



Minutes

MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD

Tuesday, April 4th, 2023 at 3:30 PM

Merrillville Stormwater Resource Center, 7404 Broadway, Merrillville, IN

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President L.J. "Bud" Crist called the April 4th, 2023 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, Ralph Simek, and Secretary, Barbara Ghoston, a quorum was established. Staff members present were Executive Director Matt Lake, Attorney James Meyers, and Secretary Adra Breclaw-Csanyi.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Crist recognized a letter from the Town of Merrillville to its residents affected by the storm. Comment that the Town has put out a letter that has been passed out regarding the Town providing a Warming Center at Dean and Barbra White Community Center. If it is after 11 pm then those in need will first have to go to the Police Department to get in. Matt was out helping to pass these out to the affected residents.

MINUTES

Stormwater Management Board Minutes (SWMB) from March 7th, 2023, approved. Vice President Simek made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held March 7th, 2023, 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. No questions asked.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Included in the agenda packet were copies of the Accounts Payable Registers from for March 14th, 2023 and March 28th, 2023. Vice President Simek made a motion to accept the Accounts Payable Registers from for March 14th, 2023 and March 28th, 2023, seconded by Secretary Barbara Ghoston. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Included in the agenda packet were copies of claims for Accounts Payable Register for ARP for March 14th, 2023 and March 28th, 2023. Vice President Simek made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable Register for ARP for March 14th, 2023 and March 28th, 2023, 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 – In the members packet are invoices/proposals for the following:

Director Matt Lake read invoices for approval for the following projects/contracts listed below:

Christopher B Burke Engineering, LLC professional services for Hayes Farm Drainage Improvements-topographic survey, design and bid, from January 29th, 2023 thru February 25th, 2023, in the amount due this invoice for \$30,117.50 (**VOICE VOTE**). Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the invoice from Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC for professional services for Hayes Farm

Drainage Improvements in the amount of \$30,117.50, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Christopher B Burke Engineering, LLC professional services for Hickory Ridge flood Control Improvements-Final Design & Permitting including DNR response, submittal and coordination for public notice from January 29th, 2023 thru February 25th, 2023, in the amount due this invoice for \$168.00 (**VOICE VOTE**) – *ARP Appropriation*. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the invoice from Christopher B Burke Engineering for professional services in the amount of \$168.00, 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.

Christopher B Burke Engineering, LLC professional services for On-Call Engineering Services-CRS five-year Audit, SW consulting& review services, from January 29th, 2023 thru February 25th, 2023, in the amount due this invoice for \$2,550.00 (**VOICE VOTE**). Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the invoice from Christopher B Burke Engineering for professional services for On-Call Engineering Services-CRS Audit, SW consulting& review services in the amount of \$2,550.00, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

VS Engineering, Stormwater Lift Station Conversion, SE Corner of Connecticut Street and E 69th Place, in the amount due this invoice for \$1,302.00 (**VOICE VOTE**) – *ARP Appropriation*. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the invoice from VS Engineering for professional services in the amount of \$1,302.00, 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 noted that we will be removing a lift station and would like to do the project in the summer when schools are out for the summer.

VS Engineering, Bon Aire Lake LOMR-shoreline-FEMA package preparation and submittal, in the amount due this invoice for \$3,240.00 (**VOICE VOTE**) – *ARP Appropriation*. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the invoice from VS Engineering for professional services for the LOMR shore line FEMA preparation and submittal in the amount of \$3,240.00, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

DLZ for professional services for Kaiser Ditch East Tributary Culvert Replacement-bid services, construction administration, and limited construction observation from February 11th, 2023 thru March 17th, 2023, in amount due this invoice for \$675.00 (**VOICE VOTE**) – *ARP Appropriation*. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the invoice from DLZ for professional services related to Kaiser Ditch culvert replacement in the amount of \$675.00, 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.

Robinson Engineering, Ltd. professional services for Independent Street & 75th Ave Drainage Improvements thru March 3rd, 2023 in the amount due this invoice for \$1,029.00 (**VOICE VOTE**) – *ARP Appropriation*. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the invoice from Robinson Engineering for professional services for the Independent Street & 75th Av drainage improvements in the amount of \$1,029.00, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Robinson Engineering, Ltd. professional services for On-Call Engineering Services-development reviews, updates, correspondence, site visit thru March 3rd, 2023 in the amount due this invoice for \$4,282.25 (**VOICE VOTE**). Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the invoice from Robinson Engineering for professional services related to On-Call Engineering Services in the amount of

\$4,282.25, 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.

Robinson Engineering, Ltd. professional services for Detention Pond Updates-GIS thru March 3rd, 2023 in the amount due this invoice for \$1,474.00 (**VOICE VOTE**). Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the invoice from Robinson Engineering for professional services related to GIS detention pond update in the amount of \$1,474.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There was no discussion. Barbara Ghoston asked what the difference was between billings, Matt responded that they are different projects. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Delta III, Inc. for Remove & Replace 12”- 48’ of HDPE Road Culvert on 83rd & Randolph, in amount due this invoice for \$12,300.00 (**VOICE VOTE**) (*leaving \$1,800.00 for asphalt laydown when weather permits*). Matt noted that the asphalt has already been completed but the bill will go on next months agenda. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the invoice from Delta III, Inc. for the removal and replacement of 12”-48” HDPE Road culver on 83rd & Randolph in the amount of \$12,300.00, 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.

Delta III, Inc. for Remove & Replace 12”- 48’ HDPE Road Culvert on Marshall & US 30, in amount due this invoice for \$12,300.00 (**VOICE VOTE**) (*leaving \$1,800.00 for asphalt laydown when weather permits*). Matt will confirm if the asphalt on this project has been installed. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the invoice from Delta III for the removal and replacement of 12”-48’ of HDPE road culvert on Marshall Street for the amount of \$12,300.00, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Updates

- Kaiser Ditch Lateral Project – Notice to Proceed has been issued and Gough, Inc. is mobilizing. Frank Stewart from DLZ commented that Gough has been told to initiate construction.
- 101st & Clay Street Drainage Project – This is a Town of Winfield project. Matt talked to Mike Duffy (DLZ Engineer) and said their low bid contractor was Ryan Construction who retracted their bid due to project costs and Winfield had to award the project it to the next lowest responsive bidder who was Reichelt Plumbing. Matt is not sure when they are starting but requested to be at the pre-construction meeting.
- Hickory Ridge Lake Apartment Regional Basin Design – We have submitted an application to Little Cal for 50% of the local funding for project construction. We have also prepared and sent a request for funding through Congressman Mrvan’s office, this would be federal dollars for the other half if awarded. Matt has a meeting with the Little Cal Advisory Board tomorrow afternoon, he has to present our project details. There is currently a backup in the pond due to a blocked outlet pipe and Hickory Ridge Apartment Management has been notified. Joe Fish inspected the site and provided a list of jet vac contractors to their management. He will check on their implementation in a few day and issue a notice of violation if there is no corrective action.

- Southmoor Park Drainage Project – Plans are ready and are waiting on MCD’s project plans to be finalized and we will bid this project together to minimize disturbance and receive lower bid pricing. Robinson Engineering, Bob Csanyi said that we are coordinating efforts to have two projects in one for less disturbance and better pricing. An email to set up a meeting is out so that coordinating efforts can be made.
- Independence Street Drainage Phase 2 – There is a pause because we are looking at some easements to acquire.
- Grassfield Subdivision/9401 Randolph St Drainage – Dyer construction is looking to move forward soon, Matt talked to Keith this morning and all of the pipe has been ordered, it just needs to be delivered. Dyer said it won’t take long to finish the project up once they get started.
- Creekside during our last meeting we wanted to get a bit of reduction. We asked to Creekside reduce the number of mowings from twice to once per month for detention parcels. The previous amount was \$57,192.80, updated amount-based on reduction of cutting in the total amount of \$33,641.60 with a savings of \$23,551.20.

NEW BUSINESS

Bud Crist – None

Matt Lake –

Matt wanted to note that a tornado has impacted select areas of the town and wanted to help out with the emergency response. The Town had a post incident briefing meeting and Matt suggested to the Town that we have an emergency on-call contract with various contractors for emergency response only. For example, we could have three or more reliable contractors for these contracts and during an emergency you call the first one and if they aren’t available you go to the next one on the list. This is like a contract designated for emergency response purposes. The Town is updating their disaster response plans and we are part of it. This can include such things as hazmat, terrorist attacks, flooding. This will be updated and distributed to everybody. Matt said we have reviewed a draft plan a few years ago and should look at it again.

The MS4 Annual Report has been submitted to IDEM which is required for compliance with our permit. Along with that we did an update to the Water Quality Characterization Report, that was also submitted. Matt updated our Stormwater Management Water Quality Management Plan that has also been submitted; it was due April 1st. We also submitted all of our documentation as a result of our CRS five-year cycle visit, it was an abundance of paper work submitted on their new online system called CRS Submit which complicated things more. Typically, they will review it and if they need anything they will request it by sending a 30-Day Response Letter and we will respond accordingly.

Matt has a couple of requests for engineering. One is to look at a couple of subdivisions with regards to complete replacement of all right-of-way drainage. One is Country Club Subdivision, it’s at 61st and Cleveland St north of 61st, it is a smaller subdivision. He would like a proposal by the next meeting for redesign and replacement of all ROW stormwater infrastructure in that subdivision. The reason being is that we meet with Jim McGuff, he is the Indiana State Finance Authority Director. He oversees SRF funds and mentioned about forgiveness so Matt asked Robinson Engineering to talk a look at it. Matt said to take all of the census block data and overlay the mean household income for families within

there and see where it lands. The map shows some of the census block data for the mean household income and some are very low and qualify for forgiveness. We can do projects and apply for SRF and go for forgiveness.

Matt said that he will have to meet with Karl as well. Matt thinks that the City of Gary is applying for several CRS projects with the intent of forgiveness right now. We take that concept and apply it here to areas that qualify. The one area where the subdivision is the average household income is \$30,000, the mean average household income. Barbara Ghoston asked for clarification on the map regards to how it is shown. The 2020 census was done during COVID. We need to take this information and use it to our advantage. Attorney Meyers said anything below \$46K allows you to apply for the BFL, which is the same process but a different application form. We should take advantage of this while we have it, the next census could change. So, we should jump on this and get the engineering in, then we can apply for SRF. Attorney Meyers said you could also apply for engineering. Once you get the engineer on board and a preliminary stage you should contact Jim McGoff and he will tell you who to talk to, you might want to apply for both BFL and SRF at the same time even though SRF would qualify for at least some forgiveness it doesn't necessarily have to be 100%.

The other subdivision that he wants to do the same thing with is Independence Hill third addition. This is south of U.S. 30 and west of Taft. Hasse and Associates had come up with a plan over 20 years ago because when IHCD abandoned the sanitary system they had to come up with a plan for what they were going to do with the stormwater infrastructure which they never pursued. The intent is complete full engineering for both of these subdivisions and can get them shovel-ready status. We will pursue SRF as well as other state and federal funding opportunities. With the Board's permission Matt would like to proceed by getting proposals for these subdivisions ready for the next meeting. Barbara Ghoston asked about the photo presented and Matt said it is in the Country Club subdivision and that we received a call about ruts in the right-of-way and it turns out that residents are parking off the street and the picture shows damage from vehicle tires. That is another question, does the Town want to go with a hybrid swale system like we did in Southmoor Park and Marcella Road or does the Town want to pursue curb and gutter. Matt said there are advantages to hybrid swales including a much lower cost and water quality aspects. The other problem with subdivision is a prominent low area which may necessitate a stormwater lift station. This would be a two-prong approach and we make all improvements that are feasible.

There are two proposals up for approval listed below:

Official Approval of Delta III Inc proposal for Storm Sewer & Roadside Ditch Grading on 70th Av & Catherine Street in the amount of \$21,500.00 (**VOICE VOTE**). (*Three bids solicited, only two responded, Delta III was the lowest and most responsive bidder*). Matt noted that this is by Pierce Middle School, we want to move forward with some intermittent ditching along Carolina Street and 70th Ave. Overall, there is a plan through VS Engineering to completely redo all of the drainage there and all of the sidewalks, but this will take a while. Matt said that he has a set of plans from VS Engineering that are about 65% complete, the Town has to figure out how they are going to match this for construction. Eventually it will all be curb and gutter/new drainage with sidewalks. In the mean time there are some isolated drainage issues so we want to do some ditching and give them some relief, it could take another two years before the VS Engineering plan is implemented. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the invoice from Delta III for Storm Sewer & Roadside Ditch Grading on 70th Av & Catherine Street in the amount of \$21,500.00, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Official Approval of Delta III Inc proposal for Removal & Replacement of Storm Sewer on 78th & Hendricks in the amount of \$24,800.00 (**VOICE VOTE**). (*Three bids solicited, only two responded, Delta III was the lowest and most responsive bidder*). The next highest was \$48,110.31. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the Removal & Replacement of Storm Sewer on 78th & Hendricks in the amount of \$24,800.00 and was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Official Approval of Risk Tree Removal, 18”-24” on Buchanan Street (5300 Block) – Bid Opening March 17th, 2023 at 3:00 p.m., Stormwater Resource Center. Three bids received, lowest and most responsive bidder was Clemons Tree Service in the amount of \$6,325.00 (**VOICE VOTE**) – *ARP Appropriation*. Bid Tabulation enclosed. We originally went through and removed the worst of the worst and now went back through to get a few that were marginal. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the invoice the invoice from Clemons Tree Service in the amount of \$6,623.00, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote. Matt said that the next subdivision to be looked at for tree removal is Turkey Creek Subdivision. We already have had a meeting with Councilman Minchuk and Robinson, we will put together a first phase of that. The Town was lucky that the tornado wasn't worse.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Cotton was in attendance and said Matt already answered his questions. Matt said that the Tilapia will be going in this year. They will notify us so that we can do something with the press. Mr. Cotton said that he pulls out branches and cuts them to size for removal. He keeps it clean so that everything flows. Secretary Ghoston asked it will be the same amount of Tilapia, Matt responded yes. Mr. Cotton said he is not sure where the Tilapia goes but did see 30 turtles on one of the trees that fell, they are in there and eating.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Crist said the next SWMB meeting is set for Tuesday, May 2nd, 2023, at 3:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center. (May change due to elections)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Adra Breclaw-Csanyi, Staff Secretary