. Typically, we sign up and we enter the number of vehicles. This year it is going to start at the Community Center which is the opposite direction as in previous years.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Crist said the next SWMB meeting is set for July 5th, 2022, at 3:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Adra Breclaw-Csanyi, Staff Secretary