

PORTER COUNTY STORMWATER ADVISORY BOARD
January 9, 2023

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

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Scott Severson, Bill Laird, Paul Nelson, and Todd Elliott. Jeff Good and Jeremy Rivas were absent. Also in attendance were Clay Patton-Attorney, Kevin Breitzke, Chelsey Gordon, Meredith Phillis, and staff.

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

New Business

Docket No. SM-23-0002

Applicant: East Porter County School Corporation

Location: Washington Township Elementary School

Request: To perform work associated with the applicant's upcoming Washington Township Elementary School Building Addition Project within the regulated drainage easement associated with the Hutton Ditch, Arm 2.

Staff Findings and Recommendation: Staff has performed a review of the proposed storm water management/drainage plan for the project for compliance with the Porter County Storm Water Standards through the Department's Development Review Program. The project received a letter of conformance from the Development Review Program on December 15, 2022.

The outlet for the proposed detention basin is, by necessity, located within Hutton Ditch, Arm 2. As shown on the construction plans, both a flared end section and a rock (i.e., rip rap) apron below the outfall are proposed. Both of these are best practices typically recommended by the Department.

At this time, staff recommends approval of the improvements located within Hutton Ditch and its associated regulated drainage easement. The standard terms and conditions associated with conducting work within a regulated drain/regulated drainage easement (as stated in the application) shall apply to the project, and staff recommends that approval of the proposed work be contingent upon the execution of a hold harmless agreement between the applicant and Porter Co. regarding any damages the improvements may incur during the maintenance of Hutton Ditch, Arm 2. Staff also recommends that a marker (e.g., t-post fence post w/ safety green (i.e., sewer) paint on top of post) at the new outfall to aid in the identification of the outfall location in the field. Staff also recommends that the following special conditions be applied to the project:

1. Invite the Department to the pre-construction conference to be held prior to the start of work.
2. Contact the Department at least 72 hours prior to the start of work at Hutton Ditch so that staff may be present during the performance of the work.

Questions/Comments from the Board

Craig Kenworthy and Bob Ross presented.

Motion: Todd Elliott moved to approve Case SM-23-0002 with staff recommendations. Paul Nelson seconded the motion and so approved with a 4-0 voice vote.

Docket No. SM-23-0004

Applicant: INDOT

Location: US 30, between CR 450 E and CR 575 E

Request: To replace the existing bridge carrying US 30 over Crooked Creek.

Staff Findings and Recommendation: The applicant is proposing to replace the bridge carrying US 30 over Crooked Creek (open drain). Per INDOT, the proposed bridge is a 28 FT – 0 IN, 33 FT – 0 IN, 28 FT – 0 IN triple span continuous reinforced concrete slab bridge with new abutments on driven piling, with a natural stream bottom.

The construction plans indicate that the proposed low structure elevation is 723.62. The Q100 elevation is 722.28, Q500 elevation is 723.15, and the ordinary high water elevation (OHWM) is 715.94 which provides freeboard of 1.34 FT, 0.47 FT, and 7.68 FT, respectively. The existing low structure elevation is 721.82 which is lower than the Q100 elevation. Staff notes that the proposed Q100 freeboard is less than 2 FT which is preferred by INDOT. The provided freeboard elevations are acceptable to the Department.

Riprap will be placed along the toe of the stream bank slope through the structure to stabilize the toe of slope and protect the structure footings. The rock toe will be keyed a minimum of 2 FT into the stream bed and will extend approx. 10 FT from the toe of the streambank slope to the face of the structure footings.

The in-stream work will be conducted in the dry via the use of a proposed bypass pumping operation. A non-erodible dike (constructed out of sandbags or rock, covered with impervious sheeting), will be used to isolate the in-stream work area and provide the set up for the bypass pumping operation. The bypass pumping operation will include the inlet(s) being installed in a sump/pool. We recommend that the inlet(s) for the bypass pumping operation be installed in a rock sump to minimize sediment intake and increase the effectiveness and extend the life of the sediment trap that the bypass pumping operation will discharge to.

In making an application to conduct the proposed work, the applicant has agreed to restore any disturbance to the regulated drain and/or regulated drainage easement to a condition as good or better than that found prior to the commencement of the work.

At this time, staff recommends approval for the replacement of the bridge carrying US 30 over Crooked Creek with a 28 FT – 0 IN, 33 FT – 0 IN, 28 FT – 0 IN triple span continuous reinforced concrete slab bridge with new abutments on driven piling. The standard terms and conditions associated with conducting work within a regulated drain/regulated drainage easement (as stated in the application), including the execution of an agreement between the applicant and Porter Co. regarding any damages the improvements may incur during the repair, maintenance, construction, or reconstruction of Crooked Creek and/or any damages that Crooked Creek may incur during construction of the improvements shall apply to the project. Staff also recommends that the following special conditions be applied to the project:

1. Provide the Department with the authorizations received for the project from the state and federal agencies also having jurisdiction over Crooked Creek, including USACE, IDEM, and IDNR
2. Invite the Department to the pre-construction conference to be held prior to the start of work.
3. Contact the Department at least 72 hours prior to the start of work at Crooked Creek so that staff may be present during the performance of the work.

Staff notes the likely need for an unofficial (i.e., local) detour route to be established on the local county road system as a part of this project. The identification of such unofficial detour route shall be agreed upon and a letter of understanding designating such unofficial detour route shall be signed by both INDOT and Porter Co. prior to the start of the work.

Questions/Comments from the Board

INDOT representative via video.

Paul Nelson – He is curious about 1.34 in the freeboard. Based upon a lot of the recent 100-year events when was this last calculated? Is this off a table?

INDOT Representative - It was calculated in 2020. DNR coordinated the discharge calculations.

Kevin Breitzke - Engineers with Army Corp, INDOT and DNR are all struggling with old data because the frequency of the 100-year storms have increased over the last 40 years. This is probably why they are having trouble with this bridge today.

INDOT Representative – They are good with staff recommendations.

Kevin Breitzke – Has a contractor been selected?

INDOT Representative - Not yet.

Motion: Paul Nelson moved to approve case SM-23-0004 with staff recommendations. Todd Elliott seconded the motion and so approved with a 4-0 voice vote.

Old Business

Docket No. SM-22-0079

Applicant: Stacey Torres

Location: 102 Bridgewater Ct., Valparaiso

Request: To install a fence within the regulated drainage easement associated with South Stimson Ditch, Arm 1.

Staff Findings and Recommendation: This is the case that was continued last month. The Torres are proposing to install a 5 FT tall post and rail vinyl fence within the regulated drainage easement associated with South Stimson Ditch, Arm 1 (drain tile).

Chelsey met with Mrs. Torres on January 4th to go over their original plan, what would be a middle ground and what they were trying to achieve. They are proposing to install the fence on the north, south and west property line. The fence will remain 20' on each side from the centerline of South Stimson Ditch, Arm 1. They will terminate the fence at the south property line. On the west property line they will terminate the fence at a minimum of 20' from the centerline in both directions.

At this time, staff recommends approval of the installation of the fence. The standard terms and conditions associated with conducting work within a regulated drain/regulated drainage easement (as stated in the application), including the execution of a hold harmless agreement between the applicant and Porter Co. regarding any damages the improvements may incur during the repair, maintenance, construction, or reconstruction of South Stimson Ditch, Arm 1 and/or any damages that South Stimson Ditch, Arm 1 may incur during construction of the improvements shall apply to the project. The hold harmless agreement shall include a clause stating that, in the event that the fence needs to be removed in order to repair, maintain, construct or reconstruct South Stimson Ditch, Arm 1, such fence removal shall be performed at the property owner's expense.

In making an application to conduct the proposed work, the applicant has agreed to restore any disturbance to the regulated drain and/or regulated drainage easement to a condition as good or better than that found prior to the commencement of the work. Staff also recommends that the following special conditions be applied to the project:

1. Contact the Department at least 72 hours prior to the start of work within the regulated drainage easement so that staff may be present during the performance of the work.

Questions/Comments from the Board

Mr. Torres – He is pleased with where the fence will be placed.

Motion: Todd Elliott moved to approve case SM-22-0079. Bill Laird seconded the motion and so approved with a 4-0 voice vote.

Storm Water Program Manager's Report

Chelsey Gordon reported Storm Water was awarded about \$6 Million in ARPA funds for infrastructure projects. They have issued 5 work orders to date.

Discussion

Paul Nelson – Where are they with the Shorewood Forrest projects?

Chelsey Gordon – The preliminary study is done. It will be released to the public within the next month. There are 17 high priority projects.

Next Meeting Date: February 13, 2023

Time: 5:00 p.m. Room 205

There being no further business, the meeting recessed.

Scott Severson, President

Chelsey Gordon, Storm Water Program Manager