

**MILK RIVER INTERCOUNTY DRAIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT
DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 17, 2020**

A meeting of the Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage Board was held on Thursday, September 17, 2020, via teleconference in compliance with the State of Michigan Executive Order No. 2020-02, dated March 13, 2020, and Executive Order No. 2020-154, dated July 17, 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 2020-154.

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
Maria Nawrocki, Deputy Finance Director, City of Harper Woods

Others Present Via Teleconference

Kyle Seidel, Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick
Kip Walby, Southeast Macomb Sanitary District
Lori Hicks, Southeast Macomb Sanitary District
Bruce Smith, City of Grosse Pointe Woods
Frank Schulte, City of Grosse Pointe Woods
Michael Way, City of Grosse Pointe Shores
John Brennan, Fahey, Schultz, Burzych & Rhodes
Russ Strassburg, Tetra Tech
Elizabeth Barrera, Wayne County
Moyna Moore, Wayne County
Patrick Cullen, Wayne County

1. Call to Order

Mr. Gregg called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Board Members will not communicate via text or other private methods of communication while this meeting is in session.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of the Minutes for:

a. August 13, 2020, Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage District Board Meeting

Mr. Babcock moved to approve the August 13, 2020, Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage District Board Meeting minutes as presented. The motion was supported by Ms. Nawrocki. Motion adopted.

b. September 3, 2020, Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage District Special Board Meeting

Mr. Baker moved to approve the September 3, 2020, Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage District Special Board Meeting minutes as presented. The motion was supported by Mr. Babcock. Motion adopted.

4. Reports

a. Operations and Maintenance (O&M)

The Operations and Maintenance (O&M) update was presented by Kip Walby. Mr. Walby commented that Mr. Avery is at Milk River completing training on the flushing gates. There were discharges on August 28th, September 7th, and September 8th due to the heavy rain events. Grit Pump #1 and Dewatering Pump #1 are back with the Dewatering Pump already installed. Grit Pump #1 should be installed by Friday. Grit Pump #2 will be removed and sent to Kennedy for repairs with the repair costs paid by the contractor except for \$1,500 to apply the protective coating to the pump. Sanitary Pump #8 is completed and will be returned next week. The facility is starting to shape up. He informed the Board that Ms. Hicks will be retiring in October and SEMSD is in the process of looking for her replacement.

Ms. Hicks commented she enjoyed working with the Board and thanked them for the opportunity to be a part of the group.

The Board Members wished Ms. Hicks well in her retirement.

Mr. Seidel displayed photos of the Milk River drainage improvement project performed by LSI at a cost of approximately \$12,000, which was lower than the estimate of \$13,560. The project is complete, and a payment request will be submitted to Wayne County within the next week. He discussed the current Lake St. Clair projected water levels. As of September 16, 2020, the Army Corps of Engineers' report shows the lake level mean at 577.16. Over the past month, the water level has been trending down. It is anticipated based on the projection that by December, the median drop will be approximately 12 inches from today's level.

Mr. Smith asked if there was a reduction in standing water with the drainage improvements.

Mr. Walby replied yes, there has been a reduction. He commented that there are dead trees and wood throughout the residential side of the Milk River. He would like to have the SEMSD operators clean it up but asked Mr. Smith if GPW would be able to help by chipping the wood.

Mr. Smith replied yes and asked Mr. Walby to work with Mr. Schulte to schedule a date.

Mr. Schulte commented that Friday would be the best day for GPW DPW.

Mr. Walby will coordinate a Friday cleanup date with Mr. Schulte.

Mr. Gregg requested the Austrian Pine (the one that looks like a Bonsai) not be removed as it has been there for years.

Mr. Walby replied the Austrian Pine will only be trimmed and not removed.

b. Priority 1B and Select Improvements Project – Construction Update

The Drainage District Board received the Engineering Services and Construction Contract Status Report and the Summary of SRF Loan Costs Reports as of September 4, 2020, with \$1,323,501.63 showing as the Unforeseen Conditions Balance. Mr. Strassburg commented that the engineering contract is approximately 86.49% completed and invoiced through August 28, 2020. The construction contract is approximately 89.42% completed and invoiced through June 19, 2020. He reported the following work is being done: the disinfection system is almost finished; the repair quote for Pump #4 is being reviewed; contractor demobilization has started; training for the flushing gates has begun; he displayed a map of the proposed porous pavement plan showing a substantial sub-base under the brick pavers where the construction trailers are now.

Mr. Walby commented that there were some issues with the pumps on August 28, 2020, however, with the September rain events, the pumps were functioning much better. He originally had a problem with the brick pavers due to maintenance. However, with a substantial sub-base, the pavers should not be a problem to maintain.

Mr. Strassburg commented that there is a \$100,000 principal forgiveness loan in the SRF loan to use toward the pervious pavement project. This incentive program is to help reduce stormwater runoff and implement sustainable design practices. He recommended moving forward with the pervious pavement project as proposed.

Ms. Barrera commented that she needs the Spence Brothers' invoices right away due to Wayne County's year-end.

Mr. Babcock moved to receive and file the Construction Reports. The motion was supported by Mr. Baker. Motion adopted.

5. New Business

No new business.

6. Unfinished Business

a. Proposals for New Level Sensors

Mr. Seidel reviewed the Motor City Electric Technologies, Inc. Proposal No. 20-0907 for \$106,168.86 and AEW's Proposal dated July 31, 2020, for \$26,000, which includes \$4,000 for permits and DTE fees. This project was included in the FY21 Budget and is critical for long-term operation. The level sensors give a measure of safety and can see upstream giving more operational control of the system to utilize more in-system storage during certain rain events. The level sensors work great with minimal maintenance required.

Mr. Baker asked if we received quotes from any vendors other than Motor City.

Mr. Seidel replied no because Motor City does all the work on the SEMSD SCADA system so they can diagnosis their equipment if there are problems.

Mr. Baker asked if the level sensors are permanent and what brand are the sensors.

Mr. Seidel replied the level sensors are permanent and the brand is Ultrasonic Beam Sensors. He commented that SEMSD has had level sensors for the past 8-10 years and have had no problems with them.

Ms. Steele asked Ms. Moore if there would be any cash flow issues if work started on October 1, 2020.

Ms. Moore replied the O&M cash balance as of the October/November timeframe should not be a problem especially with the prepayments.

Mr. Seidel would like to move forward with the project soon so he can begin work on obtaining the permits.

Ms. Steele commented that even though there was a consensus from the Board Members to move forward with the project, funds may not be available until December. She wanted to remind everyone of the cash flow priorities, which are Construction invoices first, O&M invoices next, and then other payments.

Mr. Gregg asked how long it will take to complete the project.

Mr. Seidel replied approximately four months from start to finish with the permits taking approximately one month. He suggested the project be approved with a December 1, 2020, start date.

Mr. Gregg updated the Board on the financing details. A conference call is scheduled today with the Department of Treasury and the SRF Staff to possibly secure additional SRF funding. Once a decision is made, the Board will be able to move forward with securing funding through either the SRF loan or the Bond Sale.

Mr. Babcock moved to approve the new level sensor project with authorization to start the work at a later date during the FY21 budget once Ms. Barrera and/or Ms. Moore inform the MRIDDD Board that funds are available for the project. The motion was supported by Mr. Baker. Motion adopted.

b. AT&T Cell Tower Lease Update

Mr. Brennan commented that Mr. Watzka has not received a response from AT&T yet. Mr. Watzka believes A&T will not respond in good faith to his correspondence. Since the contract runs through the next fiscal year, Mr. Brennan suggested waiting a little while for a response from AT&T, and the lease revenue has been included in the FY21 Budget.

Mr. Gregg asked Mr. Brennan if this will be his last Board Meeting until there is another issue that needs to be brought forward to the MRIDDD Board.

Mr. Brennan agreed with Mr. Gregg and will not attend another MRIDDD Board meeting until needed.

7. Approval of the SEMSD Operations and Maintenance Invoice

The SEMSD Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Invoice for August 2020 for \$82,077.86 was reviewed. The total amount billed included the O&M monthly invoice and the reimbursable pass-through costs.

Mr. Baker moved to authorize the payment of SEMSD Invoice O&M 8-2020. The motion was supported by Ms. Steele. Motion adopted.

8. Public Comment

Mr. Gregg announced Public Comment and asked for any public participants to identify themselves before making public comment. No public comment was made.

9. Next Drainage Board Meetings

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is Thursday, October 15, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. via telephonic and video conference per Executive Order 2020-154, dated July 17, 2020.

10. Adjournment

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

There was no further discussion to come before the Drainage Board; the meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.



Brian Baker, Chief Deputy Macomb County Public Works Commissioner

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