

**MONROE COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 4, 2008**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Autio, Bill Riggert, Scott Dompke, Kevin Enright (*ex officio*)

MEMBERS ABSENT: James Faber, Bill Williams

STAFF PRESENT: Todd Stevenson (Drainage Engineer), Donna Barbrick (Secretary), Chris Spiek (Planning), Mark Yates (Planning)

OTHERS PRESENT: Doug Graham (Bledsoe, Riggert, and Guerrettaz)

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Riggert at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Dompke motioned to approve the July minutes; Riggert seconded. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

DRAINAGE ENGINEER'S REPORT

Stevenson introduced new Drainage Board member Robert Autio, who has lived in the northern part of Monroe County for more than 25 years. He is a geologist and environmental consultant.

Dompke asked Stevenson about rainfall measurement instrumentation in Ellettsville. Stevenson noted that at the last meeting there was a presentation about a rainfall runoff study. The issue was how to get information in real time from a certain rain gauge. Scott said that since the last meeting he had talked to Jeff Farmer at the Ellettsville Wastewater Treatment Plant. Farmer said they would be willing to work with another government agency to make the station more secure and potentially add it to their remote access system that they use. As far as remote access, he feels sure that they would be willing to work with Todd about that. Stevenson said would like to eventually have a rain gauge network across the county. He has been waiting for the county's storm water utility to get going.

Regarding the utility, Stevenson said the board has been set up, consisting of the three county commissioners and the county surveyor. That board has not yet met officially. Dompke thought that the surveyor was a non-voting member, but Enright said that he was a voting member. He said that its area of operation would be within county jurisdiction but outside of municipal jurisdictions (Bloomington and Ellettsville). Dompke said the utility had the authority to enact fees for services, but not inside

corporate bounds. Enright said that the council will be setting up a line item in the county budget for a future revenue stream. Stevenson said that with Phase II of Clean Water Act we have to deal with non-point source water pollution. We are at the end of our first five-year permit term and IDEM will be doing an audit of all the MS4 entities in the state, including Monroe County. Stevenson said he is doing a survey of other counties that have storm water utilities to find out the approaches they are using. Domp said that our needs are potentially greater than some of those other counties where there are regulated drains. Stevenson said he has written a position paper regarding issues that need to be addressed, as he sees it.

Stevenson said that since Robert Autio is here for the first time, he wanted to summarize the mission of the Drainage Board. The Board administers Chapter 761. This chapter is to keep houses from flooding and secondarily to keep new roads from flooding. Also secondarily, the chapter addresses downstream impacts from impervious surface and upstream people, too. Then in 2004, there was a re-write of Chapter 761 and we started including storm water quality. Flexibility was left there because we felt that there was still a lot to learn. Generally speaking there is a first flush requirement for extended detention. But also one of the unique things is integration of planning in the storm water quality management plan. Planning has to do with land use and land use affects storm water quality. Planning deals with issues such as protection of steep slopes, protection of wooded areas, and riparian buffer zones. These are all things that affect storm water quality. Monroe County has a lot of trees and steep slopes.

Enright said another thing Drainage Board deals with is the floodway chapter and Chapter 816 concerning erosion control.

Stevenson said another thing is preservation of natural resources including sinkhole area. Enright said that Drainage Board can put conditions on approval of a petition where there are environmentally sensitive areas. That has been very effective. Stevenson said that Planning is going through a comprehensive plan update. Language may be strengthened regarding protecting natural resources. Stevenson passed out a draft on low impact design.

Just to show how integrated this is, one of the changes that was approved by the Planning Commission has to do with parking lots and the landscaping that's already required. It now has to be bioretention landscaping. This way the landscaping will serve double duty and filter runoff. Planners have embraced this. This is a greener approach than a lot of entities are taking.

Stevenson also wanted to mention that the Commission on Sustainability has a subcommittee that has invited Todd to talk about rain gardens. This will be broadcast on CATS.

Stevenson said that the last thing he wanted to mention was Wal-Mart instrumentation. He hasn't been able to get information from the instrumentation, but he did go take a look

at the instrumentation. He is in contact with the Wal-Mart people to see how he can get that information.

Riggert asked about a rain gauge at the Highway Department. Stevenson said there is one, but pine trees have grown up around it. It needs to be moved and updated. There was a discussion about recent improvements around the Highway Department and further planned improvements.

Autio asked about the mechanics of reviewing and recommending to Plan Commission. Stevenson said that Chapter 761 is an entity on its own and so petitioners have to go by the conditions that are approved by the Drainage Board. Drainage Board has its meetings before Plan Commission meetings and the planners normally incorporate all those conditions into their report to be reviewed at the Plan Commission meetings. Enright said that Todd attends the Plan Commission meetings to oversee for the Drainage Board. Dompke asked if it was fair to say that this board was created to reduce the amount of drainage discussion that takes place at other land use meetings. Stevenson said yes.

Stevenson mentioned a state statute dealing with drainage way obstruction. Stevenson tries to keep disputes coming from Drainage Board. Occasionally someone will come before Drainage Board regarding a dispute. For instance with all the rainfall earlier this year, lots of angry people have called him.

Stevenson said there are little things coming under Chapter 761 that he does on his own. It's up to the Drainage Board if they want to look at those things or not. Dompke added that Boards generally have fiscal responsibility. However in this county we don't have regulated drains. We really act more like a commission than a board. Enright said that the county surveyor manages regulated drains and that the Drainage Board would oversee that. That's why the county surveyor is *ex officio* here. We still do the administration of the Drainage Board. That is why the secretary for Drainage Board, Donna, who is in the surveyor department, takes that load off of Todd.

Autio asked if there was a reason we don't have regulated drains. Dompke said because we don't have agriculture. Doug Graham said that the County Surveyor John Stapleton in the 1950s decided he didn't want to mess with regulated drains any more. Some of the principal farmland was flooded for Lake Monroe reservoir. Stevenson said a lot of Indiana was swampland (in the 1800s) and the property owners needed to work together to get it drained for agriculture.

HIDDEN FALLS

Riggert said there was one petition on the agenda and that he would need to recuse himself from this portion of the meeting. Autio asked if questions could be allowed. Stevenson said that Mr. Graham was here to answer questions. Our rules say that the member has to actually leave (to avoid conflict of interest) and that's the practice we've always followed. Riggert recused himself from the meeting at this point.

Stevenson gave an overview of where this project is located. This is in the south part of the county, across from Eagle Point and next to Foggy Morning Glen. There's an elementary school and a water tower and fire station down there. There's a strip down to the Little Clear Creek. There's also an abandoned railroad track that crosses it. It's not in the Lake Monroe reservoir watershed. There's not much infrastructure involved in this because it's already in the process of being put in because of the adjacent subdivision. He passed around some photos. There are some trees and some open areas. There are some mature trees. There is also some evidence of a campground that was once there.

Doug Graham said this is a four-lot subdivision. They wanted to provide some water quantity and water quality control. Graham said they designed a pond in the place they thought was optimal. He has given Todd calculations. There is tree conservation area planned on the cliff. Stevenson added that when Hidden Falls was approved, they left the whole 18% slope area as tree conservation. He thought it would be nice if the whole tree conservation could be extended to match the area of the adjacent subdivision. Dompke asked about where the 18% requirement comes from. Stevenson said it is not actually required here because this subdivision is not in the Lake Monroe Watershed. There is language in the subdivision control ordinance that encourages this but does not require it. Graham said that he would kick it upstairs for consideration. Stevenson mentioned some sinkhole conservancy areas in the plan. There's a waterfall also on the site. They propose a common area which is part of the green space requirement for the PUD. Mike Yates they will have access from Foggy Morning and from Hidden Falls and they will also have sanitary sewer. The sewer has not yet been designed.

Graham asked, when does a subdivision have to come before Drainage Board? Stevenson said that any major subdivision comes before Drainage Board. Major is defined by the Planning Department. Yates noted that this petition was a PUD. Stevenson said "major subdivision" is five lots or more where there is some public improvement.

Graham said, his understanding was that the multi-family housing lot was a separate issue. There was confusion about what's included in the PUD. Gregg Zody (Planning) would like to see this be part of the PUD and the Plan Review Committee will be considering that issue.

Dompke asked, what here requires a quorum to vote on? This might not need a vote. Stevenson said, it's a judgment call sometimes. The Plan Commission will want to see a Drainage Board approval on some projects. Sometimes a petitioner will come with a site plan and Todd gives his recommendations. He might say that if specific standards are incorporated then it won't have to come before Drainage Board.

Enright said there is a division between the minor subdivisions that are handled with the Plat Committee. The Plan Commission doesn't want to deal with the minor ones. The Plat Committee is happy with it if Stevenson has reviewed the plan and given his recommendations. But if it's going before the Plan Commission, Todd generally brings it

before the Drainage Board. Stevenson said, it can change based on what the members want also.

Dompke said that the board should not be making nuts and bolts daily decisions. It should be handling policy, not supervising county employees. Stevenson said, he agrees with Enright that if something's going to the Plan Commission, generally it probably should have Drainage Board approval.

Stevenson said, at this point we can't really take any action other than provide comments so that when this comes back next month, it will be smooth.

Dompke asked about recommended conditions of approval for this petition. Stevenson said he just sent them out. Stevenson said, one thing that Drainage Board needs improvement on is getting the recommendations implemented in the field. When the storm water utility is set up, that's one thing he would like to see. Stevenson relies upon the Planning Department. When building permits are issued, Planning looks at this. In practice and reality, some things just aren't getting built properly. One thing that broke the camel's back for Stevenson was when he saw a house being built in a sinkhole. This sinkhole had been clearly delineated. The builder wasn't looking at the plan when the house was built.

Graham said that sinkholes should be on the recorded plat. Mortgage surveys are not being done so often, in order to eliminate fees wherever they can.

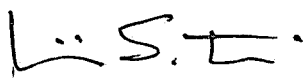
Autio asked what are the policy issues that Drainage Board should be concerned with here? Dompke said, detention. Stevenson said drainage and conservancy areas.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Approved:

Signed:

Attest:



Bill Riggert, President



Donna Barbrich, Secretary