

PORTER COUNTY STORMWATER ADVISORY BOARD
February 10, 2020

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

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

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

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

Reorganization:

Motion: Fred Martin nominated Bob Gilliana as President. Paul Nelson second the motion and so approved.

Motion: Fred Martin nominated Paul Nelson as Vice President. Scott Severson seconded the motion and so approved.

New Business:

Docket No.: SM-20-0005

Applicant: NIPSCO c/o Power Engineers

Location: W/side of SR 49, N/side and S/side of SR 8, and W/side of CR 300 E

Request: To allow for replacement of existing electric transmission poles within the regulated drainage easements associated with Ahlgrim Ditch, Pleasant Township Ditch, and Martin Ditch. New poles will be installed further from the aforementioned regulated drains and old poles will be removed.

Ray, a representative of NIPSCO, presented for applicant.

Staff Findings and Recommendations:

The applicant is proposing to replace existing electric transmission poles within the regulated drainage easements associated with Ahlgrim Ditch, Pleasant Township Ditch, and Martin Ditch on its existing double circuit 69/12.5 kV electric transmission line between the Malden and Kouts substations. The work will include the installation of new poles and the removal of old poles within the aforementioned regulated drainage easements, as well as construction access through the regulated drainage easements to complete the pole replacement and electric transmission line rebuild.

The applicant is proposing to replace one pole on the north side of Ahlgrim Ditch (open drain) on the west side of SR 49. The new pole will be moved approximately 50' north (i.e. further away from the ditch) and the old pole will be removed. Erosion and sediment control practices will be in place prior to the work and the regulated drainage easement will be restored to a condition as good or better than prior the commencement of the work.

The applicant is proposing to access a pole replacement location from the regulated drainage easement associated with Pleasant Township Ditch (closed drain) along the west side of SR 49, Timber mats are proposed over the drain tile to minimize ground pressure exerted on the tile by construction equipment.

The applicant is proposing to replace one pole in close proximity to where records indicate the centerline of Pleasant Township Ditch, Branch 1 (closed drain) to be located along the west side of SR 49. Hydroexcavation is proposed to complete a subsurface investigation to locate the existing tile and ensure that the new pole is not located in conflict with existing tile and that the existing tile is not damaged during construction.

The applicant is proposing to replace existing poles along the east side of Martin Ditch (open drain) south of SR 8. The new poles will be moved from along the east ditch bank (i.e., west side of CR 300 E) to the east side of CR 300 E. Old poles will be removed. Erosion and sediment control practices will be put in place prior to the work and the regulated drainage easement will be restored to a condition as good or better than prior the commencement of the work.

Staff recommends approval of the pole replacements and use of the regulated drains and/or regulated drainage easements to rebuild the electric transmission line. The standard terms and conditions associated with conducting work within a regulated drain/regulated drainage easement, including the execution of a Hold Harmless Agreement apply.

Staff notes that the applicant will need to obtain a permit from the Department for any work conducted within any county road rights-of-way, as well as an erosion and sediment control permit.

Discussion: Joe Jarneke addressed the Board and talked about an existing REMC line which gets caught with a sprayer because of location and height. He asked how high the lines will be. The NIPSCO representative replied he will get an answer to that question. Two poles in question will be 70'. Other issues will be taken care of in permitting.

Applicant was reminded about guy wires and to make sure they do not conflict with the County and their effort to get equipment in and out of the property.

Motion: Scott Severson moved to approve per staff recommendations and execution of a Hold Harmless Agreement. Paul Nelson seconded the motion and so approved

Project Updates:

Mike Novotney advised the 2019 Annual Report will be published by the end of the month. A Public Information Meeting will be held on March 2nd at the American Legion 502. They will discuss the South-Central Storm Sewer Project.

To date 25 project numbers have been assigned. Most are smaller work orders.

Adam McAlpine has been hired as the Assistant Director of Engineering.

The next meeting date is March 9, 2020.

There being no further business, the meeting recessed.

Bob Gilliana, President

Mike Novotney, Engineer/Program Director