

MINUTES
Stormwater Board Meeting
Thursday, May 07, 2015
7:00 PM

- **Call to order: Edgar Corns called the meeting to order at 7:18 P.M.**

- **Pledge of Allegiance**

- **Roll Call**
 - Roll call was taken: Edward Corns present, Tom Cartwright Present, Matt Lake Present

- **Approval of Minutes**
 - Ed Corns made a motion to approve minutes from March 12, 2015. Motion was seconded by Tom Cartwright, Carried 3-0

- **Old Business**
 - **2015 Budget**

The 2015 Budget was reviewed. Greg made the case that we are being conservative with spending in order to grow the available stormwater funds. Matt lake made a motion to approve the budget report for April 13, 2015. Edgar Corns seconded the motion, Carried 3-0.

 - **Powell ditch Status Report**

Greg White supplied photographs of the duckbills at the head walls at the inlets of Powell ditch into Cedar Creek. Greg explained that this phase of the Powell Ditch project was complete and that he was satisfied with the erosion and sediment control measures that were in place at the site. He also stated that the duck bills appear to be working properly, and that water appears to be moving in the right direction out of the structures. Edgar Corns commented that he would like to fine money to dredge the rest of Powell Ditch. He commented that there is too much water standing still at Lincoln Street. Corns stated that since this project came in under budget, the remainder of the funds allocated should be used to fund part of the next phase of the project. Edgar stated that he understands the challenges that face a dredging project on the north-south leg because of the DNR, Army Corp of Engineers and the wetlands in the area.

After being questioned about the location of the duckbills, Greg White described the locations in detail in reference to their proximity to Powell Ditch.

Matt lake explained to the board that he has right-of-entry and temporary easement forms that he uses in The Town of Merrillville, and that we can use them if we need to gain access to municipal or non-regulated drainage. He explained that getting permanent



easements can get very expensive due to the survey and legal work required to secure the agreement. Greg White questioned the legal responsibility of the land owner after any maintenance work is completed under a right-of-entry. Matt Lake stated that all maintenance going forward after completion is the responsibility of the property owner. He stated that there is no prospect of the County Drainage Board taking on any of these small ditches as regulated not a possibility so we have to find another way to gain access to them in order to maintain them properly.

- **Sump Pump Ordinance**

Greg reported that we have gotten no response back from the Town Attorney on the letter/emails concerning this issue. Greg reported that the Public Works Director sent correspondence to Attorney Weslan and that we are waiting to hear back. Greg constructed a letter to present to the building official to pass along to the Plan Commission for comment. Matt Lake commented on the liability of tying sump pump and downspouts into the Town storm drainage infrastructure. Greg White commented that he agrees that downspouts should discharge across previous ground to promote percolation, and also noted the Town Engineer SEH promoted tying them in to storm sewers. Matt Lake stated that there is "massive" liability for the town in the case of a storm sewer back-up that could cause flooding to residents' basements. Greg stated the SEH is promoting the standard of installing back yard drains in new developments and tying into those. Matt Lake said the problem remains the same.

- **New Business**

- **Project – Culvert replacement at McConnell Ditch and 171st**

Greg White described the scope of the project including details about how the road is sinking and that when the first culvert failed in the past it was not replaced but a second smaller culvert was added next to the original culvert and the area has been cold patched over several times since. Edgar Corns asked if the culvert was Town or County owned. Greg stated that the culvert belongs to the Town, but the ditch is a County regulated drain. Greg stated that he had reached out to the County Highway and County Drainage Department to do a cooperative project or to provide assistance on the project. Edgar Corns stated that the culvert was raised several years back in order to drain the marsh land. He also stated that the McConnell Ditch needs to be cleaned downstream. Greg stated given the increase in traffic, a bridge may be warranted. Edgar Corns gave some history on the crossing back to the original land owners, including Earl Frey. Greg White stated that Public Works department asked for assistance from the County highway department. Duane Alverson from the County came out to the site to assess the situation.

- **Project – Spring Run Lateral 13**

Greg White described the scope of the project and highlighted the fact that SR Lat 13 drains the entire east side of Lowell, however, since it resides outside of the Town boundary, the Town does not have jurisdiction to clean the ditch. Greg mentioned that several attempts have been made to work with the Lake County Drainage Board to get the ditch cleaned; however, since there are no easements on the ditch, and it is not a County Regulated Drain, it is not technically their responsibility either. Greg stated the communication with Dan Gossman from the Lake County Drainage Board reported that it

is on the list of projects for 2015 and that this communication is a giant move forward for the project.

- **Project – Underground Boring at 175th and Malibu Woods Subdivision**

Greg White stated that the Town has asked for bids from Borit and Zies to bore a drain under the road at 175th and connect to the storm sewer on the north end of Malibu Woods Subdivision to effectively drain the road and culvert on 175th. He mentioned that this project will be funded through the stormwater fee.

- **LCSWCD – Lowell MCM 1&2 Agreement**

Greg White stated that we have the agreement from the District and that all of the details between the two entities remain the same as the 2014 agreement. As a member of the Lake County Soil and Water conservation District, Edgar Corns commented on the new educator and programs that they are putting in place. Ed Corns made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Tom Cartwright, Passed 3-0

- **Good Housekeeping Audit Update**

Than the audit was completed on the March 30th date by Reggie Korthals from IDEM and that the Town passed with 2 small paperwork requirements by June 30th. He stated that he was proud of all of the department heads and members of the Town administration who stepped up when necessary to make the audit go smoothly.

- **NISWAG – Key Meeting Topics**

Matt Lake gave a report on NISWAG current issues. His report included a description and promotion of the IDEM annual MS4 meeting in Indianapolis and stated that, although not required, it is recommended that every MS4 have representation at the meeting.

- **Public Comment**

None

- **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Edward Corns at 7:49 P.M. Seconded by Tom Cartwright. Carried 3-0

Matt Lake, President

Tom Cartwright, Secretary

Date: Thursday, September 3, 2015

