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### For Immediate Release

**Elkhart County, Indiana** (April 27, 2026) – Today, the Elkhart County Department of Stormwater Management Board took action to authorize the reduction of stormwater user fees charged on 9,050 of the 2026 real estate tax bills for parcels located in the unincorporated parts of Elkhart County and the Town of Bristol. These adjustments were authorized to account for any possible errors created when calculating the stormwater user fee for such parcels. The Elkhart County Stormwater Department investigated concerns and recommended adjusting the applicable 2026 stormwater user fees. Residents impacted by the reductions will be mailed adjusted 2026 tax bills along with information outlining how to obtain a refund of any overpayment made when paying the spring installment of the 2026 tax bill.

This possible error was the result of a new approach used to establish the 2026 stormwater user fees. Elkhart County and the Town of Bristol used a new system combined with new technology to calculate the square footage of impervious surfaces on each parcel, a factor used to calculate the 2026 stormwater user fee for parcels. When further evaluating the new approach, Elkhart County identified possible errors capable of negatively impacting certain parcels. To address these concerns prior to the deadline for payment, Elkhart County selected to reduce the stormwater user fee on all potentially affected properties to make the 2026 fee reflect the lower amount previously charged. Elkhart County will be working over the course of this year to review each potentially affected parcel to determine the appropriate amount to be charged in 2027. Following the assessment, some parcels may experience increased stormwater user fees reflective of the accurate amount owed for the parcel, despite the parcel being underbilled in prior years.

Elkhart County wants to ensure that its residents, including those in the Town of Bristol, receive a fair and accurate stormwater user fee based upon the specific parcel. These fees are the funding source used to meet legal requirements set by the State of Indiana. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), under the direction of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), designated Elkhart County, and certain municipalities therein, including the Town of Bristol, as regulated Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems or MS4s, which requires them to comply with the MS4 Permit and other state and federal requirements.

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