

PORTER COUNTY STORMWATER ADVISORY BOARD

April 8, 2019

LOCATION: County Administrative Center, Ste 205 TIME: 5:00 p.m.
155 Indiana Avenue, Valparaiso IN

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bob Gilliana, Jay Hunter, Fred Martin, and Scott Severson, were present. Jeff Good, Paul Nelson and Jeremy Rivas were absent. Also in attendance were Clay Patton-Attorney, Kevin Breitzke, Mike Novotney, Bob Thompson and staff.

All Recommendations will be voted on at the next Storm Water Management Board meeting

New Business:

Docket No.: SM-19-0018

Applicant: MCImetro Access Transmission Services

Location: CR 200 W, between CR 850 N and CR 875 N

Request: To install a fiber optic cable conduit and fiber optic cable across Swanson-Lamporte Ditch.

Staff Findings and Recommendations:

One fiber optic cable conduit is to be installed at the crossing to allow for the installation/upgrade of a fiber optic network. The applicant is proposing to conduct the regulated drain crossing via directional bore, with a minimum separation distance of 3' between the proposed fiber optic cable conduit and the invert of the regulated drain. Staff recommends: 5' between the proposed fiber optic cable conduits and the invert of the drain tiles and 6' between the proposed fiber optic cable conduits and the invert of open drains.

It appears that an entry and exit point for the directional bore under the regulated drain will be located inside of the regulated drainage easement. The applicant has agreed to restore any disturbance to the regulated drainage easements to a condition as good as or better than those found prior to the commencement of the work. The applicant will need to obtain a permit for any work conducted within any country road rights-of-way.

Staff recommends approval of the crossing and use of the regulated drain and/or regulated drainage easement to install the proposed fiber optic cable conduit and fiber optic cable, contingent upon revised construction plans being submitted to the Department showing a minimum of 6' separation distance between the proposed fiber optic cable conduit and the invert of Swanson-Lamporte Ditch.

Motion: Bob Gilliana moved to approve contingent on revised construction plans showing a minimum of 6' separation, staff recommendations and execution of a Hold Harmless Agreement. Jay Hunter seconded the motion and so approved.

Docket No.: SM-19-0022

Applicant: Ed Malecki

Location: CR 900 S, between CR 50 E and SR 49 (approximate address 111 E 900 S)

Request: To install an irrigation pump and electric service panel within the regulated drainage easement associated with Pleasant Twp Ditch

Staff Findings and Recommendations:

Staff has reviewed the application and accompanying construction plans. They have discussed the project with the applicant. An electric service cable, electric service panel, and irrigation pump pad has already been installed. Staff discovered the applicant installing such improvements prior to submitting an application to the Department to conduct work within a regulated drain and/or regulated drainage. After discussing the improvements with the applicant, which have a limited impact to the regulated drain and/or regulated drainage easement, they advised him to continue and to seek "after the fact" authorization from the board.

The electric service cable has been run at the edge of the field to help avoid potential damage to the electric service cable during maintenance of Pleasant Twp Ditch. The irrigation pump pad and electric service panel consume a limited area on the overbank, approximately 40 SF and can be readily worked around during maintenance of the ditch. During growing season, a 6" pipe will extend from the irrigation pump/irrigation pump pad to the water surface along the ditch bank, where a floating screened intake will draw water into the irrigation system. No disturbances to the ditch or ditch bank will occur during the installation of the intake pipe.

At this time, staff recommends approval of the installation of the improvements, including the electric service cable, electric service panel, irrigation pump pad, irrigation pump, and intake pipe within the regulated drainage easement associated with Pleasant Twp Ditch. Staff also recommends that the Hold Harmless Agreement include a clause that the applicant will remove the irrigation pump and intake pipe when requested by the Department as needed to accommodate maintenance activities on Pleasant Twp Ditch.

Discussion: Statute gives agriculture the right to withdraw water from a ditch.


Motion: Bob Gilliana moved to approve contingent on the execution of a Hold Harmless Agreement which contains the request for applicant to remove the irrigation pump and intake pipe when requested by the Department as needed to accommodate maintenance activities on Pleasant Twp Ditch. Fred Martin seconded the motion and so approved.

Project Updates:

Mike Novotney gave an update on projects. They are making progress in South Haven. They have televised and cleaned 13,500 linear feet of sewer. They have removed 300 tons of debris out of the sewers. The storm sewer itself is in better shape than had been expected.

Open for Discussion: Luis Troncoso and Ricardo Costano arrived late for the meeting. They are the representative of MCImetro Access Transmission Services. Mike Novotney explained the Board has already heard their request. It has been approved with conditions. Mike went through those with them.

The next scheduled meeting is May 13, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. There being no further business, the meeting recessed.



Scott Severson, President



Mike Novotney, Engineer/Program Director