

**MONROE COUNTY  
STORM WATER MANAGEMENT BOARD (SWMB)  
MEETING MINUTES  
NAT HILL MEETING ROOM  
May 12, 2011**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kevin Enright, Iris Kiesling, Patrick Stoffers, Mark Stoops

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF:** Todd Stevenson (Highway), Kevin Dogan (Legal), Donna Barbrick (Surveyor), Heidi Russell-Wagner (Planning), Bill Williams (Highway), Geoff McKim (County Council, Storm Water Advisory Committee), Martha Miller (Soil & Water Conservancy District).

**OTHERS PRESENT:** CATS TV crew

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Kevin Enright.

**PROPOSED BUDGET**

Bill Williams gave a presentation about the proposed budget for storm water operations based off of an ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit) of \$2.93 per month with estimated 90% collection rate annually. The budget total was \$1.03 million.

Pat Stoffers commented that the collection rate could be higher than 90% and the historical collection rate is 96% according to the treasurer's office. He advised his colleagues to keep that in mind. Kevin Dogan commented that as the consultant Christopher Burke (CBBEL) was putting together budgets, they were reluctant to bump it up higher than 90%. Mark Stoops commented that they were hoping for higher collection rate but were planning conservatively. He said when they were trying to reduce the budget, one of the budget lines that took a hit was projects. If the collection rate is higher, then there would be more money for projects.

Todd Stevenson gave a presentation summarizing seven points about the proposed storm water utility and about upcoming IDEM audits. He said as soon as the June 1 audit is over, IDEM will turn around and start auditing on illicit discharge issues, an area in which the county's program is lacking. At the end he displayed a chart showing the three different proposed rate scenarios.

**DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED STORM WATER FEE**

Kevin Enright said this was the SWMBs first meeting since the two public hearings. He suggested for clarification that the SWMB adopt one of the three proposed options – Option #1 – and insert that into the draft ordinance. This option was recommended by the Storm Water Advisory Committee (SWAC). This would help clarify matters for the public so that it's not a shell game.

Stevenson commented that the City of Bloomington has a credit schedule while the county does not have that yet. There was a discussion of credits and incentives for businesses that mitigate storm water runoff. Dogan said that it made sense to first establish a fee, and then work to

determine credits and incentives and what would work best. He mentioned that an advisory group could look into credits and incentives to better manage storm water. Other places have set up advisory committees with representatives from different user groups, rather than adopt credits from the start and not know what is really effective.

Stoops said a flat rate of \$35 per structure, the staff would bit have to spend a lot of time figuring the different rates for different residences. This would not be very efficient. Stoffers commented that he was willing to select a methodology today but not to approve a rate or a budget.

Dogan said it makes discussion more manageable to narrow the options and take a more focused approach. He suggested that there should be a motion to go with an option.

**Stoops motioned that the SWMB recommend Rate Option #1 from the CBBEL report, a fee based on impervious surface only. A specific fee amount was not included in this motion.**

**Stoffers seconded. Enright asked for public comment on this motion. The question was called. A vote was taken and the motion was approved with no opposition.**

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

Maggie Sullivan, a resident of the city of Bloomington spoke. She is the chair for the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability. She commented that she is excited that the county is moving forward on this issue.

Geoff McKim, County Council member and SWAC member, spoke. He wanted to suggest considering, if you wanted to pass the ordinance, you might want to create an initial system of credits that would be very simple and then phase out after a year when the advisory council is created.

Kiesling commented said she did not foresee doing this fee until at least April or May. Therefore they would not be any activity until at least June. She wanted the public to know that there is no budget to work on yet. Stoffers commented that clearly we are on the path where there will be a property tax billing. He said, Mr. McKim made the suggestion that we push this until 2012. Given that, we would not have a funded activity until July or June. It's incumbent upon us to formalize that. **Stoops said, so moved. Enright seconded.**

Stoffers said, as a practical matter, the storm water is unfunded on January 1, 2012, and it's not smart to spend funds that don't exist. Stoops said, an advisory board would have time to come up with a system for credits and incentives. Enright asked if there was any public comment on the motion.

Jim Shelton, representing the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, spoke. He said that the Chamber would support phasing it in so businesses can plan and budget.

McKim asked about the motion. **Stoops said the motion is that no storm water fee would be billed until the 2012 tax statement.** Dogan commented that the timing of operations and billing has not been totally worked out.

Stoops said, again assuming the storm water operation and fee moves forward, the fee is not billed until tax bills to be mailed in April of 2012.

**Enright called for a vote. The motion passed with no opposition.**

Jim Reinhardt asked if the storm water fee was going to be retroactive. Dogan said that the quick answer is that the fee is independent of the property taxes; it is merely on the property tax statement. Reinhardt asked if there would be another draft of the ordinance that would be released. Dogan said no such determination has been made. When it reaches a point that the SWMB decides to go forward with the fee, the ordinance would be drafted and it would make sense that the SWMB would make that available in conjunction with the decision to establish a fee.

Stoops commented that the ordinance would have to be passed by the Commissioners. Then the Council votes on the fee. Any changes to the draft of the ordinance can happen up to the time when the Commissioners consider it.

Reinhardt asked if the numbers in the proposed budget were rounded up or rounded down. Williams said it's a combination of both. Reinhardt commented that sharing of resources between departments has not really been noted. Williams commented that this is a hybrid budget; for instance the equipment operators would be teamed with Highway department employees. Williams said, because we are blending operations with other units of government, it keeps the costs down.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.**

**Minutes approved:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:**

**Secretary:**

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**Kevin Enright, Chair**

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