

STORM WATER ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of Meeting Held
January 22, 2018

The Storm Water Advisory Board met in Room 205 of the County Administration Center, 155 Indiana Avenue, Valparaiso IN at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 22, 2018.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Scott Severson, Matt Keiser, Bob Gilliana, Jeff Good, Jeremy Rivas. Also in attendance were Clay Patton-Attorney, Kevin Breitzke and Bob Thompson. Jay Hunter and Paul Nelson were absent.

Board Reorganization: New members were introduced – Jay Hunter and Paul Nelson.

Motion: Matt Keiser moved to have Scott Severson remain as President. The motion was seconded by Jeff Good and so approved. Scott Severson moved to have Matt Keiser as Vice President. Jeff Good seconded the motion and so approved.

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

Docket No.: SM-17-0068

Applicant: Town of Hebron

Location: Cobb Creek, approximately 850 ft south of SR 8/Sigler Street

Request: Remove existing culverts (3 culverts) under abandoned railroad right-of-way and convert to open channel to reduce peak water surface elevations/flooding.

Frank Stewart and Tony Kenning of DLZ presented. Attorney Ted Fitzgerald was also present. They reported on what they have done since the last meeting in working with staff, including mitigation measures that were considered, measures selected for further investigation and the outcome of preliminary discussions with affected downstream property owners. They have received all permits.

Staff Findings and Recommendations: Staff has met with The Town and DLZ. Two mitigation measures were selected for further investigation.

1. Raise the existing field access drive on the east side of Cobb Creek to prevent any overland flow into the Kithcart Ditch watershed ; and
2. Creating a berm on the east side of Cobb Creek at the first turn south of the railroad embankment.

The group agreed that Alternative 1 would be preferred because of its positive impact on the Kithcart Ditch watershed. The affected downstream property owner is in favor of the implementation of Alternative 1 if several additional drainage related issues are addressed as part of the work. DLZ has prepared construction plans. Staff has no significant concerns about the direct impact of the project.

Staff's opinion is that project with this type of overall watershed impact is best conducted in partnership. Potential actions/projects have been identified, and appear to be practicable. They will not only help mitigate the projected increase in peak water surface elevations downstream in the Kithcart Ditch watershed but also will potentially eliminate overflow into the Kithcart Ditch watershed altogether.

Given this information staff recommends approval of the use of the regulated drain and/or regulated drainage easement to remove the existing culverts, contingent upon the implementation of one of the selected mitigation measures, preferably Alternative 1, in conjunction with the project or as soon as possible thereafter. In the immediate term, this means further development of the selected mitigation measures, including the development of project work plan, construction plans, and if necessary, a memorandum of understanding between the town of Hebron and Porter County to formalize the partnership and define any shared responsibilities for completing the tasks necessary to implement one of the selected mitigation measures.

Motion: Jeff Good moved to approve. Bob Gilliana seconded the motion and so approved.

Project Updates:

Chelsey Bradford has been hired as the Jr. Storm Water Engineer. Mike Novotney reported other projects they are working on. The MS4 Permit is up for reissue. Jeff Good advised they are going to approach smaller cities to see if the County can do their MS4. This would generate revenue as well as more work.

There being no further business, the meeting recessed at 5:29 p.m.



Scott Severson, President

Attest:



Mike Novotney, Engineer/Program Director