



Minutes

MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD

TUESDAY, May 5th, 2026, at 3:30 PM

Merrillville Stormwater Resource Center, 7404 Broadway, Merrillville, IN

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the May 5th, 2026, Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Crist led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Members in attendance were, President Bud Crist and Vice President Jim Kendig, two board members are present, a quorum was established. The staff member present were Executive Director Matt Lake and Secretary Adra Breclaw-Csanyi.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Comments: Stormwater received all our equipment except for one.

MINUTES

Stormwater Management Board Minutes (SWMB) from April 7th, 2026, approved. President Crist entertained a motion for approval, Vice President Kendig entered a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting on March 3rd, 2026, and motion seconded by President Crist. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Included in the agenda packet were copies of the Accounts Payable Register from April 14th, 2026, and April 28th, 2026. President Crist entertained a motion for approval Vice President Kendig entered a motion to accept the Accounts Payable Registers April 14th, 2026, and April 28th, 2026, seconded by Vice President Kendig. No questions asked. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS - (Discussion and Roll Call Vote)

GRAND BOULEVARD DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT BID OPENING –

Stormwater Management Public Meeting opening of bids will commence during this public meeting Tuesday May 5th, 2026, 3:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center at 7404 Broadway, Merrillville, IN. Provisional award of bid to lowest, most responsive bidder. **BID OPENING.**

Bud Crist – Sealed bids were accepted until 3:15 p.m., bids will be open and read aloud any bids submitted or received later than the published time will be returned unopened. President Crist publicly announced the closing to receive bids and Attorney Jim Meyer to open and read aloud bids. Recommendation of award will be upon review by the engineer, staff, and MSU attorney. **(VOICE VOTE)**

1) Austgen Equipment, Inc.	Lowell, IN	\$699,316.47
2) M & J Underground.	Monee, IL	\$524,605.66
3) Dyer Construction Co., Inc.	Dyer, IN	\$670,000.00
4) GE Marshall	Merrillville, IN	\$705,243.69
5) Gariup Construction Co., Inc.	Gary, IN	\$897,500.00

Attorney Meyer said he recommends that the board take the bids under advisement and refer them to the project engineer and staff for review and recommendation. President Crist entertained a motion for approval, Vice President Kendig motioned and it was seconded by President Crist. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

Matt recommended that DLZ review the lowest bid to make sure it is in order as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder. Executive Director Lake also asked if we could do a provisional award as long as DLZ finds they are the lowest and most responsive bidder. Frank Stewart commented that we should finish the evaluation but based on that and contingent upon that we find it is acceptable it is okay. Attorney Meyer asked if there was a timeline problem. Matt commented that we have to be done by August. Frank said that we need to as soon as we can get them going. Attorney Meyer said, then you are requesting a conditional award based upon a review by you and DLZ, Matt said yes because of the timeframe, and we can get in touch with them and mobilize after you review and accept that everything looks good. Frank said then we will get the contract signed. Attorney Meyer said then what you are asking for is to conditionally approve the award of the contract to be what is determined to be by staffing after the acceptance to the lowest and most responsive bidder. President Crist thought that is what was already done. Attorney Meyer thought they only moved to have it reviewed by staff. President Crist motioned for acceptance upon determination that award will be conditionally approved/accepted to the lowest and most responsive bidder. Vice President Kendig motioned and it was seconded by President Crist. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote. Executive Director Lake said to Frank after review reach out to M & J if lowest to get the contract going so that we don't waste time.

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

Matt Lake – DLZ, Professional Services for Grand Boulevard Ditch Relocation Project Professional Services February 14th, 2026, to March 27th, 2026, in the amount due this request for \$6,781.25 **(VOICE VOTE)**. President Crist entertained a motion for approval. Vice President Kendig motioned and it was seconded by President Crist. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

VS Engineering, Hendricks Street Drainage Analysis Professional Services billing period ending March 31st, 2026, in the amount due this invoice for \$2,615.00 **(VOICE VOTE)**. President Crist entertained a motion for approval, Vice President Kendig motioned and it was seconded by President Crist. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC MSU Master Plan Update. Professional Services from March 1st, 2026, to March 28th, 2026, in the amount due this invoice for \$12,518.75 **(VOICE VOTE)**. Little Cal will be paying for half of this project. President Crist entertained a motion for approval, Vice President Kendig motioned and it was seconded by President Crist. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

Dyer Construction Company, Inc., for 5539 Cleveland Culvert emergency replacement in the amount due this invoice for \$19,022.70 (**VOICE VOTE**). President Crist entertained a motion for approval, Vice President Kendig motioned and it was seconded by President Crist. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote. Executive Director Lake said they only charged us for labor and did us (the Town) a huge favor by stepping in a situation, it was also recognized by the Council.

STATUS /Updates: Matt Lake

- Hendricks Drainage Analysis – Executive Director Lake said we are just going through the plans and preparing the bid documents with VS Engineering. It will be going out to bid.
- Hickory Ridge Flood Control Project – Hickory Ridge, – Executive Director Matt Lake said he received a final punch list from TJ Gordon, who is from Christopher Burke to Dyer Construction and working our way down the final punch list. A lot of it is related to the pump, the last pump to go in. Other than that, it looks good, there is a little restoration work that needs to be completed out there. The owners of the apartment are very satisfied. It has been holding up with the heaviest storm events; it's been a good project. It has been a long road and is nearing final completion.
- 97th and Grand Boulevard Drainage Improvements (DLZ) – We just opened bids on this, Matt asked if Frank would like to add anything beside the numbers coming in pretty good. Matt asked what the engineers estimate was, Frank said approximately \$890,000. The low bid came in at \$524,605.66 it's quite a difference, we'll make sure they didn't miss anything, it's just competition and it could be just that. Matt said he has never worked with M & J but at long as there are no flaws in their bid submittal and past performance in other communities that will be great.
- Stormwater Master Plan – Executive Director Lake said he is working with Daren Olsen and Dave Buckley on the updates from Christopher Burke and are getting very close on finalized everything. Our biggest project will be the 61st Avenue interceptor line, Lateral six for Turkey Creek main stem and hope to work that into the 61st Avenue reconstruction project that funds are being applied for through NIRPC in two phases. We'll work in about half of that drainage project on that project. So, there will be significant cost savings for us. We also have some projects to address dealing with railroad.

NEW BUSINESS - (Discussion and Roll Call Vote)

Bud Crist –

Matt Lake – We did celebrate Arbor Day last week at Rosenbaum Park with the Parks Department. Matt said they planted some trees and read the Proclamation, which was also read at the last council meeting, April 28th, 2026.

2026 Annual MS4 Meeting Tuesday May 12, 2026, Plainfield, IN. There are a lot of good sessions and information being passed around along with new legislation that passed, it doesn't affect us much since our ordinance already includes those changes. Executive Director Lake said he did respond to Michael because he sent an email and copied Attorney Meyer, basically they changed compensatory storage no more than three times and we are one and a half, so we are well below that threshold. There must have been some ordinances downstate with this and if you are 3x comp storage or beyond that is intense.

There was probably a situation there of some sort. There was also something about 10 ft safety ledges and three to one max slopes. The IDEM stormwater quality manual issues were also mentioned.

OTHER BUSINESS

Bud Crist – President Crist commented that Matt, himself, Karl and Adra met this afternoon to discuss the fee study.

Matt Lake – Proposed Engineering for On-Call Engineering Services with SEH Inc., for 2026 in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 (**VOICE VOTE**). President Crist entertained a motion for approval, Vice President Kendig motioned and it was seconded by President Crist. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

Generator Update, Matt said we reached out to Midwest Electric and looked at a 48 KW Generac generator for \$49,485.00 including the generator itself, labor, gas hook up, concrete pad for the outside work and the inside work would be \$14,390.00. We may be able to get a generator that is not as big as this 48 KW, we will have to research that. If we can get something smaller that is adequate for needs, then we will do it. President Crist asked how long we were without power, Matt said under a week. Matt did not think we could have put the generator into action because of the fact that the line was down, they were working on the line, and it would back feed. Attorney Meyer said there is a switch that it is supposed to prevent that. Matt said we were out for three-four days and that the pole snapped at the base and slid down the embankment and it did not hit the building next door. It is a miracle that no real damage was done other than the utility equipment and the fence. Matt asked if the board wanted to approve up to a certain amount, maybe at \$30 K, or would you rather wait? We need the essentials and we have only had the power go out a few times here and there. We can look at a 20 or 24 K and get another number from Midwestern and look at another outfit then present that back. We also need to figure out placement as well and if we are going to do an addition on the building because of the sweepers operations we will have to figure out where that is going to go. Vice President Kendig said the closer it is to the gas and electric the cheaper it will be. Matt said it will be a natural gas generator, so we are going as close to the meter where it comes in at. We just need essentials.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Attorney Jim Meyer– None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bud Crist – Next SWMB meeting is set for Tuesday, **June 2nd, 2026**, at 3:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center. President Crist entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting Vice President Kendig made a motion to adjourn the meeting and President Crist seconded.

ADJOURNMENT TIME –

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Adra Breclaw-Csanyi, Staff Secretary