**MINUTES**

**WARRICK COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD**

**&**

**DEPARTMENT OF STORM WATER**

**FEBRUARY 11, 2019**

Regular Session

Old Historic Courthouse

107 W. Locust St. Suite 303

Boonville, In 47601

812-897-6170

The Warrick County Drainage Board and Department of Storm Water met in regular session with Bob Johnson, President; Dan Saylor, Vice President; Terry Phillippe, Secretary; Phillip H. Baxter, Surveyor; Steve Sherwood, Director of Storm Water; Morrie Doll, Attorney; and Jennifer Curry, Recording Secretary.

Present in the audience was Holly McCutchen and Tera Damin

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

President Johnson opened the meeting of February 11,2019 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

President Bob Johnson: First, we have the approval of minutes for the January 28, 2019 meeting, do I have a motion?

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: I make a motion to approve the minutes.

Commissioner Dan Saylor: Second

President Bob Johnson: All in favor? 3-0

**CLAIMS:**

President Bob Johnson: Do we have any claims?

Recorder Jennifer Curry: No.

**OTHER BUSINESS**:

President Bob Johnson: Any other business for the Drainage Board?

Phil Baxter: No, just for Stormwater.

**STORMWATER DEPARTMENT**

President Bob Johnson: Anything Steve?

Steve Sherwood: Yes Mr. President, for Stormwater I just a few informational items I’ve asked that Holly McCutchen be here from the Warrick County Soil and Water Conservation District, she would like to present to the board we have a request to fund a speaker that would like to put on a Raingarden workshop sponsored from the Warrick County Soil and Conservation service on April 8th at the Warrick County 4-H Center and I would like Holly to present to you as she hands out material regarding the requested seminar, we would like to support this as part of our public education and public outreach through our MS4 or Stormwater Department. Its an all day seminar and she will fill in the missing information for your benefit.

President Bob Johnson: Ma’am would you please state your name?

Holly McCutchen: Yes, Holly McCutchen Soil and Water Conservation District for Warrick County. So, with Raingardens, do you know what a Raingarden is? Would you (Terry) tell us what a Raingarden is

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: To the best of my knowledge they are a mechanism to better handle runoff water.

Holly McCutchen: Yes, right. When you think about how much rain a rainfall can cause with a roof all that water has to go somewhere, and we do have some of those combined sewer overflows which I’m sure you guys probably know all about those trying to disconnect those. This is an alternative way of what to do with those areas, when it’s a rain gutter off your roof or if you have a wet area in your yard that’s troublesome its hard to get things to grow there, these are designed to help in those areas that are that way. We’ve been promoting these for the past 2-3 years from what I understand, the problem is we are finding out when I go talk to some of the landowners, one: they don’t know how to maintain it after its installed so it doesn’t go well, there is upkeep and things, or they don’t take care of the yard someone else does it for them. A landscaper does it or a lawn service takes care of their yard, so we thought it would be better if we promoted this to make sure landscapers, mowing companies, and homeowners have the opportunity to go to learn about how to install them, design them, and how to maintain them. So we’re working with Patoka’s Soil and Water Conservation District, they are going to do a second day, we are doing the first day, installation, design, importance of maintenance, and their second day is mainly looking at maintenance and how to take care of them throughout the years. Rusty Schmidt is coming in, he wrote the guide to Raingardens, he had written this back when he was in Wisconsin and now he is in New York with a private company working there. He is the gentleman that is coming to put on the workshop, so what we are asking for is a public education process to be able to educate people on what they are, how to do it, leading up to this I am speaking at the Coanas Club in Newburgh at the end of the month. We’ve got some of these already installed different ways, we’re working with Newburgh maybe with their Jazz Festival promoting rain barrels and have them paint it by some local artists and auction them off to get a big awareness of rain barrels and rain gardening and how we can help improve with the Ohio River how can we help some of this runoff not get into the Ohio River, but still be a beautiful component of your yard combining biodiversity and when we use our native plants its going to help all around, it’s a win-win. So, what we are asking for you is if you would please pay for this gentleman to come and put on this workshop.

Steve Sherwood: The fee is $2,170 I see.

Holly McCutchen: Yes sir, we are splitting travel cost between Patoka and us, but this is what he is charging for our half of it which is why the travel expense is not to exceed because he hadn’t bought his plane ticket and everything when we did that one.

Steve Sherwood: Has Patoka committed to their funding of it at this point?

Holly McCutchen: Yes, they have committed.

Steve Sherwood: Just so the board knows, you have a small example already installed last year at the 4-H Center regarding rain barrels, a small rain garden, and some other features that we use at the 4-H fair, I believe you were all here last year to discuss that. Our crew actually helped build some of that I believe, Stormwater people.

Holly McCutchen: That’s what we want to have the workshop there at the 4-H center so that we can take people out to see this is an example of one this is how it functions so in real life they can see it that way. We are trying to build on that education throughout the public on the importance of why we need them and then we thought well this is a segment of people we probably haven’t hit really hard with, with the landscapers because homeowners are going to be asking them questions about doing it also we are just trying to build in more of a community base for this.

Steve Sherwood: If the board choose to fund this, I believe you are going to have a lunch with the seminar and some of the fees are going to generate from this hopefully from whoever signs up for it will help offset those costs.

Holly McCutchen: Yes, sir. We will have a lunch provided, also his book he normally sells it for $18 he said he would sell for $11 so we thought for the participants that come to have the how-to guide in hand to go home with that’s what we are working on to give to them.

Steve Sherwood: Do you have any idea about how many people you hope to enroll for this seminar?

Holly McCutchen: Personally, I think 40-50 people is where I am shooting for, I am going to spend my time next week to go out to the landscapers and nurseries and talking to them in person so if they have questions. Our goal is that if they go to these trainings we can mark them off and put as a landscaper that has this training so people call and ask us “who knows how to do this?” then we have a list that we can hand to them and say “here are our list of landscapers who’ve gone to this training who have been trained” to help them out too, so win-win trying to help them and then also the homeowner along the way.

Commissioner Dan Saylor: This workshop is for homeowners and professionals?

Holly McCutchen: Yes.

Commission Dan Saylor: Does the WC district provide any funds to do one of these projects?

Holly McCutchen: Yes sir, we do. We have got an Alcoa Grant and clean water Indiana Grant which goes then to help offset this cost, so for rain barrel, we can give you up to $50 for rain barrel purchase, and then as far as the raingarden itself I believe it is $250 towards the planning of a raingarden, so this is a way so we have these monies available for our county and a way to get more people utilizing these practices.

Steve Sherwood: If the board recalls approximately $100,000 of our MS4 funds, our budget every year goes to support Warrick County Soil Conservation by paying to 2 employees and a certain amount of office necessary supplies and stuff to fund this. What they do is an extension on what we promote part of the Clean Water Act, we just don’t have as much time or personnel to do the training and public outreach and they’re happy to fill in this role for us and this is one of the things they would like to do and support of that role.

Morrie Doll: The public education component is a requirement of the Federal Clean Water Act its out duty to do this in some formal fashion.

Steve Sherwood: It is.

President Bob Johnson: Steve, where does this money come from?

Steve Sherwood: We have it in our funds to provide for public outreach, public education in our current budget.

Morrie Doll: Its collected through the assessment.

Steve Sherwood: Part of what we do is Chris goes out to the public schools every spring we have a certain age group, mainly 5th-6th graders that we target to handout material kind of like a coloring book scenario or something and graphically it shows how we do things in the public to insure clean water, how to treat run off and what you should and should not pour down the street drain etc. Chris does a very good job we just limited and the chances we have for public outreach I think this is an excellent opportunity for us to support something in another way that would help do so.

President Bob Johnson: Any questions? Does anyone want to make a motion to proceed to fund this?

Commissioner Dan Saylor: I make a motion to provide our portion of the funding, if I understand it, is our portion the $2,170?

Holly McCutchen: Yes, sir.

Commissioner Dan Saylor: To help bring this individual in to promote our raingarden workshop for landscaping and homeowners.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: I will second that motion.

President Bob Johnson: All in favor. 3-0

Holly McCutchen: Thank you gentleman, we appreciate it.

Steve Sherwood: Thank you, just get with Chris concerning the billing and invoicing at the appropriate time. One other item of information I have, I sent out an email last week concerning someone wanting to enclose their ditch in Thornbrook, it is a natural waterway and now they are seeking permission to at least put a fence or retaining wall in lue of inclosing the ditch. I sent them a response saying we really don’t advise closing a natural waterway, I haven’t addressed the wall or the fence issue at this point but I did sent that to the boards attention to make them aware of what they would like to do. I haven’t addressed a retaining wall or fence I don’t believe Phil has addressed the issue with the homeowner, maybe you (Phil) have?

Phil Baxter: No.

Steve Sherwood: Again, it’s a natural waterway that the subdivision was designed around I believe a total of 30-40 foot easement 20 on either side of each lot that boarders it regarding it as a public utility & drainage easement to protect the waterway. Just for the boards information we continue to get more and more requests of this nature to close natural water ways when we just do not advocate that, it goes against the approved drainage plan as well. Only other information I have to see if Joe had any business but he is not present, I believe we have someone else in the audience that would like to address the board?

President Bob Johnson: Please come up and state your name.

Tera Damin: Hi, I am Tera Damin I am with Clark Dietz I just recently started with them back in January, I actually used to work with them about 4-5 years ago and I’ve since got back with them full time so I basically just wanted to come introduce myself. I was familiar with the commissioners prior to you guys so I wanted to introduce myself to you.

Steve Sherwood: Between your events of working for Clark Dietz you worked for Cash Wagner in between?

Tera Damin: I worked with Cash Wagner for 4 years.

Steve Sherwood: In the same capacity as basically public relations?

Tera Damin: Business development, I also help with a lot of funding resources for a lot of communities, I deal with a lot of USDA Grants, I sit on Indiana 15 regional planning commission I’m very familiar with all the ocra and everything policies. I know a lot of people, I know a lot of funding resources, sit on a water task force out of Indy which is comprised of several funding resource agencies so I hear things before they actually hit the streets. I just wanted to introduce myself.

Steve Sherwood: Clark Dietz is our current design consultant for the Bell Road project so she’s getting up to speed on that I’m sure as well.

Commissioner Dan Saylor: Speaking of that Steve, that project you just mentioned, Clark Dietz has recommended a dry retention basin there on Bell Road and Vann Road at the NE corner at that intersection. We’re getting pushback from the property owner, is that some thing that you (Terra) get involved with?

Tera Damin: We can, I can get with Steve on that.

Commissioner Dan Saylor: To me, again I’m not an engineer or have an expertise in that, but it just seems like there’s a lot of retention basins around that area, as a county commissioner I don’t want another basin that goes in dry and then it ends up wet then we have to maintain it then it comes back here because its been altered or that kind of thing. I guess I’m asking is that really needed in the exact spot, could it be combined with other retention basins in that area?

Tera Damin: Its possible, I want to get with the project manager before I comment on it because I’m just getting up to speed on that project.

Commissioner Dan Saylor: If you could look into that, I know the apartments are doing it, I think we’ve asked this question before but its still not making sense to me.

Steve Sherwood: The only real reason why its necessary, how I understand it and talking with the consultant and with Bobbie is moving the water elsewhere with the existing basins is already designed for those developments that don’t have any additional capacity, but having it there its at the bottom of the slope coming down from Oak Grove and Bell Road to Vann Road and right there from Vann Road South to Walmart generally speaking it gets flatter, and the rush of water would have to have us oversize the structures South of Vann Road, which there’s a dollar amount attached to that, Clark Dietz is advising us to dry retention basin is the cheaper alternative to stop and store that water and slow that water down or release it at a controlled rate in order for us not to have to put larger structures South of Vann road down to the Walmart area in the road right away. In a nutshell it’s a numbers game, its cheaper to do the dry retention basin then upsize all the structures South of there because of the slope involved. That’s the jest of it but I understand what you are saying, it would be our first retention basin that Warrick County will have to maintain as a public project.

Morrie Doll: Don’t you already have erosion issue at Walmart on the North side of the Walmart entrance road, that’s a huge wash out ditch, rip rap.

Steve Sherwood: I just looked at it today driving through around lunchtime that a lot of the weeds are choking the ditch again, it becomes a legal drain at the Walmart entrance I believe as it wraps down South at the West side of Bell Road and turns into West on either side of 66.

Morrie Doll: This seems to be a lot of water at that location.

Tera Damin: Do you have any other questions?

President Bob Johnson: Did you bring any cards with you or anything?

Tera Damin: I sure did.

President Bob Johnson: Thank you, it was a pleasure to meet you.

Tera Damin: Nice to meet you, I appreciate it thank you.

Steve Sherwood: That’s all the business I have sir, thank you.

President Bob Johnson: Anything else?

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

President Bob Johnson: I’ll take another motion.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: I make the motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Dan Saylor: Second.

President Bob Johnson: All in favor. 4-0