

PORTER COUNTY STORMWATER ADVISORY BOARD
March 8, 2021

LOCATION: County Administrative Center, Ste 205 **TIME:** 5:00 p.m.
155 Indiana Avenue, Valparaiso IN

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bob Gilliana, Fred Martin, Paul Nelson, Scott Severson, Todd Elliott, and Jeremy Rivas were present. Also in attendance were Clay Patton-Attorney, Kevin Breitzke, Mike Novotney, and staff. Jeff Good was absent.

All Recommendations will be voted on at the next Storm Water Management Board meeting

New Business

Docket No. SM-21-0010

Applicant: NIPSCO

Location: Two locations in northeast Porter Co., in the Town of Pines, along the South Shore Line at Brown Ditch and Kintzele Ditch.

Request: To conduct necessary utility relocation activities within the regulated drainage easements associated with Brown Ditch and Kintzele Ditch ahead of the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District's (NICTD's) upcoming Double Track Northwest Indiana Project.

Staff Findings and Recommendations:

Electric: Applicant wants to relocate an existing utility pole from the south side of the South Shore Line to the north side. Both the existing pole and the replacement pole are within the regulated drainage easement, but are located beyond the top of bank.

Access along the east overbank of Kintzele Ditch from US 12 may be required as part of this work. The creation of an access route may require mowing and/or clearing and tree removal.

Access to the replacement pole located on the north side of the South Shore Line will be obtained by using the existing gravel/subballast access road currently located along the north side of the existing track. No additional land disturbing activities are anticipated on the north side of the track. Areas downslope of the work area located on the north side of the track are to be protected from sediment-laden runoff using filter socks.

All areas located within the regulated drainage easement disturbed during the performance of the work will be restored using appropriate plant seed.

Gas: Gas infrastructure relocation activities include the retirement of an existing gas main crossing and then running parallel to the South Shore Line. Access along the east overbank of Kintzele Ditch from US 12 is required as part of this work in order to conduct such retirement activities along the south side of the existing track. The creation of an access route may require mowing and/or clearing and tree removal. No additional land disturbing activities are anticipated on the south side of the track.

Access to the north side of the South Shore Line will be obtained by using the existing gravel/subballast access road currently located along the north side of the existing track.

All areas located within the regulated drainage easement disturbed during the performance of the work will be restored using appropriate plant seed.

At this time staff recommends approval of the use of the regulated drains and/or regulated drainage easements to conduct the proposed utility relocation activities. The standard terms and conditions apply including the execution of a hold harmless agreement between the applicant and Porter County regarding any damages that the County regulated drain may incur as a result of the project and any damages that the improvements may incur during future maintenance activities on such regulated drain. Staff also recommends the special provision: That the Department be contacted at least 72 hours prior to the start of work at Kintzele Ditch so that staff can be present during the performance of the work.

Discussion: The NIPSCO representative was present via video conferencing. Paul Nelson asked if everyone involved has been notified. The NIPSCO representative replied they have obtained all permits and are covered under permits already obtained. Bob Gilliana asked when work will start and was told they anticipate starting next week.

Motion: Fred Martin moved to approved with staff recommendations, execution of a Hold Harmless Agreement, and staff being notified 72 hours prior to the start of work at Kintzele Ditch so they can be present during the performance of the work. Scott Severson seconded the motion and so approved with a 6-0 vote.

Storm Water Program Director's Report

Mike Novotney reported 20 projects have been initiated to date this year. Approximately one-half of the projects are routine maintenance. A few are out for bid or quote. Mike gave a brief review of active projects. There will be a ground breaking event sometime in April for the Squirrel Creek project with the Army Corp of Engineers.

Fred Martin asked if anything is scheduled for Salt Creek Commons. Mike Novotney replied not yet. They are doing a study and once they receive the video, they will get a plan put together.

Mike Novotney discussed a pilot program where a barge is being used to clean mass debris in the Kankakee River. This is funded by the Kankakee River Basin Yellow River Basin Commission.

Next Meeting Date: April 12, 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting recessed.

Bob Gilliana, President

Mike Novotney, Engineer/Program Director