

PORTER COUNTY STORMWATER ADVISORY BOARD
February 22, 2021

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, Scott Severson, Todd Elliott-new member, and Jeremy Rivas were present. Also in attendance were Clay Patton-Attorney, Kevin Breitzke, Mike Novotney, and staff. Jeff Good was absent.

Reorganization:

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

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

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

New Business:

Docket No. SM-21-0006

Applicant: NIPSCO

Location: 961 N 100 W, Chesterton, IN 46304

Request: To install a new 1-1/4" gas service line and a new 2" conduit carrying an electric service line across Swanson-Lamporte Ditch, Arm 2 in order to provide gas and electric service to the single family residential home being constructed at such location.

Staff Findings and Recommendations:

The applicant is proposing to install a 1-1/4" gas service line and a 2" conduit carrying an electric service line across Porter Co.'s system of regulated drains in one location, at Swanson-Lamporte Ditch, Arm 2 (open drain). One 1-1/4" plastic (PE) gas service line and one 2" plastic (PE) conduit carrying an electric service line is to be installed at the crossing to allow for the installation of gas service to the single family residential home being constructed at 961 N 100 W. The applicant is proposing to conduct the regulated drain crossings via directional bore, with a minimum separation distance of 3 FT between the proposed gas service line and electric conduit and the invert of the regulated drain. Staff has requested that such minimum separation distance be increased to 5'. It appears that the entry and receiving pits for the directional bore will be located inside of the regulated drainage easement associated with Swanson-Lamporte Ditch, Arm 2. The applicant has been advised of this 5' separation but no answer has been received. The applicant will be required to restore any disturbance to the regulated drainage easement to a condition as good or better than those found prior to the commencement of the work. Staff recommends approval contingent upon the applicant increasing the separation distance between the proposed gas service line and electric conduit and the invert of the regulated drain to 5'. The standard terms and conditions associated with conducting work within a regulated drain/regulated drainage easement, including the execution of a hold harmless agreement between the applicant and Porter Co.

regarding any damages that the regulated drain may incur as a result of the project and any damages that the improvements may incur during future maintenance activities. The applicant has already coordinated with the Department to acquire the necessary R/W permit for work to be conducted within the right-of-way associated with CR 100 Was part of this project.

Discussion: It is important to make sure there is a 5' separation. Staff will watch work as it is performed to make sure this is done. The Hold Harmless Agreement makes sure if it is found in the future that the 5' separation was not adhered to; the Petitioner will be responsible.

NIPSCO representative Rich Ostertag was on speaker phone and agreed to the 5' separation.

Motion: Scott Severson moved to approve Case SM-21-0006 subject to a 5' separation, staff recommendations and execution of a Hold Harmless Agreement. Seconded by Paul Nelson. So approved with a roll call vote of 6-0.

Storm Water Program Director's Report

Mike Novotney reported 18 projects have been started to date. Of those 14 are Work Orders. Mike Novotney reported on various active projects including drain tile reconstruction Ludington ditch; 400 N by Sedley road working on a resolution to a drainage problem; drain tile construction in Jackson Township almost to LaPorte County. The old drain will be left in and both will run parallel. Case SM-21-0004 was continued to give the City of Valparaiso more time regroup internally on this project. Mike will keep the Board advised as this moves forward.

Jeremy Rivas asked about an annual report. Mike Novotney replied he expects to have this available by the middle of next month.

Next Meeting Date: March 8, 2021

There being no further business, the meeting recessed.

Bob Gilliana, President

Mike Novotney, Engineer/Program Director