

**MILK RIVER INTERCOUNTY DRAIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
January 27, 2022**

A meeting of the Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage Board was held on Thursday, January 27, 2022, located at City of St. Clair Shores City Hall, 27600 Jefferson Avenue, St. Clair Shores, Michigan, 48081.

**Members Present**

Michael R. Gregg, Chair, Michigan Dept. of Agriculture & Rural Development, State of MI  
Patrick Cullen, Wayne County Drain Commissioner, Wayne County  
Daniel Acciavatti, Public Works Office, Macomb County  
Bryan Babcock, P.E., Director of Public Works/Water, City of St. Clair Shores  
Frank Schulte, Administrator, City of Grosse Pointe Woods

**Others Present**

Kyle Seidel, Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick  
Kip Walby, Southeast Macomb Sanitary District  
Pete Trombley, Southeast Macomb Sanitary District  
Marie Tighe, Southeast Macomb Sanitary District  
James Kowalski, Assistant Director of Public Services, City of Grosse Pointe Woods  
William Snyder, City of Harper Woods  
Brent Avery, Southeast Macomb Sanitary District  
Russ Strassburg, Tetra Tech  
Greg Tupancy, Tetra Tech  
Susan Como, City of Grosse Pointe Woods

**Others Present Via Teleconference**

Moyna Moore, Wayne County

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Gregg called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Cullen moved to approve the agenda. The motion was supported by Mr. Babcock. Motion passed.

**3. Approval of the Minutes for:**

**a. December 16, 2021, Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage District Board Meeting**

Mr. Babcock, moved to approve the minutes for the December 16, 2021, Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage District Board Meeting as presented. The motion was supported by Mr. Cullen, Motion passed.

**4. Reports**

**a. Operations and Maintenance**

Mr. Trombley showed pictures of the facility that were shared on screen. The bar screen failed in front of the storm well. It was an involved project by Titus Welding and required using a crane. Titus Welding took out the old and replaced it with a new section of the bar screen and secured it down.

Mr. Trombley reported a sub floor under the pump house (how we access the bar screen) has old electrical circuit boards and there are rusting away. The electricians came out and replaced them also and installed lights in that area. Now it can be used as a storage room.

Mr. Trombley reported pump #5 has been put back together. The staff performed the initial testing before the Holidays and the testing was successful. We are considering Pump #5 as in-service. Pump #4 and #5 are still waiting for the final acceptance from the owner/operators because of the tripping issues we were having with the greasers. Pentair and Cavanaugh think they finally have the cause of why the greasers were tripping out. One of the check valves were gumming up and causing a failure. Mr. Trombley stated during a wet weather event we will need four hours of run time on pumps #4 and #5 and four individual start and stops.

Cavanaugh spent quite a few days before the Holidays adjusting the flushing gates on Basins 1 and Basins 2. Mr. Trombley stated we have been able to flush the basin fully three times with minimal issues and failures.

Mr. Seidel reported that the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers' six-month forecast continues to indicate that the water levels are trending downward and there is a low risk of summer flooding.

Mr. Seidel showed pictures of the weir extensions that were placed where the RTB discharges into the Milk River. The lake got so high that it went over the normal weir wall. This would have meant that our basin would have been full 100% of the time and zero storage. Tetra-Tech and the contractor added a 10 inch extension with metal plates along the serpentine weir and water climbed right to the top. Currently, water is down 18 inches from the top of the metal plates.

Mr. Walby reported on December 23, 2021, we received a call about a fire at the facility. GFL, the trash company who empties the dumpster every week caused a fire in the parking lot. GLF stated they picked up batteries from another location and that caused the fire. Grosse Pointe Woods came out with a claw and helped. The fire department responded as well.

#### **b. Priority 1B and Select Improvements Project**

Mr. Tupancy reported the contractor is off-site and plans to be back when it's warmer. Waiting on a construction schedule. The Scada System is installed and the contractors need to submit a plan for testing and get approval for the whole system. Issues are being addressed in regards to the leaking of Flushing gates and the check valves with Penair. The contractor is working on the deficiency list and it was reported that it is 50% completed and another 50% remaining. Most items cannot be completed until warmer weather.

Mr. Tupancy reported on the allowance authorization and noted that the contractors have not submitted anything. There is half a million dollars to be allocated for additional repairs but not in any hurry to get it done. The Summation report notes that Tetra Tech is up to date on invoices and tracking well. Tetra Tech contract covers the project performance certifications and is 100% left

in design. Mr. Strassburg reported in regards to the project performance certification that EGLE has responded and reviewing those comments.

Mr. Acciavatti, made the motion to receive and file the Priority 1B and Improvements Project report. The motion was supported by Mr. Cullen. Motion passes.

A Notice of Claim on Payment Bond from the law offices of Cavanaugh/Quesada was received. They represent Titas Welding Company who claim they are presently owed \$37,600.21. Mr. Tupancy recommends to receive and file this notice until the Board receives some thing official from the insurance company that holds the bond.

Mr. Cullen, made a motion to receive and file the Notice of Claim on Payment Bond from Cavanaugh/Quesada on behalf of Titas Welding Company. The motion was supported by Mr. Babcock. Motion passes.

## **5. New Business**

### **a. Board Packets**

Mr. Walby noted the MRIDDD board is now meeting in-person and asked the board how they would like to proceed in regards to board packets. The board requested Mr. Seidel to continue to provide Zoom for people, other than board members who want to attend virtually. The SEMSD will bring 2 to 3 printed board packets without invoices. Mr. Seidel will project the board packet on the screen.

### **b. FY22 6/30/22 Budget Revision**

Mr. Schulte request to table the revision of the FY22 6/30/22 Budget. Grosse Pointe Woods (GPW) is requesting an itemized breakdown from Ms. Moore since there is a significant increase. Ms. Moore noted at the last meeting GPW had received a four year history of what the charges have been for the Wayne County Central Service Chargeback, specifically highlighting the ERP portion of that amount as well as Grants management. That request has been submitted and right now we are in the mist of our annual audit. It was determined that the Deputy Chief Financial Officer will be the person to answer any questions or concerns on what the trend has been. Also to discuss a little bit more on the methodology behind and the allocation of Central Service but at this time, Ms. Moore is trying to get some available dates and its looks like it will be March or April after the audit via Zoom meeting. Ms. Moore has no problem tabling this because ultimately, what Ms. Moore is proposing there will not be a line item increases, we expect the charges to be as they have been prior to fiscal years because the SRF has taken its last draw. It is her understanding that there is not a plan for another SRF loan for this project. Therefore, there will be no federal funds. So this handout was intended to show you what it was, what it looked like before federal funds and applying that same methodology to the current years budget. Ms. Moore is not proposing to increase that line item, in fact she thinks it will come in significantly under. We can absolutely table this discussion until after we have the additional detail regarding the methodology and allocations of the two highest pieces of that chargeback in either March or April.

Mr. Babcock motioned to table the Central Service Budget Revision and put on the April 28, 2022 meeting agenda for reconsideration. Mr. Cullen supported the motion. Motion passes.

## **6. Unfinished Business**

### **a. GPW Inspection Letter-Compliance**

Mr. Walby noted the GPW inspection letter compliance is kept on the agenda as a tracking mechanism for everyone. The SEMSD has completed some of the items such as signage and fire extinguishers. To keep a better tab on the items a spreadsheet will be provided in the next board packet. Mr. Gregg suggest to make sure Spence Brothers is well aware of what items they are responsible for.

**b. User Charge/O & M Overview**

Mr. Walby and Mr. Seidel provided a brief overview the 9 month budget period. The monthly sewer rates charge to the MRIDDD will be \$196,699.73. Three items that factor into the total of \$29,016,785.96 consist of O&M, Capital and Bond Debt. Based on a five year average, the MRIDDD is 8.29% of the \$29,016,785.96. Mr. Seidel noted they have provided flow data of the last five years. The MRIDDD portion of the SRF payment is 2.87% which consist of the Kerby Pump Station and the Harper Woods gate.

The monthly fee for the SEMSD contractual services to operate and maintain the Milk River RTB is \$56,644.54. When the SEMSD started the O&M of the Milk River RTB it was determined that MRIDDD would pay one-third of the costs of the operations. The overtime average before SEMSD took over O&M was \$27,336.09 for period of 2014-2017. The SEMSD average amount of overtime since 2018 when SEMSD took over the Milk River RTB is \$186,097.00. Mr. Walby explained during wet weather the SEMSD needs 4 full time employees working overtime for the Milk River RTB which totals \$141,120.81. Other items that factor into the overtime increase amount is the social security costs, standby compensation, retirement contribution, the OPEB contribution healthcare for life (5 employees), OPEB contribution HSA (4 employees) and Workers Compensation. Mr. Seidel noted if anyone wants to meet and go over the information provided, just let them know.

Mr. Acciavatti motioned to receive and file the User Charge O&M Overview. Mr. Babcock supported the motion. Motion passed.

**c. Update-AT&T Cell Tower-Engineering Analysis**

Mr. Strassburg noted the engineering analysis of the AT&T Cell Tower add ons is in progress. It appears the additions are minor. Replacing 12 radioheads with 6 on the roof. AT&T is adding a fiber trunk which Tetra Tech is looking into. Tetra-Tech will continue with their analysis and report back to the board.

**d. Milk River Generator Proposal**

Mr. Strassburg reported Tetra Tech will continue to pursue the generator proposal. Mr. Gregg reported the RFP for the Generator Feasibility went out to bid. No bids were received. The board decided to offer Tetra-Tech the opportunity to perform the analysis thru an amendment of their current service agreement.

**e. Property Insurance/Appraisal Quote**

Mr. Walby noted Mr. Saph is still working on quotes for the property values and insurance at Milk River. The quotes should be available for the February, 2022 board meeting.

**f. Girard Drain Update**

Mr. Cullen reported on the Milk River level sensors and the permit application that was submitted to Wayne County. There is a draft permit approval letter but there will be some plan

review associated with the permit. The approval letter for the installation of the Milk River level sensors permit should be coming out within the next week. The ownership of the drain is still unsure. The process to relinquish the drain to Grosse Pointe Woods and Harper Woods started but never completed. The final order of relinquishment was never found. Mr. Cullen noted that the drain is considered a Chapter 20 drain. A separate meeting will be scheduled to discuss.

**7. Approval of the SEMSD Operations and Maintenance Invoice**

Mr. Walby reviewed the monthly invoice and pass-thru costs as noted in the Board Packet.

A motion to approve the SEMSD Operations and Maintenance Invoice as presented was made by Mr. Babcock. Mr. Cullen 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, February 24, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. This meeting will be held at St. Clair Shores City Hall. 27600 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081.

**10. Adjournment**

Mr. Acciavatti moved to adjourn the MRIDDD meeting. The motion was supported by Mr. Cullen. Motion adopted.

There was no further discussion to come before the Drainage Board. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.



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Brian Baker, Chief Deputy Macomb County Public Works Commissioner

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