

## MINUTES

### MONROE COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

**Monday, October 24, 2022, at 8:30 AM**

**Location: Showers Building Room 106D**

**Hybrid Meeting with Virtual Attendance via Zoom**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bob Autio, Ginger Davis, Bill Riggert, James Faber (virtual), Trohn Enright-Randolph (*ex officio*)

**ABSENT:** Lee Jones

**STAFF:** Kelsey Thetonia, Donna Barbrick (Secretary), David Schilling (Legal), TSD

1. **Call to Order--** Bob Autio called to order at 8:35 am
2. **Approval of Minutes for June 6, 2022 and October 5, 2022. Motion by Bill Riggert to approve June meeting minutes. Second by Ginger Davis. VOTE: AYE Davis, Autio and Riggert; ABSTAIN Faber and Trohn Enright-Randolph. Motion carried. Approval of October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 minutes TABLED.**
3. **Public Input for Items not on the Agenda – none**

#### 4. **Old Business**

##### a. **Drainage Easement Waiver Request – W. Hanks Crossing**

Thetonia gave an update. She said after speaking with Planning, we requested a certified plot plan from the petitioners. She said we are waiting for the property owners to respond to our last communication with them.

##### b. **Stormwater Management Ordinance and Technical Standards Manual Revisions+\***

Thetonia said we are halfway through the grace period with the state for updating our ordinance for the general permit. She noted that the Technical Standards Manual could be edited and updated by the Drainage Board (DB) whereas the ordinance has to go to the commissioners for approval.

Thetonia said General Information is straightforward and a lot of it has been taken from the current Chapter 761. Davis said she had a question about exempt discharges in Chapter 2 of the draft. She said I wanted to make sure that we are comfortable with all of these exemptions. There was a discussion of whether the volume of discharges from sump pumps would be a consideration. Thetonia mentioned another ordinance, Chapter 765, might have a little bit about this.

Faber had a question about Chapter 3, Policy on Stormwater Quantity Management. Thetonia noted that the ordinance would apply only within the county's jurisdiction, not the city's. She said the city has their own ordinance.

Thetonia went back to the question on Chapter 2, pages 11-12 about sump pump discharges. She talked about a situation where the discharge was going into the roadway or sidewalk and asking the property owner to move the pipe but not being sure of what ordinance would apply. Dave Schilling said he was not sure. He said Highway would probably address it if it was in a right-of-way. Davis brought up issues with pool discharges, as well, since salt water is being used in some cases. Thetonia mentioned houses built in the last twenty years that have three sump pumps in the basements. Thetonia said the list of discharges in the draft ordinance followed the requirements of the state.

Thetonia said in Chapter 3 Stormwater Quantity Management, the policy is very firm but there is a section about waivers. Davis commented that it seems that there will be many more drainage easements in the county. Thetonia said we try to put it on the HOA or property owners for maintenance. She if there are public safety concerns we would have the ability to go in and fix something if we had to. She said the county is not equipped to take care of all of them.

Trohn said he had a comment on 3-2 concerning discretion of the MS4 Coordinator to approve. Thetonia said I am comfortable deciding something at the staff level if it is low risk and follows decisions that the DB has made. She said it can hold up a project to have to wait for DB to meet and decide. She talked about the Lake Monroe watershed properties that drain into a flood control reservoir having a more stringent detention design. Trohn suggested some wording that would outline what would trigger approval of the DB, instead of the MS4. Davis asked about a process for DB members to review. There was a discussion of detention in the Lake Monroe area. Davis said it seems like the Army Corps would have a master plan for these basins and some policies. She said I believe they re-develop the master plans periodically.

Thetonia said we do have Clear Creek as a critical drainage area because the stream and the road are next to each other. She said that is in the Lake Monroe watershed. Autio mentioned language in the Technical Standards manual that addresses complexity of projects determining if the MS4 can approve. Thetonia said I have not seen a site plan come in that has required extensive review in a while. She said most of the plans drain to a regional pond. She said also it has been kind of slow. She said Terry stopped doing site plans reviews for us in the spring and CB is doing them now but she has not sent anything to them yet. Autio said I appreciate you taking responsibility for the simpler projects. Thetonia said she could look at clearer language.

Thetonia went through Chapter 3-3 and buildings being placed next to detention ponds. Davis mentioned sediment removal after construction. Riggert commented that would be covered by our "as built." Thetonia said it is a balance between how much we want to micromanage the builders. There was a discussion of not putting the underdrains in until the project is almost finished.

Thetonia showed 3-6 Placement of Utilities, a new section in 761. She said this is for if something new goes in; the main issue I see is not properly doing the grading, not stabilizing it and the placement of construction debris. Faber had a question about the definition of a non-major residential subdivision. Thetonia said a major subdivision has five or more lots being created. Schilling said the definition was in the zoning ordinance.

Thetonia said concerning the section on Active Construction Sites, to let her know if there were any questions. She went through Chapter 5-2 Post Construction Plan Requirement and Exemptions. She said the Technical Standards Manual has a section on hot spot land uses, which I refer to quite a bit, because waste transfer stations and things like require filtering before going into the ponds.

She said the Chapter 6 Karst and Sinkhole Development section is more stringent than what we already have. She said the current ordinance required a 25-foot buffer; the buffer has been increased to 50 feet. She said this is similar to the City's karst ordinance. She said another question that came up was about the term sinkhole cluster. Faber mentioned a karst valley on Isom Road where the entire valley is full of sinkholes. Trohn asked what other kind of real examples have precipitated this discussion and why the area has been increased to fifty feet. He said you are potentially taking away from buildable area that is needed and potentially restricting if a home can be built. Thetonia said she had a call from someone who could not close their garage door anymore; this was a home approved in the nineties. She said I think we owe it to homeowners to provide as much protection as possible. She said I am not a geologist or an

expert. She said Ginger Davis did some research on this. Davis said a lot of it has to do with the slope leading to the sinkhole. She said 50-foot seems realistic with our karst. Autio commented that the larger the buffer, the less sediment ends up going in the sinkhole. He said with a larger buffer there will be less pollutants going in. He said you want an easily implementable method. Schilling said it would be good to reference research. He talked about dye tracing and sinkhole inventories for INDOT. He said we want an easily implementable evaluation. Schilling said findings could be referenced; we want to be able to show that some thought went into this and it wasn't arbitrary. There was a discussion of the appeals process and whether it would go through BZA. She noted 6-7 Policy for the Emergence of New Sinkholes and builders having to notify the county.

Thetonia talked about Chapter 7 concerning permitting. She said this chapter creates the stormwater permit required when there is an acre or more of disturbance. She talked about recording the O&M manual for a project. She talked about how the county keeps track of detention ponds. She said that MS4s are now required to check the ponds but not maintain them. Trohn commented about wording concerning OpenGov.

Thetonia said Chapter 7-6 covers Individual Lot Plot Plans. She said there are requirements from the state. She talked about a template that can be used to make an individual lot SWPP. She said I would love if we could permit this at the local level rather than at the State. Faber asked about a self-monitoring program. Thetonia said it comes into play when there are compliance issues; we look at this for larger sites. Riggert said there is a checklist and after rain events they keep a record and then they have to keep that record on site. She said this is to ensure that contractors have their sights on BMPs. There was a discussion of fees for site plan reviews.

## **5. New Business**

### **a. Approval of Drainage Board Meeting Dates for 2023**

**Riggert said he would recommend approval of the 2023 meeting dates. Faber seconded. VOTE: AYE (without objection). Motion carried.**

## **6. Staff Reports/Discussion**

### **a. Summary of Recent Plats and Site Plan Reviews**

Thetonia displayed a spreadsheet and talked about recent site plans in the county. She said there have been a fair amount of minor subdivisions. She said she hoped to have the draft ordinance finalized in time for the next DB meeting. She mentioned an upcoming contractor's workshop to talk about updated technical standards.

## **7. Adjournment**

### **a. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.**

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:39 a.m.

**Minutes approved: 1/4/2023**



**President**



**Secretary**