

**MILK RIVER INTERCOUNTY DRAIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT
SPECIAL PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 30, 2020**

A special public informational board meeting of the Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage Board was held on Thursday, April 16, 2020, via teleconference in compliance with the State of Michigan Executive Order No. 2020-02, dated March 13, 2020, and Executive Order No. 2020-48, dated April 14, 2020; electronic (telephonic or video conferencing) attendance will meet the quorum requirements, all votes will be taken by roll call, and public participation will be allowed at the designated portion of the agenda in accordance with the recommendations of Executive Order 2020-48.

Members Present Via Teleconference

Michael R. Gregg, Chair, Michigan Dept. of Agriculture & Rural Development, State of Michigan
Elmeka N. Steele, Esq., Wayne County Drain Commissioner, Wayne County
Bryan Babcock, P.E., Director of Public Works/Water, City of St. Clair Shores
Brian Baker, Chief Deputy, Public Works Office, Macomb County

Others Present Via Teleconference

Kyle Seidel, Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick
Mike Harrington, Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick
Brent Avery, Southeast Macomb Sanitary District
Brett McDonald, P.E., Southeast Macomb Sanitary District
Lori Hicks, Southeast Macomb Sanitary District
Matthew Coppler, City of St. Clair Shores
Becky Spada, City of St. Clair Shores
Bruce Smith, City of Grosse Pointe Woods
Frank Schulte, City of Grosse Pointe Woods
John Brennan, Fahey, Schultz, Burzych & Rhodes
Brady Harrington, State of Michigan

1. Call to Order

Mr. Gregg called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. Board Members will not communicate via text or other private methods of communication while this meeting is in session.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Baker moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was supported by Mr. Babcock. Motion adopted.

3. Welcome – Michael Greg

Mr. Gregg introduced the MRIDDD Board Members and the Executive Staff of the participating communities and vendors. He welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the public informational meeting. The MRIDDD has been working diligently trying to come up

with solutions to the high lake levels and the impact of the Milk River Pump Station for properties along the Milk River. Anderson, Eckstein, and Westrick (AEW) prepared a Hydraulics Study for the Milk River Board to determine peak flows into the Milk River and projected potential high summer lake levels. The MRIDDD Board is following the recommendations of the Hydraulics Study to help alleviate potential flooding along the Milk River and moving forward with a sandbag levee operation.

4. Emergency Declarations – John Brennan

Mr. Brennan, MRIDDD Legal Counsel, reviewed the St. Clair Shores' Emergency Ordinance 35.013 and the Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage District's Emergency Declaration. The MRIDDD Emergency Declaration works in conjunction with the SCS Emergency Ordinance to take immediate action to protect the public health, safety, property, and general welfare as a result of the rising lake levels.

5. Rules of Meeting – John Brennan

Mr. Brennan reviewed the following meeting rules: the participants should mute their microphone during the presentation, no chat allowed during the meeting, questions will be addressed during public comment at the end of the meeting, during public comment raise your hand, and wait to be acknowledged before proceeding with your question(s).

6. Project Overview – Kyle Seidel

Mr. Seidel, Professional Engineer and Certified Floodplain Manager with AEW, who gave an overview and a brief history of the Milk River Pump Station. In 1958, the groundbreaking began for the Pump Station at 1190 Parkway Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods. The Pump Station services 100,000 residents in St. Clair Shores, Harper Woods, and Grosse Pointe Woods. The facility operates to alleviate local infrastructure during times of wet weather and as a result, may raise the elevation of the Milk River during heavier storm events. For more information about the Milk River, he referenced the link available on the SCS website under the Milk River Sandbagging Information tab, which displays the Public Notice, the MRIDDD Emergency Declaration, the Milk River Retention Treatment Basin (Pump Station) Information, the Army Corps of Engineers current Daily Lake Levels, the Projected Monthly Lake Levels, and the Preliminary Milk River Flooding Map. The Army Corps of Engineers' daily lake level report shows the current Lake St. Clair projected high water level four inches higher than the June and July 2019 peak lake levels. As of April 29, 2020, the current lake level mean is 577.14, which is two inches below the median projected level. As a cautionary note, in January 2020 when we received three inches of rain, it raised the lake level by ten inches.

Mr. Seidel explained the current flooding maps are based on SEMCOG's one-foot contours with a resolution of plus or minus six inches. In March 2020, the MRIDDD Board authorized an aerial flight of the Milk River and surrounding streets to get a higher accuracy survey. On April 2, 2020, DroneView Technologies flew the Milk River area and completed a survey with a resolution of plus or minus three inches. This survey gives better accuracy of the floodplain in relation to the structures along the banks of the Milk River. The projected floodplain map will be updated using the higher resolution contours from the drone survey and will be uploaded to the SCS website by Monday, May 4, 2020. The flooding map shows the red shading as the current still water projected high water surface and the blue shading shows the

projected water level with all six pumps running at the Milk River. Sandbag levees will be installed around areas of high risk by Landscape Services, Inc.

Mr. Seidel showed pictures of the current sandbagging operation taking place at the Grosse Pointe Woods Lake Front Park and explained how the levee will be constructed using a pyramid structure. Using the Milk River easement, yard access may not be necessary for all property owners. Not everyone who received a public notice will need a sandbag levee. The following is used to determine if a sandbag levee is necessary:

1. Based on the updated topographical aerial survey dated April 2, 2020, located on the web at <https://www.scsmi.net/912/Milk-River-Sandbagging>, the Milk River's Engineering Consultant will determine if there is ten inches of vertical freeboard between the projected water surface and the structure on the property.
2. If there is greater than ten inches of freeboard, no sandbag levee will be installed.
3. If there is less than ten inches of freeboard, the Engineering Consultant will complete a ground survey to confirm the elevations and determine if a sandbag levee is necessary.
4. The Field Supervisor (Mike Harrington, (810) 650-8095, mharrington@aewinc.com), will coordinate access landowner agreements with the property owner or occupant to complete the necessary survey and install the sandbag levee.

Before any work can be done on the landowner's property, a landowner agreement will need to be signed. The landowner agreement gives temporary permission for:

- The MRIDDD and its contractor to access the property for placement of sandbags, which could be outside of the District's right-of-way.
- Brush or growth outside of the District's right-of-way may need to be cleared, however, the landowner will be notified beforehand.
- Any damage to fencing, pavement, installed landscaping, or other structures caused by the contractor's activities will be repaired.
- Equipment mats will be used, when necessary, for lawn protection.
- Temporary permission ends when the bag placement is complete.
- Placed sandbags must remain on the property until the Declarations of Emergency are rescinded.
- Landowners will be contacted by the MRIDDD regarding the removal of the sandbag levee within a reasonable time after the Emergency Declarations are rescinded.

The Landowner Agreement is available on the St. Clair Shores website and with the Construction Field Supervisor. The MRIDDD will be covering the costs for this entire sandbagging operation.

Mr. Brennan commented that the landowner agreements are temporary permission to do the work and will not be recorded with the Register of Deeds. Once the agreements are signed, a copy will be returned to the landowner for their records.

7. Public Comment

Mr. Gregg requested any public participants to identify themselves before making public comments. Mr. Gregg announced the opening of Public Comment, at which time:

Mike M, 23364 Westbury - thank you for hosting this meeting. He has a garage that is in the high-water level; would that be covered similar to a house? Will FEMA be updating the 100-year floodplain maps and will flood insurance be a requirement? If the street floods, will the Police allow parking on the streets?

Mr. Seidel replied insurable structures are covered in this sandbagging levee operation. He is not aware of any remapping of the 100-year floodplain map any time soon. If you are not currently in the 100-year floodplain, flood insurance can still be purchased at a much cheaper rate. He recommends everyone along the Milk River consider getting flood insurance. He noted the 30-day waiting period before the insurance becomes effective.

Mr. Babcock replied that SCS is not anticipating any street flooding and will be taking preventative measures. However, if the street does flood, the Police Department would accommodate the residents for street parking.

Councilman Chris Vitale - Will the contractor be accommodating the irrigation systems currently in the yards during sandbagging? When will the sandbags be removed?

Mr. Seidel replied the intention will be to support the existing systems that the residents have in place. The estimated date of sandbag removal is December 2021.

Kevin Louwers, 23154 S. Rosedale Court – will the sandbags prevent the water from the yards going back into the Milk River. He commented that the flooding occurs when the six pumps are running; do they all have to run at the same time?

Mr. Seidel replied that in certain locations, a four to six-inch pipe with two 90° bends be installed in a trench under the sandbag levee as a backflow preventer to help drain the yards. He will be sure Mr. Louwers' yard will have the backflow preventer installed. The firm pumping capacity of the Milk River is six pumps.

Mr. Avery commented that during any large storm event, SEMSD starts pumping early to avoid a peak pumping event using all six pumps when possible.

Mr. Baker asked how long the sandbags are designed to last and will the landscape be restored when the sandbags are removed.

Mr. Seidel replied the sandbags are made from a heavy-duty material, covered with plastic and should last for up to two years. Landscape restoration will happen when the sandbags are removed.

Ms. Steele thanked Mr. Gregg for holding the meeting. She thanked the Flood Prevention Sub-Committee for their efforts on this sandbag levee operation. She supports the action of the MRIDDD Board and the recommendations of the Flood Prevention Sub-Committee.

Mr. Smith commented that he is pleased the MRIDDD Board could accommodate the residents and keep flooding to a minimum.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Babcock moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was supported by Ms. Steele. Motion adopted.

There was no further discussion to come before the Drainage Board. The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Brian Baker, Chief Deputy Macomb County Public Works Commissioner

NOTE: The foregoing minutes are subject to Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage Board approval.