

**MONROE COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HEALTH BUILDING MEETING ROOM
February 11, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Autio, James Faber, William Riggert, Bill Williams, Kevin Enright (*ex officio*)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Scott Dompke

STAFF PRESENT: Todd Stevenson (Highway), Donna Barbrick (Surveyor), Dana Wilkinson (Stormwater)

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Robert Autio.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 6, 2013, MEETING MINUTES: Approval was postponed to next DB meeting. There was a brief discussion of the Kimball project. Todd Stevenson said he is doing what he can to get that project up to speed.

2014 MEETING SCHEDULE: Autio asked for a vote. **Approved unanimously.**

DISCUSSION OF LETTER REGARDING I-69 SEDIMENT AND EROSION CONTROL ISSUES

Stevenson had a PowerPoint slideshow. He said state projects are not under the county's jurisdiction. He said there is a lot that he does not know about how I-69 sediment and erosion control; he wanted to characterize his statements that way. He said that they had been doing limited sampling of receiving streams. The slideshow displayed various sites and practices. Stevenson talked about testing that has been done at various sites around I-69 in the network of streams. He said there were two simple tests that we did – transparency (using a transparency tube) and settleable solids. He said there are no state standards for water quality for transparency or turbidity; 10 cm (transparency) is my standard. He said I think this is ok; anything more turbid than this I think that steps could be taken to improve water quality. He said usually when I was out there had been significant rain. He said there is some subjectivity with the transparency test, but it does give some general measure of the turbidity in the water.

He said the other test was with Imhoff cones; you put water in there and then wait for one hour to get the so-called settleable solids. He said this, to me, gives an idea of the larger particles that are in the water. He said usually if the water has been through an adequately sized sediment pond, then you won't have many settleable solids; it may look pretty muddy still but that would be the smaller particles that don't fall so quickly. He said if there are settleable solids, it's usually a pretty significant problem.

He said even though there are not strict limits for turbidity, there are some narrative descriptions (from State water quality standards) and some of these I think could apply to any construction site, really. He said as far as I-69, obviously it's been a controversial project and that's one reason there has been so much attention to the off-site sediment. I do not think in general it's been any worse than any other construction project. He said probably the sediment and erosion control has been better than most INDOT jobs. He said this is just my opinion; they tried some things that they haven't tried before and they may not have worked out as well as they thought. He said again, just not knowing everything that's gone on between IDEM and INDOT. He said but once they've gotten so far into the project and then they find out it's not working so well, there is only so much that they can do to change things at that point; that's just my guess. He said it was not until really late June when there was some heavy rain when it became noticeable that there were problems with sediment and erosion control. He said there were two responses from INDOT at that point; their public response was denial but at the same time if you looked at the sites, they were definitely attending more to erosion control – spreading mulch, adding to stone berms and cleaning up sediment with vector trucks.

The slideshow continued showing various sites and practices such as wood mulch berms, stone filter berms, rock check dams.

Stevenson said Rule 5 is “technology based” so if you have the practices in place you are ok as opposed to having to meet a water quality standard. He said at the same time I don't think we can divorce ourselves from what's happening in the receiving stream: if you see muddy water going off site then you need to go back and look at your practices.

Riggert asked did the rock filter berms have a piece of filter fabric. Stevenson replied not that I could see. Faber asked why did they put their site for staging in the low area. Stevenson said there is a lot that I do not know; it's not our project to oversee; I wonder if some better decisions could have been made there.

Dana Wilkinson also had a presentation. She said I just have a few slides; I know there has been some interest in what sites we are checking on. She talked about sites where the county has given out grading permits related to I-69. She said we of course anticipate more permits and inspections coming along as it travels north.

Stevenson said Plan Commission has written one letter already and is getting ready to write another letter. There was a discussion of DB writing a letter and to whom it would be sent and who would be copied on the letter. Stevenson said I thought I would write a unique DB letter just based on what I have observed and making some suggestions on things that I think could help. He said I am hoping that the next segment goes a little smoother in terms of sediment and erosion control.

Autio asked about any post construction data on water sampling. Stevenson said I can provide that information to you if you'd like to see it. He said as far as numeric values, you cannot always interpret how you think you might be able to. He said I went out in January after a rainfall and they had started some tree clearing; now when I look back at it, there was muddier

water in those drains than the actual baseline. He said timing has a lot to do with it; you can pick up generalities. He said you can see things that make you pay more attention. He said I don't know if this letter has to be signed today. I don't know what the time constraint is. He said obviously anyone who does not feel comfortable signing the letter does not have to sign it.

Faber noted that the Health Department is also writing a letter.

Autio suggested including the photographs and some of the data as an appendix to the letter. He also asked about the contractors being penalized if sediment erosion control is not done or they are not finished on time. Stevenson said yes the contractors are under pressure to get things done by a certain date. He said he did not know what's going on between INDOT and the contractors. He said he had a copy of the letter if people wanted to sign it. There was a consensus among those present that they would sign the letter.

Public Input: There was none.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.