

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO  
BOARD OF STORM WATER COMMISSIONERS  
BOARD MEMBERS

Miguel (Mike) Rivera, President  
Steve Flowers, Vice-President  
Tia Cauley, Member  
Alojzy (Ben) Moricz, Member  
Jawann Jones, Member

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, August 4, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.

Reported for Fissinger & Associates, Ltd  
By: Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR

Call to Order: 4:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present In Chambers: Miguel Rivera,  
Steve Flowers, Ben Moricz, Tia Cauley,

Staff Present in Chambers: Joseph Allegretti  
Bill Biller  
Debra Gritters  
Ken Myers

MR. RIVERA: This is the meeting of the  
East Chicago, Indiana, Board of Storm Water  
Commissioners. This is August 4, 2022, at 4:30, in the  
Council Chambers.

Is there a motion to approve the  
minutes for July 21, 2022, as written?

MR. FLOWERS: Make a motion.

MS. CAULEY: Second.

MR. RIVERA: Any questions pertaining to  
the motion? (None) All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

Motion carries.

Check Warrant 080422 ST, amount of  
\$3,788.00. Payroll Warrants, 072222 Storm Water  
Payroll, for dates of 7-2-22 to 7-15-22. The last one  
is 072922 Storm Water Payroll, dates of 7-29-22 to

1 7-29-22.

2 MR. FLOWERS: Motion.

3 MS. CAULEY: Second.

4 MR. RIVERA: Any questions pertaining to  
the motion? (None) All in favor say aye?

5 (All signify aye.)

6 Motion carries.

7 Report from Legal Counsel, Joe  
Allegretti.

8 MR. ALLEGRETTI: No report.

9 MR. RIVERA: Report from Financial, Bill  
Biller.

10 MR. BILLER: There is a report in the  
packet. If the Board has any questions, I'll be happy  
11 to answer them.

12 MR. RIVERA: Are there any questions for  
Mr. Biller? (None)

13 Report from Compliance Manager, not  
14 present.

15 MR. FLOWERS: There is a cover letter in  
the packet of Jose Cisneros. I don't know if the Board  
16 has a chance to look at it, I did.

17 MR. MYERS: Can I take a look at this?  
It's an update and introduction to the Board as far as  
his role since he's been named storm water coordinator.  
18 He's also working for the Sanitary District, so he's  
wearing two hats.

19 MR. FLOWERS: He was here two meetings  
20 ago and the information on the proposal was not intact.

21 MS. KORTHALS: Good, because we had to  
22 amend that. We'll talk about that.

23 MR. FLOWERS: Are you giving a  
presentation?

24 MS. KORTHALS: Yes.

25 MR. MYERS: You have the proposal in your

1 packet. Miss Reggie Korthals will be handling and  
2 helping Jose with the various tasks, and will briefly  
3 describe the tasks.

4 MR. RIVERA: Is this just for information  
5 or do we have to take any action?

6 MR. MYERS: We are going to need  
7 approval.

8 MS. KORTHALS: What we have done is, an  
9 MS4 storm permit is required to manage all facility  
10 owners, one of those being the East Chicago Marina. The  
11 East Chicago Marina is in serious violation with the  
12 storm water industrial permit. So they chose to  
13 separate from this work order and we entered into an  
14 agreement with them to do it on their own; so that's the  
15 change there.

16 The other option or the other  
17 activity is the permit requires that all commercial and  
18 private projects, building projects, that's are done in  
19 the city have to submit a storm water quality management  
20 plan, which is also called a SWIP. The SWIP needs to be  
21 reviewed and approved, and somehow in the transition  
22 period, that hasn't been happening. So now we are in a  
23 position where I will be reviewing those SWIPs and  
24 assisting Jose in that process, and working with the  
25 city engineer being able to get that done so we are not  
in violation.

We submitted the Notice of Intent to  
IDEM. The due date was July 5th. We had the Notice of  
Intent approved on June 20th. We'll move ahead now on  
the time table updating the City's storm water quality  
management plan. There is an awful lot of work that has  
to be done in that and we have to have it done by the  
end of December.

The other thing that is required in  
the permit is that we report to you, as the Board,  
quarterly. So you will get those little notices from me  
to come and tell you what is going on, what we are  
doing, and how we are putting it all together. We have  
had some incredible meetings with all the department  
heads, with the Mayor and his chief of staff, and we are  
able to move ahead and get the program off the ground.

I will answer any questions.

MR. FLOWERS: Who recommended you? In  
other words, do you have a prior relationship with East  
Chicago?

1 MS. KORTHALS: Yes. I am the former  
2 20-year storm water coordinator and regulator for IDEM.  
3 Before that I was the environmental director for NIRPC.  
4 So I did your inspections and audits and everything here  
5 for the permit prior to this. I retired from IDEM in  
6 2017 and lasted a week and somebody hired me. So that's  
7 what I am doing now.

8 MR. FLOWERS: And Jose, he has some  
9 limited experience?

10 MS. KORTHALS: Yes, he does. And he came  
11 on after I was hired. So we are working on making sure  
12 that he is -- we work with him very closely, that he is  
13 up to speed on all the storm water issues and everything  
14 that's involved.

15 MR. RIVERA: Any more questions?

16 MS. CAULEY: I do. Are you okay with  
17 this?

18 MR. MYERS: That's our thing, Jose took  
19 over for Ben. We didn't get a true storm water  
20 coordinator and that's why Jose Cisneros was the  
21 pretreatment coordinator, and then he was subsequently  
22 approved to wear multiple hats to oversee storm water as  
23 pretreatment enforcement.

24 And, yes, we are going to need to  
25 rely on BF & S, as an outside consultant, to complete  
these tasks. We just don't have the ability to do it  
in-house.

MR. FLOWERS: I see that.

MR. MYERS: He's from the region. He  
used to work at ArclerMittal. He had retired from  
ArclerMittal and he applied for a position, actually at  
the Filtration plant, but we managed to grab him because  
of his abilities and, you know, being able to manage,  
like I said, take over the pretreatment coordination,  
which was his first role and we keep giving him more  
responsibility in that position, but we need outside  
help. We need consultants specializing in storm water.

MS. CAULEY: Mr. President, I have a  
question. But you didn't answer the question, are you  
satisfied, because we don't have to be a hurry.

1 MR. MYERS: Yes, I am. We somewhat have  
2 to be in a hurry because we have missed some deadlines  
3 on our storm water.

4 MS. CAULEY: You can miss deadlines. I  
5 work for the Federal government. You don't have to tell  
6 me about deadlines and they can be missed.

7 MR. MYERS: Maybe you could be on the  
8 call with the DOJ.

9 MS. CAULEY: If you get wrote up, that's  
10 not the issue. I was asking, are you happy?

11 MR. MYERS: Yes, we are happy. With  
12 Reggie's experience at IDEM, this is the person that is  
13 knowledgeable and has the context within the State to  
14 keep us on track.

15 MS. CAULEY: Make a motion.

16 MR. FLOWERS: I'm going to abstain.

17 MR. RIVERA: Do we have a second?

18 MR. MORICZ: Second.

19 MR. RIVERA: Any questions pertaining to  
20 the motion? (None) All in favor say aye?

21 MR. MORICZ: Aye.

22 MR. FLOWERS: Abstain.

23 MS. CAULEY: Aye.

24 MR. RIVERA: Aye.

25 Motion carries.

MS. KORTHALS: Let me make one comment,  
if at any time there's anything that you want to know or  
need help with or want me to explain, I am here to do  
that. And not only as a regulator, but I am also an  
adjunct professor at Indiana University, so I am willing  
to provide you with anything that you need.

The importance of this permit and  
you being in compliance with the permit has some big  
ramifications. The MS4 storm water permit is regulated  
under the Clean Water Act and the US EPA. Noncompliance

1 with this permit means it could impact your eligibility  
2 for Federal highway dollars and State revolving loan  
3 funds. So I will do everything I can to make sure you  
4 are where you need to be.

5 MR. FLOWERS: My concern is, you know,  
6 this agreement here, the legal jargon. This is very  
7 comprehensive and I am not an attorney. There's a lot  
8 to digest. This information, Mr. Myers, is very  
9 important that you guide us and direct us in the right  
10 direction so we have no issues down the road with any  
11 situation.

12 MR. MYERS: These are standard contract  
13 terms and conditions. There's a report there. Many of  
14 these things, because again, it's hard -- you can't  
15 quantify some of the things. It's just a matter of  
16 level of effort. Reggie's experience in doing this and  
17 again, already dealing with it the various department  
18 heads, Public Works, the Marina, the Transit Authority,  
19 Parks and Recreation, to get all the City proper at  
20 least a basic understanding of what she is up against.  
21 They have been able to provide this proposal.

22 And as she stated earlier, she had  
23 to do this independently, and so they revised that  
24 according.

25 MS. KORTHALS: I worked with Mr.  
26 Allegretti for a long time for a number of things. And  
27 one of the things we did when we first started was we  
28 met with the Mayor and his chief of staff, and Attorney  
29 Allegretti and everything that we put in the contract he  
30 approved, and he knows what path we are on. So I felt  
31 comfortable with that, but I don't go ahead and do  
32 anything without pre approval.

33 MR. FLOWERS: Thank you.

34 MR. RIVERA: Next item is Unfinished  
35 Business. (None) Public Comments (None)

36 MS. CAULEY: I have a comment. Well, Joe  
37 left, but someone else needs to know how to work this  
38 zoom because we can get in trouble for that. So we need  
39 to make sure we have that on in case someone is trying  
40 to call in.

41 MR. RIVERA: Especially if we didn't have  
42 a quorum and someone might be calling in.

1                               Next meeting date is August 18,  
2 2022, at 4:30, here at the East Chicago City Hall  
3 Council Chambers. Motion to adjourn?

4                               MS. CAULEY: Make a motion.

5                               MR. FLOWERS: Second.

6                               MR. RIVERA: All in favor say aye?  
7                               (All signify aye.)

8                               Motion carries. Meeting adjourned.

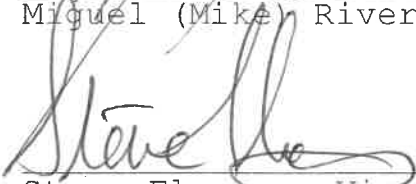
9                               \*\*\*\*\* Meeting adjourned \*\*\*\*\*  
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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of Thursday  
August 4, 2022

Approved and signed \_\_\_\_\_




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Miguel (Mike) Rivera, President



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Steve Flowers, Vice-President



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Tia Cauley



\_\_\_\_\_  
Ben Moricz

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Jawann Jones

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Debra Gritters, Secretary

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Peggy S. LaLonde, a competent and duly  
Qualified court reporter, do hereby certify that I did  
report in machine shorthand the foregoing proceedings  
and that my shorthand notes so taken at said time and  
place were thereafter reduced to typewriting under my  
personal direction.

I further certify that the foregoing  
typewritten transcript constitutes minutes of the said  
proceedings taken at said time and place, so ordered to  
be transcribed.

Dated at Munster, Indiana, this 8th day  
of August, 2022.

*Peggy S. LaLonde*



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR