

MONROE COUNTY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD
Wednesday January 11, 2023, at 3:00 PM
County Courthouse Building, 3rd Floor – Nat U Hill Meeting Room
Hybrid Meeting with Virtual Attendance via Zoom

MINUTES

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF: Lisa Ridge (Highway), Adam Rickert (MS4 Assistant), Forest Levy (Intern)

OTHERS: Tamby Wikle-Cassady, Martha Miller (SWCD), Hannah Martin (SWCD)

Call to order: Penny Githens called the meeting to order.

Election of Officers for 2023.

Githens said she would like to nominate Lee Jones for president; seconded by Trohn Enright-Randolph. VOTE: AYE (unanimous). Jones said she would like to nominate Julie Thomas for vice president; seconded by Trohn. Vice President: VOTE: AYE (unanimous).

Public Input for Items not on the Agenda

Tamby Wikle-Cassady spoke. She said I am a resident of Monroe County and the Clear Creek valley. She said as I have mentioned on other occasions there are neighbors of us who have problems down there with flash flooding from time to time. She said I wanted to say a few things in response to what our flood plain administrator was saying. She said my first is I think it would be a good idea to have that stormwater administrator as part of the drainage board or at least sitting in on the drainage board and stormwater meetings. She said I think there needs to be a little more cohesiveness. She said I also wanted to bring to your attention a couple areas that are being blocked south of Clear Creek. She said I have some photographs to share. She said there is an abandoned railroad trestle that has an abutment where the trestle went across. She said it is probably 40- to 60-feet wide; on one side it is about 12 feet high and on the other side it is 20- to 30-feet high. She said it is really huge; it's like a levee. She said then there is a culvert that sits in the creek about 2- to 3-feet high, and it is about 24-feet square and it sits right in the creek and it has chain link fences on both sides of it. She said the chain link is actually being caught up in the creek. She said I think we could have some kind of a project to clean that up and help the water flow to the south of us. She said another item that Tammy (Behrman) mentioned was that there are 107 FEMA insured properties in Monroe County; I think a better look at that would be the actual properties that are both in the floodway and the floodplain that would be affected if they had damage or, as FEMA states in one of their publications, they encourage you, if you are in the flood way and haven't had flood damage, to make improvements like getting your furnace out from under your crawl space. She said you may be familiar, all the homes down there are built between the 1890s and 1930; we need new foundations and basements and things like that. She said this is a common issue for vehicles in the area whenever flash flooding occurs, we have around 6,000 pieces of traffic a day that cross the intersection of That Road and South Rogers Street. She said it affects a lot of people; it is not just the specific structures and homes in the

area. She said I think cleaning this up would be an amazing positive for all of the community, because I think we all want clean water. She said I appreciate your time today.

Jones said I have a question about the culverts that are in the creek. She said are they horizontal or vertical to the flow. Wiksell-Cassidy said they run with the flow but it appears like maybe the creek used to flow in them and the creek has gotten bigger over the years and the creek will teach itself to run around it. She said they are about half-blocked underwater. She said where the trestle went across, there is a culvert that is about halfway underground. She said it is made out of concrete so it's really old and I have no idea where it goes to. She said it is south of the gym and the cleanup business that is there. Githens commented that usually our stormwater director is at these meetings; it is very unusual that she is not here today.

Lisa Ridge said I don't know if you have made work requests. She said we have a process in the department that we investigate every request that has a concern. She said we send the proper personnel out there to see if there is a scope of work that can be completed by one of our crews; it could be stormwater or it could be a bridge crew. She said if we know these locations, then we can get them into our system.

Trohn said we did meet at Drainage Board earlier this month to discuss this. He said Kelsey Thetonia our MS4 Coordinator was there. He said Tammy Berhman was there as well, virtually. He said she just took over the role of the floodplain administrator. He said she has talked about amending some of planning ordinance to coincide with the State. He said it reflects the type of work that she is taking upon herself to address a lot of different concerns. He said one thing I said at the Drainage Board meeting is that this issue involves a number of different entities, as far as how the county conducts business and, just like Ms. Ridge was saying, there's a right-of-way issue, there's a stormwater issue, there's a drainage issue. He said this does seem like something we should look at and consider a path forward. He said also that this is in the area where there is annexation occurring. He said it could potentially be outside of the county's jurisdiction. He said I think if we address it incrementally and have a strategy ready to execute and if it looks like it is going to take a lot of effort on the county's behalf to address this then maybe we could have a plan on how to move forward once we know this is going to stay in the county's jurisdiction and, if not, pass that document along to the City. He said those were my comments at the Drainage Board and I was just wanting to echo those here today.

Approval of Minutes for December 14, 2022.

Motion to approve by Githens; second by Trohn. VOTE: AYE (unanimous). Jones said she had a big pile of minutes to put in the Stormwater mailbox. Trohn commented said you can put those in the Surveyor inbox since Donna Barbrick is in our office and she does those minutes. Jones said ok.

New Business

HTNB On-Call Contract for Professional Services

Motion to approve the master task order prime agreement for professional services by Githens; second by Thomas.

Ridge said this is similar to other agreements that we bring to the board or to the commissioners on behalf of Highway or Cumulative Bridge. She said it is a kind of on call agreement with a

consultant service if we run across a project for additional plan review. She said this will be as needed, and we have a few of these in the county at this time. She said it is there for additional assistance if it is needed. She said I know Kelsey relies on our county engineer as much as possible but sometimes there are things out of his realm that we need to reach out for additional engineering services. Trohn said we have two of these service providers on retainer more or less, and that would be Christopher Burke and now this company. He asked does that mean Terry Quillman is officially retired. Ridge said Terry is officially retired and it is always a good idea to have more than one engineering services available just in case it is needed. Trohn said he looked up this company on the internet and that they are quite large and are increasing their presence in the state of Indiana quite significantly.

Jones called for a vote. **VOTE: AYE (unanimous). Motion carried.**

Old Business

Baby Creek Amendments 3 and 4 for re-design of structures 1345 and 1355 plus acquisition of additional right of way

Motion for approval by Githens; second by Thomas. Trohn said the only comment I have is when it says detailed design, it would be interesting to see that design. Githens said there was a discrepancy between the agenda and the contract on the structure numbers and she asked what is was supposed to be and whether an amendment was needed. Ridge said I think it is just a typo on the agenda. Thomas commented it was a scrivener's error that we can note when we call for a vote. Jones called for a vote. **VOTE: AYE (unanimous). Motion carried.**

2023 MOU with SWCD for Stormwater Grant Program

Motion to approve by Trohn Enright-Randolph; second by Thomas. Thomas said my question would be for staff. She said it looks like this is the same amount as past years but I wanted to make sure the scope is the same. Ridge said I am not aware of any changes made to the MOU; it is the same amount.

Hannah Martin spoke. She said I started midway through this past year and we already have a list of people who have inquired about the program. She said I think the money will be easily dispersed this coming year. Thomas said I have a question. She said you have done a great job of listing out the applicants and the totals. She said the total comes to more than the \$35,000 but there is a carryover from previous years. She said it looks like what you are saying is that once you pay out from the end of 2022 projects that were not done late in the year, those will be paid out in 2023 and there will still be a \$9,000 balance and then this \$35,000 will roll into that balance and ostensibly \$44,000 is available.

Martin said that is correct and thank you for navigating that. She said this was my first time putting together the report. She said the 2021s were applications that happened in 2021 but got a payout in 2022. She said the 2022 people are those who applied and completed in the same year so they got their payout. She said then the extended section at the bottom of the report are those who are allocated but needed an extension.

She said we have done site visits; they needed an extension. She said I tell everyone who applies that I'd like for the projects to be done within the year. She said there is a two-year allowance

period. She said all of that money in the third section of the report is allocated and accounted for. She said then that allows the carryover. Ridge said we do address this in Item #2 on the MOU concerning timing and reporting.

Trohn said I would like to give you the opportunity to let the public know how they can apply for this program. Martin said I would love to help promote it and put our website out there. She said if you go to the Monroe County website and search for partnership grant, it pops up the form to apply.

Ridge noted that Martha Miller has been trying to get into the meeting virtually. Jones asked if there was any public comment.

Tamby Wikle-Cassady spoke. She said she had a question on whether this item is about approving the MOU agreement and the amounts as well. Trohn said we have a partnership and we allocate a lump sum and then SWCD runs the program. Tamby said I wondered if the grant includes things like reimbursement for application fees and permits.

Martha Miller spoke. She said grading permits can be part of a project. Martin said I would like to add that we take any application to our Board of Supervisors, where they help with the agreement in the terms of the grant.

Miller said in regards to the \$9,000 carryover, we have actually expended more than ever before; we have a good system now that we have Hannah in place. She said getting the grant and hiring Hannah has given us the ability to go out and let people know that this program is available. Miller said the Clear Creek area is falling into the lower Salt Creek Watershed project area. She said I am confident we will be able to use the carryover this year.

Trohn mentions that in the agreement, Article 2, all partnership grants are required to have some form of landholder buy-in at a minimum of 25%. He said so this helps to supplement the cost of the projects. He said there is some skin in the game from the landholder. Miller said thank you, Trohn; that is actually very critical. She said that is part of the way we do everything here.

Miller said in addition, Martin is doing stormwater plan reviews. She said any MS4 cannot self-review and so state code says that falls back to the SWCD. She said that is an area where we haven't been able to do anything, until we hired Hannah. She said Hannah is getting more training from IDEM regarding stormwater reviews.

Jones called for a vote on the motion. VOTE: AYE (unanimous). Motion carried.

Expenditure Report for December 2022.

Ridge went through the items on the report. She said the fleet maintenance is a little bit up for tires and finishing out the year for some of those additional expenses. She said mentioned on call contract services with IU work study, remote monitoring/hosting/cell data remote services equipment we have been having issues with, disposal fees from street sweepings, general engineering services for State Road 45/Hinds Road/Burch Road project, professional fees from working on the stormwater ordinance with Christopher Burke. She said we had a contractors

workshop back in November. She said that was the workshop lunch that you see; also gas/oil/lube expenses which had gone up this year. She said drug testing was for the CDL license holders; they draw them at random. She mentioned that Lake Monroe water quality MOU for the watershed, the Baby Creek stormwater project and the Stipp Road project. She asked if there were any questions.

Staff Reports

Ridge said I want to re-introduce Forrest Levy who came back to us as one of the interns. She said this program has worked out well for stormwater. Trohn asked if Forrest would like to come to the podium and introduce himself. Levy spoke at the podium. He said I am a fellow/intern with stormwater. He said I did my undergrad at IU, taught English in Spain for a couple of years and then decided to come back and get my masters in public affairs/environmental science at IU. He said I am studying energy but I have learned a lot about stormwater and I think the two are kind of closely related.

Jones said the date of our next meeting is February 8th at 3 pm and our meeting is now adjourned.

Approved:
Signed:

Secretary:

President
