

**MILK RIVER INTERCOUNTY DRAIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT
DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 17, 2021**

A meeting of the Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage Board was held on Thursday, June 17, 2021, via teleconference in compliance with State Public Act 254 of 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.

Members Present Via Teleconference

Michael R. Gregg, Chair, Michigan Dept. of Agriculture & Rural Development, State of MI
Reporting from Mason, MI
Elmeka N. Steele, Esq., Wayne County Drain Commissioner, Wayne County
Reporting from Oakland County, MI
Brian Baker, Chief Deputy, Public Works Office, Macomb County
Reporting from Clinton Twp., MI
Bryan Babcock, P.E., Director of Public Works/Water, City of St. Clair Shores
Reporting from St. Clair Shores, MI
Bruce Smith, City Administrator, City of Grosse Pointe Woods
Reporting from Grosse Pointe Woods, MI

Others Present Via Teleconference

Kyle Seidel, Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick
Brent Avery, Southeast Macomb Sanitary District
Kip Walby, Southeast Macomb Sanitary District
Pete Trombley, Southeast Macomb Sanitary District
Dianne Schelosky, Southeast Macomb Sanitary District
William Snyder, City of Harper Woods
Frank Schulte, Grosse Pointe Woods
Shawn Murphy, Grosse Pointe Woods
Steven Schmidt, Grosse Pointe Woods
Moyna Moore, Wayne County
Russ Strassburg, Tetra Tech
Brady Harrington, State of Michigan

1. Call to Order

Mr. Gregg called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Current legislation validates meeting structure. The State of Emergency ordinances were confirmed to be in effect in the County of Wayne and the city of Grosse Pointe Woods. The board will be proceeding with a virtual meeting, hosted by Kyle Seidel.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Baker, Macomb County, made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was supported by Mr. Smith, Grosse Pointe Woods. Motion passed.

3. Approval of the Minutes for:

a. May 20, 2021, Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage District Board Meeting

Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores, moved to approve the minutes for the May 20th, 2021, Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage District Board Meeting as presented. The motion was supported by Mr. Baker, Macomb County. Motion passed.

4. Reports

a. Operations and Maintenance

Pete Trombley reported on the Operations and Maintenance. There has been some rain recently, resulting in two capture events. No discharge was required. On May 28th, 2021, 12.6 million gallons were captured. The other event took place the following Wednesday, resulting in 7 million gallons being captured. Pump #4 performed well during the run times. We will be working with Spence and Tetra Tech on a few components that need to be honed in. There is currently a plan in place to correct the issues on the loading port for the disinfection building. The Recirculation building took in a delivery of chlorine, and the system has been proofed out. The tank has been filled up about halfway and a test was run on the small hose pumps that will dose the lake water. There are currently two recirculation pumps running and the dissolved oxygen levels have been good, staying around 9 parts per million. Groundskeeping and housekeeping issues have been addressed as they arise. Mr. Trombley also reported on what is known as the "Rainbow Rack". It has been cleaned up. This is a big grate that is a semi-circle, located at the entry of the 16-foot tunnel right before it comes into the wet well, it requires cleaning from time to time.

Mr. Gregg questioned how much more run time pump #4 would require before it was accepted. Mr. Walby reported that it is believed to be approximately 179 minutes and that they are working out the details and discrepancies with Spence to determine the initial start time and the final acceptance run time.

Mr. Walby also reported that they will continue the painting at the Milk River after July 4, 2021. Additionally, fence screening is being installed along Parkway to shield the area. He also noted that there are some concerns regarding a low-hanging power line. A picture of the line was shown. Mr. Smith, Grosse Pointe Woods, will investigate a more permanent option for the power line.

It was also noted was that we are 75% thru the budget year and there are a handful of items being considered to be completed. One such item is the repair of the road which is cracked and holds water. Al's Asphalt was contacted to provide a quote for the project, as they recently finished a project at the SEMSD. There is also more landscaping to be added at the Recirculation Building. This would be a nice addition to the area.

Additionally, the Harper Woods gate is currently in need of repair. The repair estimate is approximately \$5,000. Mr. Trombley reported that the Harper Woods gate is a confined space entry, going approximately 30 feet underground. The hinges on the access hatch are broken and in desperate need of repair. This should be repaired within the next 2-3 weeks as it is a safety

issue. Other items on the radar and to be included in this budget are the purchase of some much-needed lawn equipment which will be dedicated to the Milk River facility, as well as a flagpole to be installed.

Estimates for future investments:

- \$15,000-\$20,000 for the road repair
- \$6,000-\$10,000 for lawn equipment
- \$2,500 dedicated to a flagpole.
- \$5,000-\$7,000 for the landscaping
- \$5,000 for the Harper Woods gate.

Mr. Schulte, Grosse Pointe Woods, noted that he is looking into the power line that is low hanging. DTE believes that it is a service line that is feeding lights to the lakefront park. It may need a pole to support the line and lift it. DTE has been contacted and an update will be provided when more information is received.

Ms. Steele, Wayne County, noted that she supports the investment in future projects as suggested. She requested that Mr. Walby email the estimated numbers to Moyna Moore so that they can review where the budget stands and decide which items will be able to be included in this budget year, prioritizing the most needed items for the fourth quarter.

Mr. Walby noted that these additional costs would be covered thru the pass-thru costs which have already been budgeted for this fiscal year. The spending thus far has been frugal, and it is believed that these costs will be allocated from the pass-thru budget, no amendments to the budget will be required.

Mr. Smith, Grosse Pointe Woods, and Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores, also noted to be in agreement with the future investments brought forth.

Mr. Smith, Grosse Pointe Woods urged that the Harper Woods gate be fixed first as it is a safety issue. Mr. Trombley reported that the repair is scheduled.

A motion to receive and file this report was presented by Mr. Smith, Grosse Pointe Woods. The motion was supported by Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores. The motion passed.

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

Mr. Strassburg presented the construction update. The acceptance period is underway for Pump #4. Storm Pump #5 was shipped off for assessment and repair. They are currently waiting for a quote for that repair. Storm Pump #5 is expected to be back in November 2021. The new spiral staircase was installed in the stormwater wet well. Mr. Trombley reported that it is being used and it is working well. Landscaping touch-ups were completed last month. Old or broken pavers were replaced with new ones. A site walk-thru was completed last week with Dave Weiss and the deficiency list was updated. The results from the Grosse Pointe Woods' April 8, 2021 inspection was received and is being reviewed. Any areas of concern will be identified and reported to the board accordingly.

The Contract Construction Status Report was presented by Mr. Strassburg. Tetra Tech is invoiced thru the end of May. They are 89% billed for the project. Spence is invoiced thru the end of April. They are over a 94% completion rate for the project. There have been no changes with the Construction Cost Summary.

Mr. Trombley noted that Rory from Perceptive is no longer with the company. He was the designer for the SCADA system. Spence will be responsible for making sure his position is covered.

Mr. Walby also noted that the site is 90-95% covered in weeds and the grass has not taken. This is something that Spence needs to address and should be put on the deficiency list.

A motion to receive and file the Project-Construction Update was made by Mr. Baker, Macomb County. Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores, supported the motion. Motion passes.

5. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

6. Unfinished Business

a. Request by Spence Bros. regarding the release of the Project Contingency

Spence has chosen not to provide the required Letter of Credit for the contingency release. Mr. Strassburg reported that he has not received any communications regarding this matter. Mr. Gregg also noted that Mr. Brennan has likewise not been contacted regarding this matter.

No further action is required at this time.

b. FY 22 Milk River 9 Month Budget

Ms. Moore reported on the Budget. The 9-month budget was revised, as the Sandbag Removal Project was moved to be included in this year's budget. The 9-month budget will begin on 10/01/2021 and run until 6/30/2022. A 12-month Milk River budget will then be adopted, coinciding with the Fiscal year, beginning 7/1/2022. Ms. Moore reviewed the budget summary as presented on screen. The 9-month budget was created by looking at the current year's trend. Ms. Moore noted the first SRF loan breakdown and the allocation percentages for the communities that did not 100% pre-pay as well as the principal and interest payments on the newest SRF loan. The actual budget expenses that have gone thru the accounting system includes up thru March 31, 2021. Out of a total of \$3.8 million budgeted, we are at approximately \$1.8 million spent. This is approximately 47% spent of the budget. Interest rates have greatly decreased, as a result, a very conservative approach was taken to project the estimated revenue for the upcoming budget. Future expenses and changes were noted, including the SEMSD rate change. A decrease in the Legal fees and the Miscellaneous Contractual Service fee was also noted. The budgeted Supply category did not see any increase or decrease. The utility budget also did not see any changes. All categories of expense were reviewed and explained. The increase in the proposed budget of \$2.9 million for the 9-month period is up approximately \$48,000, from our current budget. As of May 31, 2021, the fund balance report shows that there is \$1.7 million in O&M, \$3.4 million in the Construction account and the Reserve remains at \$342,000. There is a cash balance of \$5.5 million for construction or contingencies. Ms. Murphy, Grosse Pointe Woods, requested clarification of the interest payment on page 4 of the budget report. Specifically, the interest payment that is due October 1, 2021, on the second SRF loan.

Ms. Moore is going to look into the payment and will get back to Ms. Murphy once the updated figure is confirmed and the actual payment coupon is received from the state. Ms. Moore confirmed that the 10/01/2021 interest payment is \$23,510.73 for the new SRF loan based on the amortization schedule. Ms. Moore will send the information to Ms. Murphy. Mr. Gregg thanked Ms. Moore for a well-presented budget report.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, Grosse Pointe Woods, to receive and file the 9 Month Budget Report and to approve the proposed 9 Month Budget that will begin October 1, 2021 and go thru June 30, 2022. Mr. Baker, Macomb County, supported the motion. Motion passes.

c. Removal of Sandbags

Kyle Seidel reported on the lake levels of Lake St. Clair. The 6-month projection looks good, noting that there is currently a drought in this area. There has been a substantial drop in the water surface since last summer. The lake is 17 inches lower today than it was on this date one year ago. The high-end mean shows that the levels will be 14 inches lower than we were last year. We are currently in a good situation as far as lake levels are concerned.

A public notice was sent out to 210 property owners along the canals in St. Clair Shores and along the Milk River regarding the Sandbag Removal project. An agreement was included with the letter in the event the property owner wanted to keep the sandbags. This is an agreement to be signed and returned if the property owner so chooses. Some of the property owners have chosen to keep the sandbags. Mr. Seidel displayed all houses notified on-screen.

Meetings with Landscape Services Inc. are scheduled to start Monday, June 21, 2021, at which time the removal of the sandbags will begin. Removal will start at the Ford property. LSI will be handling all of the sandbag removals, including the park. This project is projected to last 7-9 weeks. The payments for the removal will be cycled thru the SEMSD pass-thru report beginning in July. This will fall under a separate pass-thru account.

A motion to receive and file the Sandbag Removal Report was made by Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores. This motion was supported by Mr. Smith, Grosse Pointe Woods. The motion passes.

7. Approval of the SEMSD Operations and Maintenance Invoice

Kyle Seidel presented the O & M Invoice on screen. Mr. Walby reviewed the invoices and expenses, noting that there will be some bigger expenses submitted on next month's invoice. These will include invoices for landscaping and paint. Mr. Walby also thanked Wayne County for the recent payments received and for keeping up on the outstanding invoices.

A motion to approve the SEMSD Operations and Maintenance Invoice was made by Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores. Mr. Smith, Grosse Pointe Woods, supported the motion. Motion passed.

8. Public Comment

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

9. Next Drainage Board Meeting

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is planned for Thursday, July 22, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. This meeting will be held in a virtual format as long as the State of Emergency Orders do not change or expire in the city of Grosse Pointe Woods and Wayne County.

Ms. Steele will review the Emergency Declarations as revised by Wayne County and report any changes made. Currently, the order extends thru December 31, 2021.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Smith, Grosse Pointe Woods, moved to adjourn the MRIDDD meeting. The motion was supported by Mr. Baker, Macomb County. Motion adopted.

There was no further discussion to come before the Drainage Board; the meeting adjourned at 11:36 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.