Minutes

MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4th, 2026, at 3:30 PM

Merrillville Stormwater Resource Center, 7404 Broadway, Merrillville, IN

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President L.J. "Bud" Crist called the August 4th, 2026, 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 Jim Kendig, and Secretary Barbara Ghoston three 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: President Crist commented that we have survived the storm and a few other things along the way. Secretary Ghosten noted there had been a few things along the way and step by step those items are being taken care of.

MINUTES

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

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Included in the agenda packet were copies of the Accounts Payable Register from July 14th, 2026, and July 28th, 2026. President Crist entertained a motion for approval Secretary Ghoston entered a motion to accept the Accounts Payable Registers July 14th, 2026, and July 28th, seconded by Vice President Kendig. No questions asked. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS - (Discussion and Roll Call Vote)

Bud Crist – None

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

Matt Lake – Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC MSU Master Plan Update. Professional Services from May 31st, 2026, to June 27th, 2026, in the amount due this invoice for $14,831.25 **(VOICE VOTE)**. President Crist entertained a motion for approval Vice President Kendig motioned and it was seconded by Secretary Ghoston. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

DLZ, Professional Servies for Grand Boulevard Ditch Relocation Project Professional Services June 13th, 2026, through July 10th, 2026, in the amount due this request for $3,411.88 **(VOICE VOTE)**. President Crist entertained a motion for approval Vice President Kendig motioned and it was seconded

by Secretary Ghoston. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Dyer Construction Final Pay Request No. 8 and CO #4 from Dyer Construction Company, as reviewed by Christopher B. Burke Engineering LLC in the combined amount of $238,466.30 for Hickory Ridge Flood Control Improvements thru July 23rd, 2026 **(VOICE VOTE)**. President Crist entertained a motion for approval Secretary Ghoston motioned and it was seconded by Vice President Kendig. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

STATUS /Updates: Matt Lake

- Hendricks Drainage Analysis – Matt stated that they are still working on easements. Currently they are putting together easements for two, possibly three easements for the rear yard.

- Hickory Ridge Flood Control Project – Matt stated that the project is completely done.

- 97th and Grand Boulevard Drainage Improvements (DLZ) – Frank Stewart from DLZ gave an update. Finally, they are getting started after a couple of delays, including materials on the culvert. Manufacture said it will be ready and they will be out there on Monday, he is hoping they will bring out their big equipment. Matt stated delivery of the pipe will be Monday after it is installed, possibly they can work off the road and open it up a bit. Again, we are trying to get the road open before school starts so buses can get through. This is a major public safety improvement in that area.

- Stormwater Master Plan – Executive Director Lake talked to Daren Olson and they are working on the minor details, it will be unveiled this fall.

NEW BUSINESS - (Discussion and Roll Call Vote)
Bud Crist –

Matt Lake – Stormwater Management User Fee Public Hearing|Public Comment. The Board can open this up for the public hearing:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON
PROPOSED RESOLUTION-RATES AND CHARGES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE DEPARTMENT OF STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
(Advertised in *The Times* on July 21, 2026, Posted on the Town of Merrillville (MVL) website, MVL Town Hall and MVL Stormwater Utility Resource Center)

This is up for public hearing so if anyone has any comments, please step up to state your name and address, voice your comment with regard to this particular item on the agenda.

President Crist asked what generated this, Executive Director Lake responded that a couple of things, one was what the Town called a PILOT in which we are assessed on our evaluation and is approximately $110,000 that we would have to pay the town as a result of that. It was passed by Town Ordinance and also taking over the Town street sweeping operations from the Town Street Department, that is two sweepers and adding on to our building. Incurring all the costs associated with the maintenance and operation of the sweepers including personnel to operate

them and contract out those services as supplemental as needed. Attorney Meyer said PILOT stands for Payment in lieu of taxes, it is compensating the Town for service. These costs were incorporated into the fee study. President Christ wondered if it applies to other departments.

Executive Director Lake asked to close the hearing, President Christ officially closed the meeting and that the record will reflect that there were no public comments during the public hearing period.

Matt stated that this will be for adoption of Resolution 26-03 and Ordinance 26-22 approving and adjustment to the Stormwater Utility User Fees for the Town of Merrillville. Resolution SW 26-03 is a resolution of the Board of Directors of the Department of Stormwater Management of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana. Approving an adjustment to stormwater utility user fees for the town of Merrillville, Indiana, and recommending that the town council adopt ordinance 26-22 approving those adjusted fees. President Crist entertained a motion for approval, Secretary Ghoston motioned and it was seconded by Vice President Kendig. There were no further discussion and no questions from the audience. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed 3/0.

OTHER BUSINESS
Bud Crist –

Matt Lake –
Merrillville Stormwater Management, Stormwater Compensation for Employees adoption of Resolution 26-04 STORMWATER SALARY RESOLUTION FOR 2027 YEAR **(VOICE VOTE)**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE UTILITY TO BE PAID FROM THE PROPER FUND OF THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA DURING THE YEAR 2027.

Executive Director Lake said that we pass ours by resolution. The Town does it by Salary Ordinance. The Salary Ordinance then includes that we passed this by Resolution. President Crist entertained a motion for approval, Secretary Ghoston motioned and it was seconded by Vice President Kendig. There were no further discussion and no questions from the audience. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed 3/0.

Executive Director Lake state he was not sure if we should do it this meeting or next meeting, passing of the budgets itself for 2027. Karl Cender thought he sent it on to us, we do have the individual budgets per fund. Karl and Attorney Meyer said it can wait till the September meeting, but what should be done is that the Board approves the budget and we also submit it to the Town as a courtesy and for full disclosure, the Town Council will also be considering our budget in their meetings. We do have it and can circulate it around. Karl thought it was going to be added to the agenda, it can wait to be added to the September agenda. It will be sent by email.

Executive Director Lake said we have the proposal from Pangere for the addition, two bays on to the Stormwater Resource Center, we are still looking at those numbers determining if that's the best option to go with. Matt will do a little more digging to try to see if there is anything else we can do in terms of getting an architectural firm and seeing what they would charge to do that, along with some of the construction observation. The addition should not be too complicated, and we do not want to overcomplicate it, if need be, we can rent space for one season, we do have options. This should be straight forward so we can project what we need to pay for that.

Matt attended a NISWAG meeting earlier today in Dyer, it was a good meeting and mostly discussed the audits. With the new permits in the next few years, they will be auditing Indiana and the Midwest. They are subcontracting it out to a company; they are not actually having EPA staff doing the audits.

We have had a lot of calls lately due to the rain events, a lot is related to MCD (Merrillville Conservancy District) or GSD (Gary Sanitary District) basement back-ups, insurance claims, and cleanup items from the Tornedo.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Attorney Jim Meyer– None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bud Crist – Next SWMB meeting is set for Tuesday, **September 1st**, **2026**, at 3:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center. President Crist entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting Secretary Barbara Ghoston made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Vice President Kendig seconded. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

ADJOURNMENT TIME –
The meeting was adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Adra Breclaw-Csanyi, Staff Secretary