BEFORE THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING
PROPOSED MARSHALL COUNTY
REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT
ORIGINAL
PROCEEDINGS
in the above-captioned matter, before Hearing
Officer Angela Bottom, taken before me, Lindy L.
Meyer, Jr., a Notary Public in and for the State
of Indiana, County of Shelby, at the Marshall
County Auditor's Office, 112 West Jefferson
Street, Plymouth, Indiana, on Wednesday,
October 19, 2022 at 5:58 o'clock p.m.
ACCURATE REPORTING OF INDIANA, LLC
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APPEARANCES: ON BEHALF OF IDEM: Angela Bottom, Hearing Officer Brian Wolff Samantha Whitaker SPEAKERS PRESENT: Jan Quivey Julie Spitznagle Jay Stone Sheila Gardner Larry Heet Joshlyn Benko

5:58 o'clock p.m. 1 October 19, 2022 2 THE HEARING OFFICER: Good evening. 3 I would like to welcome all of you to tonight's 4 5 public hearing. Will the official reporter designated for 6 7 this hearing please stand and raise your right 8 hand and state your name? 9 (Reporter sworn.) THE HEARING OFFICER: Well, my name 10 is Angela Bottom. I'm the Regional Sewer 11 District Coordinator for the Office of Water 12 13 Quality at IDEM. I am the Hearing Officer in this public hearing scheduled for tonight. This 14 hearing concerns the proposed Marshall County 15 16 Regional Sewer District, hereafter referred to as 17 the District. IDEM public noticed the petition for a 18 two-week period beginning October 8th, 2022. 19 We have also brought a few copies of the application 20 I put them on the back -- there was 21 here. probably seven or eight. Diane's got them. 22 23 At this time, I would like to introduce

1 the other IDEM staff who are present here tonight 2 in conjunction with this hearing. Samantha 3 Whitaker is the Chief of the Office of Water 4 Quality Operations Sections for IDEM. Mr. Brian 5 Wolff is the Branch Chief of the Surface Water 6 and Operations Branch for IDEM.

The purpose of this hearing is to give all 7 interested parties an opportunity to comment on 8 the petition concerning the creation of the 9 10 Marshall County Regional Sewer District. The 11 IDEM staff who are present here tonight at this hearing will not be acting as advocates of the 12 District, they will not present any evidence as 13 to why the District should or should not be 14 created. The IDEM staff want to hear your 15 comments and evidence on why the District should 16 or should not be created. 17

When presenting your comments, please include facts and evidence such as dates, what you've personally observed, and what you feel a solution is to any problem, and why. It is not helpful for the Department to receive comments favoring or not favoring a district unless the

comments are accompanied by facts. 1 Notice of the time and place of this 2 3 hearing were given as required by law by publication in the Pilot News, Heartland News, 4 5 and The Leader newspapers. Appearance cards are available for those 6 7 who would like to speak on the record in this If you have not already filled out a 8 matter. 9 card and you wish to speak, please do so at the registration table now. Be sure to indicate 10 whether you are appearing for yourself or on 11 behalf of a group or organization. Also, please 12 note the capacity in which you appear, such as 13 attorney, officer, or authorized person. 14 There is also a sign-in sheet if you want 15 16 to go on record as being present at tonight's Oral statements and written statements 17 hearing. will be considered and included in the record. 18 19 Please hand any written statements to the IDEM 20 staff here tonight. A written transcript of the hearing will 21 The transcript and any written 22 be made. 23 submissions will be open for public inspection at

the Indiana Department of Environmental 1 Management, Indiana Government Center North, 2 3 Room 1255, 100 North Senate Avenue in Indianapolis. A copy of the transcript will be 4 5 made available to any person upon payment of the 6 copying costs. 7 At this time, we'll begin taking comments 8 on the proposed Marshall County Regional Sewer District. Comments should be directed as to the 9 substance of the petition. Staff will not 10 respond to comments during tonight's public 11 hearing. Please respect the other attendees and 12 limit your comments to three minutes. 13 Anybody want to speak that hasn't filled 14 15 out a card? 16 (No response.) THE HEARING OFFICER: 17 No? Okav. Just please speak slowly and clearly so that the 18 19 court reporter can accurately transcribe your comments. We ask that the audience please be 20 21 respectful of the person speaking. 22 (Discussion off the record.) 23 THE HEARING OFFICER: Oh, and when

you come up, can you spell your name for the 1 court reporter, just so we get everything 2 Okay. Everybody ready? Okay. 3 Jan correct? 4 Quivey. MR. QUIVEY: I really -- just by what 5 you said earlier, I don't really have an issue 6 7 yet, so --UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm sorry, 8 9 Jan. Will you walk up to -- this is being live-streamed, so if you could have a seat at the 10 11 table there. 12 MR. OUIVEY: Okay. I don't really have an issue yet. 13 I came here wanting to present my side of it on whether 14 I thought we should or shouldn't have a 15 Conservancy District, but you don't want that 16 17 information. So, I will say that I live at Lake 18 19 Latonka -- my name is Jan Quivey, J a n, Quivey. I live at Lake Latonka on a small 20 lot that's all clay. I've lived there 20 years. 21 I have no issues yet, but I think it's just a 22 matter of time where I could have problems, as 23

1	there's some in my neighborhood as well.
2	Other than that, I have nothing else to
3	comment on.
4	THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Thank
5	you very much.
6	I have Julie Spitznagle.
7	MS. SPITZNAGLE: Good evening. Thank
8	you for being here.
9	THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.
10	MS. SPITZNAGLE: Julie,
11	Spitznagle. I am opposed to forming a
12	sewer district. I believe there may be a need in
13	the lake areas, from what I've been able to read
14	and research based on a 2009-2010 study that was
15	done by Cardno for Marshall County for the Soil
16	and Water Conservation District.
17	At that time, they found limited problems
18	with sewage in our lakes and streams, except for
19	some of the lakes, and the biggest pollutant of
20	our water system in Marshall County is the
21	confined feeding operations here, and that was
22	20 10 years ago, 20 years ago that they did
23	this study, and this county has continued to
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1	increase those, so I'm sure it's probably doubled
2	since the number of those that were here.
3	There's no regulations on those, so if
4	you're looking at water quality in Marshall
5	County, you need to look at what those places are
6	doing to our water systems and how they're
7	polluting it, instead of forcing the residents of
8	this county to start paying for a sewer district
9	that I have found that there is no definitive
10	need for in some of the areas that they're
11	proposing.
12	They needed it at some of the lakes, yes,
13	but when they didn't have enough people in those
14	areas to make it financially responsible to just
15	do that area, they widened out into the county
16	and were looking for areas to add, either to make
17	up that financial responsibility or for economic
18	development of those areas as their driving
19	force.
20	And these concerns were brought to the
21	Commissioners and to Jones and them, and they
22	never would answer our questions directly when
23	they asked them. They either denied having
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knowledge of that, or the quote to me was, 1 "You're interesting to debate with." There was 2 never any answers to the issues that were raised 3 for us to decide or find out if a sewer district 4 5 was needed in our area, which was Tyner and 6 Teegarden. 7 And because we asked so many questions and could not get any answers, their response to us 8 9 was to just drop it -- drop us from the sewer 10 district proposal, and not even consider our concerns to even tell us if that was something 11 that we needed, because they couldn't answer it. 12 13 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. 14 MS. SPITZNAGLE: They want to tell 15 these people they're not raising their taxes. 16 Well, no, technically there isn't -- they aren't raising taxes, but they will be raising the 17 assessments on your property. 18 19 When they raise the assessments on their properties, their taxes will go up in property 20 taxes, because the assessment is used in a 21 formula with the -- in my understanding, and I'm 22 not real good at this, but the assessments are 23

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1	used in figuring out how much a property is
2	assessed at, and that's then divided into or
3	multiplied into what your budget is based on for
4	the county.
5	So, they'll assess your property at a
6	certain level to get that assessment that they
7	need to get that income of the tax to fund their
8	budgets, if I understand correctly. So, I think
9	people here need to pay a little bit more
10	attention.
11	And another thing I did want to mention
12	was that, to my knowledge, from what I've read,
13	that the Board of Health has four different types
14	of sewer systems that are available to be
15	installed in the State of Indiana, and the
16	Marshall County Health Department, when I asked
17	their representative about that, she couldn't
18	answer my questions on whether they just tell
19	that there's only one kind, or if there she
20	informs them of these other three kinds that are
21	available.
22	So, people may find it more feasible for
23	them to find these alternative systems rather
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than the ones that they're being told that they 1 have to do. A lot of the areas, when I tried to 2 ask her about where the problems were, "Well, 3 there may be one here or there may be one there." 4 They just really didn't know. And yes, I did go 5 read the Marshall County proposal to IDEM --6 7 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. MS. SPITZNAGLE: -- I was a long time 8 9 at the library -- and I disagreed with some of the things that they have placed in there. It's 10 misleading and not forthright and forthcoming 11 about what the needs of this county are for a 12 sewer district. 13 14 Thank you. THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you very 15 much, Julie. 16 Next I have Jay Stone. 17 MR. STONE: Good evening. I am Jay 18 19 My name is spelled J a y, S t o n e, and Stone. I'm coming as a property owner. I have a 20 property on the north side of Cook Lake, also 21 have been in the septic industry for several 22 23 years, actually retired from that maybe about

1 five years now.

2 But and I well know on my own pr	roperty,
3 you know, we're very limited as to what we	e can
4 do, and for that reason, I live there about	ut six
5 months out of the year so that it can rest	t in the
6 wintertime. And most of the lake propert:	ies, you
7 know, have those situations. Of course, o	other
8 subdivisions that have been identified have	ve
9 similar problems simply because of limited	d area,
10 along with limiting layers and that sort of	of
11 thing, where you can't actually put a syst	tem in.
12 So, I see it as being a very big no	eed in
13 the county. You know, the question was po	osed as
14 far as why why a countywide sewer dist	rict?
15 And, you know, areas have been designated	that
16 have had issues, and having been an instal	ller
17 over the years, we've run into situations,	, too,
18 where someone was right next to a district	t and
19 they had a problem and couldn't do anythin	ng with
20 it, so they were wanting to tie into the	
21 district.	
22 Well, to go back and go through al.	l of the
23 legal ramifications to get that drawn up a	and into

the district is difficult, so, you know, I think 1 there was some insight at least to that with the 2 engineer was a reason to make more of a wide 3 4 county district. 5 So, those, I guess, are my comments. Thank you. 6 7 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Next up, I have Sheila Gardner. 8 MS. GARDNER: Hello. I'm Sheila 9 Gardner, Sheila, Gardner, and I'm a 10 property owner. We have one-acre parcels, very 11 12 nice, no lake. I understand why some lake people may be 13 interested in a sewer district. We are not 14 interested in helping you pay for the sewer 15 16 district. We have perfectly good systems. Μy neighbors were shocked that this was even coming 17 about, and as we were discussing it, I said it's 18 19 to help carry the financial load. 20 We don't want it. We specifically bought 21 where we are so we are not connected to the city, so we do not want it, and I do understand people 22 on the lake wanting it. No problem, but for us 23

to have to be in it to help pay for theirs, 1 don't -- do not want to be hooked up to it and do 2 3 not want it, and neither does anybody that I've 4 talked to in my neighborhood. 5 Thank you. THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. 6 7 Okay. And the last one I have is Larry 8 Heet. 9 MR. HEET: Well, thank you for 10 letting me speak. THE HEARING OFFICER: Sure. 11 My name is Larry Heet, 12 MR. HEET: Larry, Heet. I, too, am a property owner. 13 I live in Carriage Hills subdivision. 14 15 We have septic systems. I find them quite easy to maintain. Once a month you put down 16 RID-X or a like manner, and have your septic tank 17 pumped out every two years. Your septic system 18 19 should last generations to come if properly maintained. That's item number one. 20 Number two, the establishment of the 21 districts concerns me in the fact that there are 22 a lot of retirees. Retirees, as you know, more 23

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1	and more of them are going to food banks, because
2	they can't afford to buy groceries because of the
3	high cost, the inflation. Too, and as you all
4	know, the downturn in the market, most retirees
5	have lost anywhere between 20 to 25 percent of
6	their retirement, so a lot of them are afraid
7	that they won't have the funds to put them on to
8	later years.
9	And we will as one of the previous
10	speakers has said, even though taxes may not go
11	up, the assessment will, so in a sense, taxes
12	will go up. So, you put a burden on retirees,
13	but the loss of their financial future, the
14	burden that they are suffering right now, trying
15	to make ends meet, I think it's a it's too
16	much of a burden to apply to the citizens of this
17	district at this time.
18	And I thank you very much for listening.
19	THE HEARING OFFICER: Absolutely.
20	Thank you.
21	I need to apologize. I have bronchitis,
22	so okay. Anybody else want to speak or have a
23	comment?
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1	(No response.)
2	THE HEARING OFFICER: No? Okay. If
3	you would like to provide us with a written
4	comment, you can send it to our office at
5	100 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana,
6	Room 1255, 46240 [sic], before November 9th, so
7	you have until November 9th to gather your
8	thoughts, if you have if you think of
9	something else or anything like that, just send
10	it to me, and we will take it into consideration.
11	We really appreciate you coming tonight
12	and giving us your opinion, and if no one else
13	has a comment or wants to say anything, then
14	we're done.
15	Yes, sir.
16	MR. HEET: I would just like to make
17	one other comment, that all of us here
18	THE HEARING OFFICER: Come to the
19	front, please, and state your name.
20	MR. HEET: My name is Larry Heet.
21	I'd just like to make one other comment to
22	the audience, and that would be that all of us,
23	whether we oppose or whether we are in favor of,
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we all should write a letter and express our 1 opinions. That's simply -- I hope we all -- I 2 hope we all do participate in the -- in this 3 4 matter. 5 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okav. MR. HEET: Okay. Thank you very 6 7 much. Absolutely. THE HEARING OFFICER: 8 9 Anyone else? Come on up, and please state 10 your name for the court reporter. I'm Joshlyn Benko, 11 MS. BENKO: Hi. Joshlyn, Benko, and I live at Golf View 12 Estates, which is a nonlake property. 13 And I know you guys aren't up to answering 14 any questions, but I was also, from the last 15 meeting that we had here, under the impression 16 that there would have been directions or 17 instructions provided to us to be able to apply 18 19 for a petition if we were against it that would involve our area, that we would sign and send to 20 21 you, and I've not seen any of that being posted 22 or given out freely, or I'm just not looking in 23 the right places.

1	THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay.
2	MS. BENKO: But other than that, the
3	only other comment I have to say is my husband
4	and I, we have scrimped and saved to find our
5	forever family home, and we have found it. You
6	know, just a few years ago, when we moved here,
7	we have a seven-year-old and a two-year-old, and,
8	you know, again, my husband works very hard, and
9	I am a stay-at-home mom right now, but I have
10	also worked very hard to help purchase this home.
11	And, you know, that does not come easily
12	without a budget. And to be I don't want to
13	say forced, but shown that you're going to have
14	to provide now for more bills and bigger
15	expenses, it is something that, you know, we were
16	not expecting as, you know, we found this home
17	that we've not had any issues with our septic
18	system.
19	And to be told that we're going to have to
20	help pay out for some other areas, I don't feel
21	that's entirely fair when that was not our family
22	dream, and our family dream was to buy this home
23	so our children could grow up in and have a good
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solid foundation. 1 You know, and that's just my opinion, so, 2 definitely not in favor of it, but thank you for 3 allowing me to speak. 4 THE HEARING OFFICER: Absolutely. 5 Thank you for speaking up. 6 7 Anyone else? (No response.) 8 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Well, we 9 really appreciate you coming tonight, and we'll 10 take all of these comments into consideration in 11 making the final decision. 12 This hearing concerning the Marshall 13 County Regional Sewer District is now concluded. 14 Thank you all for coming, and be safe on your way 15 home. 16 17 Thereupon, the proceedings of October 19, 2022 were concluded 18 at 6:20 o'clock p.m. 19 20 21 22 23

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1	CERTIFICATE
2	I, Lindy L. Meyer, Jr., the undersigned
3	Court Reporter and Notary Public residing in the
4	City of Shelbyville, Shelby County, Indiana, do
5	hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and
6	correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me
7	on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 in this matter and
8	transcribed by me.
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10	Lindy L. Meyerft.
11	Lindy L. Meyer, Jr.,
12	Notary Public in and
13	for the State of Indiana.
14	
15	My Commission expires August 26, 2024.
16	Commission No. NP0690003
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