

Berrien & Cass County NPDES - MS4 Group Meeting

*City of Niles Fire Department
1345 E. Main Street, Niles, MI 49120*

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

I. Call Meeting to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by R. Beaubien and introductions were completed.

***Present:** Tim Kading, City of Bridgman; Tom MacDonald, City of St. Joseph; Russ Beaubien, Spicer Group; Jamie Moody & Kyle Gundersen, City of Niles; JT Adkerson & Jason Williams, City of Buchanan; Jeannine Totzke, Berrien County Drain Commissioner & Administration; Julie Amicarelli, Dick Stauffer & Kevin Gebhard, Lincoln Charter Township; Marcy Hamilton, SWMPC; Rich Low, Village of Edwardsburg; Steve Slavicek, Village of Stevensville; David Rindfield, St. Joseph Charter Township; Nick Mannon, Cass County Road Commission; Jon Greco, Berrien County Road Commission*

***Excused:** Kyle Alexander, MDEQ*

Absent:

II. Review of Meeting Minutes from May 10, 2017's Group Meeting

Motion made to accept meeting minutes, which was supported and passed unanimously by those present.

III. MDEQ Comments and Updates

Permits will be reviewed within the next year. The MiWaters account is not entirely set up for progress reporting submittals, therefore, they can be submitted as in the past on MiWaters for each community.

IV. Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) Comments and Updates

Marcy covered numerous projects and events which SWMPC is involved with in Berrien and Cass Counties; the following is a summary:

- In Cass County, a road stream crossing inventory has been done. This is to identify crossings which may be detrimental to fish movement in streams, drains, and surface waters. Over 200 have been completed within the region. The data will be put into Road Soft for future funding. All work is paid for with grant funds.
- The Pucker Street Dam removal was discussed.
- The SWMPC received DNR grant funding for the Paw Paw River water trail. Forty (40) of sixty-eight (68) miles of watercraft trail has been opened on the Paw Paw River.
- Dowagiac River - Dodd Park will get a new launch; a water trail is being developed; log jams will be carefully handled for navigation purposes; increasing public access to the river.
- A grant for Lake Michigan tributaries to address bacteria at beaches is being implemented; it was found there are issues with septic systems, or lack thereof. The Health Department is brought in to deal with any direct connections.

- Sawyer still has issues with E. coli, however, since the brewery has addressed its site, the counts are lower, but have not gone away entirely; there are still problems somewhere in the drainage system.
- There will be a work shop on wetlands for property owners on September 25, 2017. This will be geared toward educating property owners who have wetlands on their property in the county. Mailing has gone to over 280 people who were identified as having wetlands on their property.
- Benton Harbor is still working on the Ox Creek and the SWMPC is working on a grant with the Berrien County Drain Commissioner to improve water quality in the mall area; this is the largest retail district in the region.
- Brookfield Chrysler dealership is doing a green infrastructure project and grants are being applied for to assist with the project.
- A grant has been applied for the Paw Paw and Black River Watershed Management Plan to update the plan.
- There will be a beach clean-up in Bridgman on Saturday, September 16, 2017.
- Marcy attended the Green Infrastructure workshop in Holland and advised there may be another one in the spring.
- Training videos are available by contacting either Marcy or Kris.

V. Old Business

NPDES MS4 Permits

The NPDES MS4 permit application were all submitted by the deadline in April. The permit applications will be reviewed for completeness and then go through the public notice and issuance process. This can take up to three (3) plus years based on other areas.

Progress Reports

Progress Reports are due **December 1, 2017** via MiWaters. Members are asked to complete and return the excel spreadsheets which should report on activities from October of 2015 to September of 2017. The spreadsheets must be returned to Kelsea no later than Friday, October 27, 2017 in order for Spicer Group to meet the December 1, 2017 submittal date on MiWaters.

VI. New Business

Training will be held today (Sept. 13) for County / Municipal building inspectors, Zoning Code Enforcement Staff, Municipal / County planning and others; this training will be hosted in Berrien Springs at the Berrien Youth Fair Grounds from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This training is to inform and update municipal staff on their responsibilities for site development in the county and when site development needs to be reviewed for storm water management. It also will cover the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control permits issued by the county and what responsibilities municipalities have for reporting violations within their jurisdictional areas.

Pollution Prevention & Good Housekeeping Documentation Reminders

Reminders to members to document any site maintenance and inspections which have been performed. Document quantities of leaves picked up if there is a fall leaf pick up program in your community.

Document salt usage for the winter. If you have inclement weather which is unsafe to send staff outside in, remember to do some stormwater training during this time and document it.

Local and Community Reports

City of Buchanan – 90% completed with their water, wastewater and storm portions of their SAW asset plan. They are using a database management program but wish to switch to RoadSoft now. They asked if anyone was familiar with the software program and could help them. They are implementing an \$8M upgrade to their WWTP and adding an oxidation ditch. They are in the RFQ process.

City of Niles – Completed staff training.

Lincoln Charter Township – SAW grant work is wrapping up, completing the I&I program. St. Joseph is working on checking water supplies to the township.

Cass County Road Commission – Completed work on a new bridge, taking out four culverts and replacement with a new span which will improve the road crossing a lot, both hydraulically and for fish movement. At the Crystal Spring Bridge, construction hit a spring and now needs a re-design & construction which should be complete in 2018.

Berrien County Drain Commissioner – Lighthouse Creek project has started; there is an open drain cleanout in Niles; the Yore & Stoeffler Drain is going out for bid; and finally, they are working on a grant application with SWMPC for \$10,000 for Water Awareness Day.

City of St. Joseph – Finishing up with their SAW grant work, did not get through all systems as there was a significant amount to do. The Asset Management Plan for their water; wastewater; storm and road is in the works to plan all future work and budgets.

City of Bridgman – SAW grant work has been completed on all the sanitary system. They are working with SWMPC on a funding grant.

St. Joseph Township – SAW grant work has started, all manholes have been located with GPS coordinates and mapped now. There is a drain project being done in the township.

Berrien County Road Commission – River Road bridge project is complete.

Village of Stevensville – SAW grant work is done and wrapping up with final reporting now.

2018 Meeting Dates, Times and Locations:

1. January 10, 2018: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. @ **Lincoln Charter Township**
2. May 9, 2018: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. @ **City of Bridgman – Waco Beach House**
3. September 12, 2018: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. @ **St. Joseph Charter Township**

VII. Adjournment