

**MONROE COUNTY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 3:00 PM  
County Courthouse Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – Nat U Hill Meeting Room  
Hybrid Meeting with Virtual Attendance via Zoom

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**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lee Jones (president), Julie Thomas (vice president), Penny Githens, Trohn Enright-Randolph

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF:** Kelsey Thetonia (MS4 Coordinator), Adam Rickert (MS4 Assistant), Marie Dishian (Intern), Forest Levy (Intern)

**OTHERS:** Maggie Sullivan (Friends of Lake Monroe)

**Call to order:** Lee Jones called the meeting to order.

**Public Input for Items not on the Agenda**

Tamby Wikle-Cassady: I wanted to ask about the agenda because I looked online and did not find one. Trohn Enright-Randolph responded and was able to share a link.

**Approval of Minutes for January 11, 2023**

**Motion to approve by Julie Thomas. Seconded by Githens. VOTE: AYE (unanimous). Motion passed.**

**Business**

**Monroe County SWCD – 2022 Grants Summary Presentation**

Kelsey Thetonia said Martha and Hannah would instead present at next month's meeting.

**MS4 Co-permitting Memorandum of Agreement with Ivy Tech Community College –Bloomington**

Thetonia said we have a co-permitting agreement with Ivy Tech in Bloomington. She said it is very common for a smaller MS4 entity to co-permit with a larger entity so we can work together on educational activities. She said for example when Ivy Tech's permit was audited in 2021, Connie and I were there to help them through that process. Thomas commented that she did not see any difference between the old agreement and this one.

Githens noted that the officers needed to be changed on the MOU. **Motion by Trohn to approve the MS4 Co-permitting MOU with Ivy Tech Community College-Bloomington, with the caveat to update the current Stormwater Management Board president. Seconded by Githens. VOTE: AYE (unanimous). Motion carried.**

**Friends of Lake Monroe – Community Action Initiative Funding Request**

Maggie Sullivan spoke. She said we are submitting a funding request to expand our community action initiative next year. She said this is continuing the work we started last year, primarily focusing on septic education in Monroe County. She said we're doing a number of other projects as well in 2024, including a green fishing campaign. She said we're working on some youth education and a few other initiatives, but we are specifically asking for \$13,000 to help with a voucher program where we would assist homeowners with pumping their septic tanks, since that is an important way of making sure they are maintained and not leaking into our streams and lake.

Trohn said you offer assistance to get septic tanks inspected, and even flushed. He asked would you be able to give us like a cursory update of how that went. Sullivan said we did this program last year, and we contacted about 3,000 households. She said we heard from about 100 of them who were interested, and ultimately it was 78 households who took advantage of the program. She said there were a handful of others who either had trouble getting their septic tank pumped in the window when we were requesting it, or one or two said they had it pumped, but they did not have an invoice to show me. She said we know the word got out there and we had a lot of positive feedback.

Julie Thomas said we've approved some American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for the same kind of work, but not just focused around Lake Monroe, so I would love to have a conversation with you, maybe after the next meeting we could chat about that.

Githens said I think there's also legislation going through right now at the State level about regional watersheds and I don't know what kind of funding or anything might come along with that, but I know that it's at least being looked at.

Lee Jones said I have a question that is not totally about this. She asked do you do anything along the same lines for farmers that have herds of cattle in the watershed.

Sullivan said another project we are doing right now is a cost-share program. She said we received another 319 grant through the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). She said this is a 2 ½ year project that is primarily focused on farmers; it is a cost share up to 75% reimbursement for a number of soil and water conservation practices. She said in terms of livestock, one of the big ones is exclusion fencing to keep those animals away from streams. She said we are also looking at heavy use area protection, putting down concrete or gravel where the animals gather to protect the soil and prevent erosion, and it also makes manure management much easier. She talked about other practices to help with erosion, doing some pasture seeding to help get rid of those bald spots, and then a number of practices for crop land as well.

Jones said that sounds very comprehensive. Seeing no other questions or public comment, she called for a vote. **Motion by Githens to approve the funding request from Friends of Lake Monroe for \$13,000. Second by Thomas. VOTE: AYE (unanimous). Motion carried.**

Trohn asked a question about the House Bill 1639 Watershed Development Commissions. Sullivan said it is my understanding that that bill has been introduced a couple of times, so we are waiting to see if it happens this year or not.

### **Stormwater Expenditure Reports for January, February, and March**

Thetonia went through the categories and numbers. She said we are working on re-doing the financial reports for you. She said the previous reports were not capturing encumbrances or transfers that we were doing within the budget. She said we welcome your feedback on these reports if you want to see something different. She said we are trying to group things together to make it easier to read. She said in future meetings, I would like Lynette to help with presenting this because she is involved in day-to-day operations. She said for January, we had several lines we were able to encumber because of existing contracts. She said we did a lot of ditching and we had on-call contracting for flagging, which helps with ditching. She said there were disposal fees for street sweepings removal. She mentioned the rental of a straw blower. She said for February, there were several things for fleet maintenance. She said the Grad-all was sent to Indianapolis several times to

troubleshoot an issue. She said it may be gone for up to five months. She said we also had repairs on one of our pickup trucks. She said for professional fees, you see some site reviews by Christopher Burke (CB). She talked about a Stipp Road/Moores Creek project expenditure for an easement. She said in March there were fleet maintenance bills; I am going to keep an eye on this. She said we were able to pay out to SWCD for their grants program. She talked about expenditures for trainings. She asked if there were any questions.

Trohn said I am getting a feel for the format; I think it will be very helpful. Jones said the new format is certainly helpful.

## **Staff Reports**

Thetonia said Adam Rickert is going to present about our MS4 annual report that was submitted to IDEM on the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. She said the commissioners would be required to sign our permit renewal every five years.

Rickert had a presentation providing an overview of the annual report. He talked about minimum control measures (MCMs) 1 through 6. He said we made a concerted effort to close out requests. He talked about the most common drainage requests. He talked about public education and outreach including the stormwater calendar that is distributed at the county fair and other places. He said he visited gas stations in the MS4 jurisdiction to talk about being prepared for spills. He talked about an Instagram reel that got more than 16,000 views. He talked about public participation and involvement, including a clean up at Jackson Creek Park. He talked about a septic workshop and a Friends of Lake Monroe septic cost share program. He talked about illicit discharge detection and elimination and working with stormwater interns on mapping additional outfalls.

Githens had a question about outfalls. Rickert said this is basically where stormwater infrastructure such as a buried pipe discharges to a stream. He said IDEM has a clean marina program including a clean boater pledge to help minimize impacts. He said we will be posting signs about the program at seven DNR boat ramps. He said it sounds like IDEM is going to expand this throughout the state, but Monroe County will be the first to post signs about the program. He talked about making contractors aware of permitting changes. He talked about the contractors' workshop held at Ivy Tech. He said Erica Penna helped contractors with navigating the new permit portal. He talked about site inspections and tracking them in the portal. He said at the end of 2022, we had 54 active construction sites and 25 that were terminated for a total of 93 permitted sites. He talked about the post-construction stormwater runoff program and 259 BMPs that were inspected. He talked about tracking BMPs, keeping track of maintenance needs and vegetation impacts and to provide a rating for maintenance. He talked about municipal pollution prevention and housekeeping, education for employees and minimizing our environmental impact. He showed examples of improvements that have been done in the last year.

Githens had a question about the clean marina and cleaning boating program and whether it might be at Lake Lemon in the future. Rickert said yes, we want to have plenty of opportunity for people to see the posters, whether it is at a boat ramp, or a business related to boating.

Trohn had a comment about the online materials put together for gas stations. He talked about creating a subpage for best management practices for stormwater. He said regarding testing given to employees, he was curious if there were questions that were stumbling blocks for people; that means there may be an opportunity for education or to clarify the question. Rickert said I agree on both of your points about making this accessible also to the general public and about the test questions; we should learn from this what material could be provided better.

Githens asked about getting information for a Clear Creek cleanup. Rickert said we would be working with neighborhood representatives and with the parks department. He said we are looking at April 29<sup>th</sup> for the cleanup.

Jones said it sounds like a successful year for stormwater; thank you very much.

**Marie Dishian and Forrest Levy – O’Neill Fellows Presentation on 2021-2022 Post-Construction BMP Inventory Data Summary**

The interns introduced themselves. Dishian said we are going to be telling you about the work we have been doing this semester with BMP inventorying. She said we have also been doing other tasks such as setting up an Instagram account and HOA education. Levy said last year IDEM passed a new MS4 general permit for all MS4s in the state requiring them to inventory BMPs. He said BMPs are anything that helps mitigate negative impacts of stormwater. He said this requires all privately owned BMPs to be inventoried every five years as well as annual inventories of MS4-owned BMPs. He said we tracked the many BMPs throughout the county using available data. He said we looked at the BMP type, the location, the owner, and general maintenance required. He said as of today we have 300 BMPs inventoried and more planned.

Dishian said the exciting thing about having all that information is that now we can analyze the data. She said I worked on an internal dashboard, using Excel. She displayed the dashboard and explained the data and the ranking system used. She said the dashboard was finished a week or two ago. She said next, we will be taking this type of information and making it external by building an ESRI dashboard. Levy talked about the ESRI dashboard and the type of information that could be accessed. He talked about adding the critical watersheds and other additions to the dashboard. He said our next steps are continuing to inventory BMPs and contacting owners of BMPs that need maintenance.

SWMB members noted that it was great work and very helpful for stormwater. Trohn noted that adding a heat map to that data would be easy. Githens said I would love to see before and after pictures of some of the BMPs. Thetonia said right now we are focusing on education and outreach, and we are trying to be sensitive to the fact that some HOAs are not ready for this. She said we do have an enforcement mechanism in our ordinance if it becomes a public safety issue or environmental issue.

She said I have quick update for SWMB. She said I wanted to show you pictures of the Brummetts Creek logjam. She talked about logs and debris spanning the whole width of the stream. She displayed a recent picture showing that it is still accumulating. She said we are pursuing removal of this; it will cost about \$9,000 total. She said we have received numerous complaints from residents that it does flood the road. She said our MS4 program will be audited by IDEM in August. She said they will be going through all our files, doing facility inspections, and making sure that we are doing the things that we need to do. She said also, Erica Penna is officially on leave so we are without our stormwater inspector for the next several months and Adam and I will be taking on her workload. Trohn commented if we want to consider becoming a CRS community then we have to go through the DNR audit. He said it would be nice to keep that on our radar, also.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:13 PM.

**Approved:**  
**Signed:**

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**President**

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**Secretary**