

Town of Leo-Cedarville
Stormwater Utility
Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2021

Attendance: Larry Clark, John Abel. Town Manager Rodd Hale. Clerk-Treasurer Pamela Spannuth. Engineer Derek Frederickson. Mike Fruchey, Allen County Surveyor's Office.

6:00 – Mr. Rodd Hale called the meeting to order with the Pledge-of-Allegiance.

May 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Abel moved to accept the minutes as distributed; Mr. Clark seconded. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Birky Drive – Mr. Mike Fruchey from the Allen County Surveyor's Office was present at the meeting to contribute to discussion on the Birky Drive/Lochner Road regulated drain proposal. Mr. Frederickson provided a summary of the history of the runoff issue present at the Birky Drive/Lochner Road area. He stated the board has employed Engineering Resources to research and engineer to a stormwater runoff management plan for the area. Several different alternate approaches have been presented that address the water runoff problem; Mr. Frederickson summarized the various alternatives ranging from \$350,000 to over \$700,000. The board had previously decided to petition the Allen County Surveyor's Office to adopt this area as a regulated drain. He stated that this project has not been a priority to the Surveyor's Office to date due to funding and staffing shortfalls. Mr. Fruchey was present to provide additional insight to the board. He stated the responsibility of the Surveyor's Office is to take care of the currently regulated drains, however, they do not have the resources to design and engineer additional regulated drains. Discussion ensued regarding what a partnership between the Leo-Cedarville Stormwater Utility and the Allen County Surveyor's Office would look like. The utility could fund all of the design and engineering work. The Surveyor's Office would review the proposed plan and the Drainage Board would conduct a public hearing that is open to all interested / affected parties with a notice issued 45-days prior to the hearing. If the assessments end up being too high, the board may deny the request for this area to become a regulated drain. He advised the board to consider what the assessment per parcel may end up being prior to proceeding with this process; if there is objection, it could cause the denial of the petition. As the water runoff only affects certain properties, and water overtopping the roads affects the public right-of-way, the greatest beneficiary may be determined to be the town; it was recommended the Utility consider 'buying down' the up-front costs to reduce the impact

to those being assessed. The assessment would be distributed among all 'benefitted' acreage with a minimum established assessment per acre. Mr. Hale asked if the assessment can be stretched out over a number of years. Mr. Fruchey stated that, according to State Law, interest will be charged if the assessment isn't paid within a year. Due to the date that the law was enacted, the interest rate remains set at 10%. If the board approves the creation of the regulated drain, a preventative maintenance fund would also be established. Discussion ensued regarding the nature of the flooding in the area. Mr. Frederickson stated it would reasonable and prudent to do something to at least get the water under Birky Drive and Lochner Road. In addition to the impact on the roads in the area, he stated there are three properties significantly impacted by this issue and other properties affected to lesser degrees by the area's runoff issues. Mr. Frederickson also added Engineering Resources has done quite a bit of research and preliminary engineering on this project. Mr. Fruchey stated a natural open ditch to the river would be more advisable versus a closed drainage system. Damages from establishing the open ditch would increase due to the farmers loss of tillable land; the farmer would be compensated for damages incurred. Mr. Frederickson recommended he sit down with Mr. Fruchey and Mr. Weber, hydrologist, from the Surveyor's Office to further discuss the appropriate scope of plan. Mr. Fruchey recommended that if the board still wishes to pursue the establishment of a regulated drain, that meetings be held in advance with people in the watershed to help obtain buy-in on the project. Mr. Frederickson stated he could come back to the board with a proposal with a defined scope of work. The scope would be from the open ditch near the reservoir leading up to both Birky Drive and Lochner Road. This phase would address the problem of overtopping Birky Drive. Future systems can be built off of this initial proposal.

Financial Reports – Ms. Spannuth distributed the current financial reports to the board.

2022 Budget – Further engineering work can be budgeted in the 2022 budget if the board wishes to pursue further action on this project.

Elvina Drive – Mr. Frederickson stated the Town Council would like to upgrade Elvina Drive, including a surface drainage solution. He stated one property owner is severely impacted with water run-off from State Road 1 however he recommended survey be done to help determine the best management approach.

Main Street Inlet – Mr. Frederickson distributed information on a proposed inlet on Main Street. Mr. David Beery would like to tie into the drainage line on Main Street. Initially there were three interested parties in connecting to the tile, however, only one property owner remains interested. The inlet would cost \$1650. The Town Council has requested that the Stormwater Board cover the cost of the inlet. Mr. Steffens moved to approve the Main Street inlet for \$1650, Mr. Clark seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

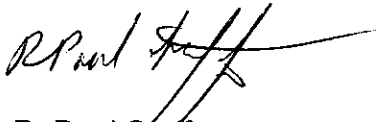
Leo Café Drainage Problem – Mr. Larry Clark stated water and gravel is collecting near the Leo Café from runoff. The owner of the building plans on changing the downspout at this area. Mr. Frederickson stated this problem is occurring on private property.

13000 Main Street – There is a clogged inlet at 13000 Main Street which is adjacent to State Road 1. Mr. Frederickson confirmed this would be under the jurisdiction of the Indiana Department of Transportation and provided Mr. Hale information on who to contact within the department regarding this issue.

Vouchers – The July 13, 2021 line-item voucher form was approved for a total of \$15,422.50.

Adjournment – Meeting Adjourned until August 10, 2021.

Approved:



R. Paul Steffens
Board President

Attested:



Pamela Spannuth
Clerk-Treasurer