

Berrien & Cass County NPDES-MS4 Group Meeting

Lincoln Charter Township Hall

2055 West John Beers Road, Stevensville, MI

Wednesday, January 11, 2019

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Present: *Russ Beaubien, Spicer Group; Kyle Gundersen, City of Niles; David Rindfield, St. Joseph Charter Township; Tom MacDonald, City of St. Joseph; Julie Amicarelli, Kevin Gebhard & Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township; Steve Slavicek & Glen Pastryk, Village of Stevensville; Marcy Hamilton & Kris Martin, SWMPC; Jon Greco, Berrien County Road Commission; Nick Mannon, Cass County Road Commission*

Excused: *Tim Kading City of Bridgman; Kyle Alexander, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ); Rich Low, Village of Edwardsburg*

Absent: *Jeannine Totzke, Berrien County Drain Commissioner, J.T. Adkins, City of Buchanan*

I. Call Meeting to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Russ Beaubien, P.E., CFM. Introductions completed.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes from September 12, 2018's Group Meeting

Minutes of the September 12, 2018 meeting were approved with a motion from Steve Slavicek supported by Kevin Gebhard and passed unanimously.

III. MDEQ Comments and Updates – Kyle Alexander provided comments via email and phone message with Kelsea Sutton

A. Reminder of NPDES Storm Water Permit Annual Invoicing for 2019 will be occurring soon.

K. Sutton spoke with K. Alexander:

- No further comments with the IDEP and PEP collaborative documents.
- He will be reviewing the collaborative TMDL document one more time.
- He also had no comments pertaining to the collaborative Enforcement Response Procedure (ERP) or the Public Participation/Involvement Program (PPP) plan.
- Pertaining to the Village of Stevensville's MS4 application review, he had no further comments with the PP/GH and CSWRCP sections.
- Berrien County Drain Commissioner's Design Standards/PCC document needs major revisions. Will be working on that document over the next few months.
- K. Alexander will be providing other member's MS4 permit application comments via email (i.e. PP/GH).
- The goal is to have all permits reviewed and completed by the end of 2019 (MDEQ commitment with EPA).

A few notes via email from Kyle on Jan. 8, 2019 read into the minutes at the meeting:

- General comments were provided for Stevensville's application. Where programs are shared (such as IDEP) comments made on the application apply to all the municipalities with the shared plan. I will be individually reviewing ordinances and items such as P2GH for the remainder of the applications
- The County PCC standards that folks are adopting do not meet the MS4 permit standard and must be updated. From what I can tell, the old standard was submitted with no attempt at updating it for the new individual permit standards. I'd like to see a draft of those updates as soon as possible. At a minimum, I'd ask that a note be sent, detailing a timeline for when an approval PCC program/standards will be submitted for review. In my opinion, this is the largest piece standing between the municipalities and permit issuance. At some point, we will need to set a deadline for their submittal. Sooner rather than later.
- Once the updated PCC standard is submitted, I can provide a final comprehensive comment back for each municipality.
- Permit Annual Invoicing. Do folks have any questions about this? Invoicing is handled by our Lansing staff, but I am happy to look into any questions, if people have questions about their invoicing.

IV. Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) Comments and Updates – Marcy Hamilton / Kris Martin

- SWMPC has been working with the Berrien County Drain Commissioner on a few grants, one for Ox Creek.
- Working on an awards program for area Business for Clean Water and Sustainable practices.
- On January 23rd there is a public hearing for the removal of the Dowagiac River Dam; SWMPC is working with the City of Niles on this dam removal project.
- Marcy also mentioned there was a fuel oil spill near Ox Creek in the Brant and Dix Drainage district. This has been cleaned up already and tests indicate the spill was contained and did not get to downstream locations.
- Kris reminded everyone present to coordinate with him regarding the NPDES training video usage. A reminder to sign up with him and he will make sure you obtain the information. Just remember to document its use and keep a list of those who are trained for your records.
- Kris also reminded members that the table top education display is available for communities to schedule for usage during the year.
- Other training videos are available on the SWMPC website for use by all members in training staff.
- Kris informed every one of the Smithsonian Water / Ways exhibit which will be hosted by Niles and will be located at the Niles Library running from January 5th through February 16th and will have six sessions with selected speakers. On January 11th there will be a presentation on the St. Joseph River and Kris will be doing a presentation on January 24th on "Flow in the St. Joe". This event is in partnership with the Smithsonian Institute and only six communities in Michigan will have an opportunity to host the display.

- Kris informed the group that a draft of a water quality survey has been developed and it was presented for review and comments from those present at the meeting. He would like to get any other comments, questions, or potential questions to ask back to him as soon as possible so this survey will be ready for the rest of the year. This survey will help with future topics to focus the public education in the region.

V. Old Business

- A. NPDES MS4 Permits
 - i. **April 3, 2017** – Permit Applications Submitted
 - ii. Village of Stevensville’s MS4 Application Review – Allocate SAW Grant Funding
 - 1. PEP, IDEP, PP/GH Comments
 - iii. County Application – Next MS4 application to be reviewed (tentatively)
 - iv. MDEQ is making a commitment to issue all permits by the end of 2019.
- B. IDEP Outfall & Point of Discharge Dry Weather Screening
 - i. BCDC, BCRC & City of St. Joseph will take place in 2019 at these places. Niles has completed their screening and is working completing their report for this permit period.
- C. Other

VI. New Business

- A. Progress Reports – Tentatively due December 1, 2019
 - i. Tentative depending on permit issuance, Spicer Group will keep all informed
 - ii. The submittal will be via MiWaters portal; Spicer Group is working on an EXCEL spreadsheet which will be sent to members when it is ready. The format for a progress report as it appears on MiWaters was distributed to those present.

B. Pending Legislation HB – 4100 of 2017 (handout)

Russ provided information and a handout on HB-4100 from 2017. This house bill is on the move again in the House and Spicer Group will keep members informed as to how it is progressing. Discussion on what would be covered in this utility fee and how it would work for a township, county, or city ensued.

C. Pollution Prevention & Good Housekeeping Documentation

- i. Documentation Reminders were provided by Russ to all those present; these are items which should be monitored as applicable, during the winter months. Documentation should occur to assure they are taking care of all tasks if they are applicable to the member:
 - 1. When obtaining your winter de-icing materials be careful during handling and storage of the materials
 - 2. Calibration of salt application trucks for the winter, document the activity if applicable
 - 3. Watch where snow piles are being placed.
 - 4. Municipalities and county trucks document amount of salt used.

5. Community School Systems- Remind contractors to be cognizant of catch basin locations when spreading deicers, if applicable.
6. Remember if using a contractor for snow removal, have them sign a contractor form and keep a copy for your records.

D. Local and Community Reports

BCDC: No comments

BCRC: No report, just preparing for the dry weather screening.

CCRC: Work has progressed on the Wade Road Culvert which was washed out in a storm on Feb. 18, 2018 and is pretty much completed. The primary issue was in having to deal with the MDEQ's requirement for "bankfull" width since the upstream contributing watershed area was greater than 2 square miles. Under Part 31 of PA 451 of 1994 the culvert has to be sized per this criteria, which makes the project costs considerably higher, but consequently can handle larger storm events. Also, Carter Lake culvert is being replaced; both will be completed by the spring of 2019.

City of Bridgman: No comments

City of Buchanan: No comments

City of Niles: Dry weather screening was completed, and the report is in the process. Kyle provided information on his experience with drones and battery issues causing a loss of power during a flight.

City of St. Joseph: The dry weather screening proposal is in place and for the council to approve. Tom also stated the City was working on their inventory of water lines to homes and addressing the lead and copper rules for drinking water. A few streets are preparing for complete rehabilitation for water, sanitary, storm, and road surface; these projects are in their early planning stages.

Lincoln Charter Township: No comments

St. Joseph Charter Township: Working with the BCDC to combine two drainage districts; they also shared some issues they have run in to when televising a drain they were having issues with only to discover the tile drain was plugged with a knotweed root ball and sediment. This is being cleaned out which should clear up the problems with the drain. The township is also preparing to do a project which will result in an 8,800-ft sanitary force main with a portion under the St. Joseph River.

Village of Edwardsburg: No comments

Village of Stevensville: New DPW staff has started work; the Village is still working on CB cleaning and repair.

E. Next Meeting Dates and Times:

- i. May 8, 2019: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. @ **City of Bridgman – Weko Beach House**
- ii. September 11, 2019: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. @ **City of St. Joseph – City Hall, 700 Broad Street, St. Joseph, 49085**

F. Other

VII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Steve Slavicek, supported by Tom MacDonald, meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.