

**Berrien & Cass County NPDES - MS4 Group Meeting**

*Lincoln Township*

*2055 West John Beers Rd., Stevensville, MI 49127*

**Wednesday, June 8, 2022**

**9:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Attendance:

*Kevin Gebhard, Lincoln Twp.*

*Julie Amicarelli, Lincoln Twp.*

*Richard Stauffer, Lincoln Twp.*

*George Gavnder, Lincoln Twp.*

*Rich Low, Edwardsburg*

*Kris Martin, SWMPC*

*Kelsea Sutton, Spicer Group*

*Erica Martell, Spicer Group*

*Rich Hoffman, Stevensville*

*Kacey Dominguez, Stevensville*

*Kevin Stack, BCRD*

*Jeannine Totzke, BCDC*

*Michael Baker, City of Buchanan*

*Klay Weaver, City of Buchanan*

*Derek Gordon, City of Buchanan*

*Greg Grothous, City of St. Joseph*

*Andrew Clay, City of Bridgeman*

*Greg Grothous, City of St. Joseph*

*Matthew Hanauer, EGLE*

Absent: *Buchanan Schools; Bridgman; CCRC; St. Joseph Twp; Niles Schools; City of Niles*

**I. Call Meeting to Order & Introductions**

**II. Review of Meeting Minutes from February 23, 2022's MS4 Group Meeting**

*Minutes of the February 23, 2022, meeting were reviewed, and a motion made by M. Baker, seconded by J. Totzke, supported by a unanimous vote.*

**III. EGLE Comments and Updates – Matthew Hanauer**

*Permits: MS4 permits are not top priority but hopes to have them started before October. EGLE is splitting up the stormwater and industrial permits sections and anticipates a stormwater specific permit section in the future.*

*TMDL requirements: Statewide E.coli. effects any drain that goes into the St. Joseph River. It also requires wet weather monitoring. Tip, take some readings before outlets and then test the outlet after the outfalls have all entered. If there is a significant difference in E. coli then go from there. Some communities may be testing for that all ready so partner with them if possible.*

*Audits: What to expect. Looking for public education, past and future dry weather screening plans, pollution prevention plans, and review the TMDL.  
(Buchanan meeting June 23<sup>rd</sup>)*

**IV. Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) Updates – Kris Martin**

*2021 Southwest Michigan Water Quality Survey data has been collected and compared to the 2019 surveys. Still need education of the community and to continue to improve the water quality there. Less participants in 2021 vs 2019. New Facebook page (“Lets Keep It Blue”) focused on water quality. Pollution and prevention stormwater prevention DVD has been digitalized and can be given out through flash drives to educate workers. Water quality display board schedule to be developed and is available for sign up.*

**V. Old Business**

**A. NPDES MS4 Permits**

1. No updates

**B. MiWaters User Update**

1. Be sure to log in and make any users on the site inactive that no longer are associated with your organization.

- 2. Certifier Agreements for new MiWaters accounts
- C. Pollution Prevention & Good Housekeeping
  - 1. Group Training – Video Option
    - i. Train within one year of hiring
- D. Progress Reports
  - 1. Submitted prior to April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline
  - 2. Should have received confirmation of submittal and copy of upload
- E. EGLE Inspections
  - 1. Buchanan – no date but soon
- F. Other: *None*

## VI. New Business

- A. June 30, 2022 – July 1, 2023, Budget
 

*Letter agreements will be sent out following the meeting. Please sign and return.*
- B. IDEP Outfall & Point of Discharge Dry Weather Screening
  - 1. Implementing a screening rotation program so inspections are split over the permit cycle
    - i. Year 1 Inspections
      - a. St Joseph Township
      - b. City of Niles & Schools
      - c. Village of Stevensville
      - d. Village of Edwardsburg
      - e. Lincoln Township
      - f. CCRC & CCDC
      - g. City of Bridgman

*You will be notified before Spicer is out doing inspections.*

- C. Pollution Prevention & Good Housekeeping
  - 1. Training Video for June: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQxBcgZ\\_VRo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQxBcgZ_VRo)
  - 2. Documentation Reminders
    - i. Spring is a good time to inspect vegetative BMPs
    - ii. Repair, reseed bare spots, assure vegetative buffers are intact along waterways
    - iii. Fertilize per established procedures, if necessary
    - iv. Clean out detention basins of any trash or floatable
    - v. Quantify and then dispose of material properly
  - 3. Lawncare/Landscape and Construction Contractors
    - i. Ensure training has been addressed
    - ii. Sign contractor stormwater compliance agreement forms
  - 4. Seasonal Staff Training - document
  - 5. Local and Community Reports
 

**BCDC** – *Petitions coming in and more to be approved. Lots of Bigbys and dollar stores as well as apartments to be built. Issues with civil infractions and soil erosion violations dealt with in the courts and there will be fines. Contractors polluting the counties within Buchanan, Lincoln, Watervliet, and New Buffalo and hundreds of violations have been issued to them. Potential to*

*lose EGLE funding. Try and get those people trained better and it will be happening again.*

**BCRD** – *Bridges Napier is open Walton is not. Replacing culverts. Working with EGLE (Luke Golden) a new representative from there. Will be paving and in need staff for the Road commission.*

**Village of Edwardsburg** – *Get moving with their water plant in July.*

**Village of Stevensville** – *Paving areas and replacing a collapsed catch basin. Caught cleaning service dumping waste down the storm drain and documented it. Bridge issues collapsing or erosion possibility, Whiteman looked it over, fill it in and monitor.*

**Lincoln Charter Twp.** – *Environmental group coming in to look at Ten Mile. Looking at infiltration in the area.*

**CCRC** – *None*

**City of Niles** – *None*

**Niles School District** – *None*

**City of Bridgman** – *None*

**City of Buchanan** – *Million-dollar projects with storm sewer downtown to fix ones that have been collapsed, etc. Street sweep every day, cleaning catch basins and replacing bad ones, and they have an audit.*

**Buchanan Public Schools** – *None*

**City of St. Joseph** – *Little Lester wrapping up soon, repaving projects, and looking to buy a street sweeper next year.*

**St. Joseph Charter Twp.** – *None.*

D. 2022 Meeting Dates, Times, and Locations:

1. October 12, 2022: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. @ Cass County Road Commission

E. Other

**VII. Adjournment**