

**MILK RIVER INTERCOUNTY DRAIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT
DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 26, 2023**

A meeting of the Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage Board was held on Thursday, January 26, 2023, located at the 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
Elmeka Steele, Esq., Wayne County Drain Commissioner, Wayne County
Brian Baker, Chief Deputy, Public Works Office, Macomb County
Bryan Babcock, P.E., Director of Public Works/Water, City of St. Clair Shores
Heather Toutant, Deputy Director of Public Services, City of Harper Woods

Others Present

Kyle Seidel, Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick
Kip Walby, Southeast Macomb Sanitary District
Pete Trombley, Southeast Macomb Sanitary District
Dianne Schelosky, Southeast Macomb Sanitary District
Jim Kowalski, City of Grosse Pointe Woods
Susan Como, City of Grosse Pointe Woods
Russ Strassburg, Tetra Tech
Greg Tupancy, Tetra Tech
John Brennan, Fahey, Schultz, Burzych & Rhodes
Moyna Moore, Wayne County
Jessica Kenyon, Wayne County

1. Call to Order

Mr. Gregg called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Baker, Macomb County, moved to approve the agenda with the addition of item 5(d) SEMSD Building Project. The motion was supported by Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores. Motion passed.

3. Approval of the Minutes for:

a. December 15, 2022, Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage District Board Meeting

Mr. Baker, Macomb County, moved to approve the minutes for the December 15, 2022, Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage District Board Meeting. The motion was supported by Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores. Motion passed.

4. Reports

a. Operations and Maintenance

Mr. Trombley provided an update on the Operation and Maintenance of the facility. Mr. Trombley noted several rain events have occurred since the December meeting. On December 15th and 16th, there was a rain event, resulting in .6 inches of rain. This was all captured into the first flush capture basin. On New Year's Eve, there was a full basin capture, 1.12 inches of rain was received resulting in a full capture and

the in-system storage was used successfully. The new level sensors have been helpful in getting profile screens on SCADA. Discharge was able to be diverted. On January 20, 2023, an inch of rain was received across the district resulting in a full capture and storage in the Milk River tunnel. The basin was dewatered and flushed. Four other rain events occurred, all stored in the tunnel and nothing in the RTB. The first bleach tanker load was also received. Mr. Trombley has been in contact with Kennedy regarding the refurbishment of the Recirculation Pump, once the pump is received it will be swapped out and the other one will be refurbished. Kennedy will hold it as a spare.

Mr. Seidel reported on the level sensor in the Girard Drain. A display of how the Girard Drain is connected to the Milk River was shown. There has not been a significant amount of rain to measure thru 12/30/2022. They will be reporting on this quarterly. There is a lot of capacity available. Mr. Kowalski noted that the Grosse Pointe Woods level sensors are up and running as well and they can share their data. This will help to see what is coming. It was noted that EGLE should be informed of the integration with Grosse Pointe Woods and improvements in the level sensors, which will ultimately lead to fewer discharges.

Mr. Walby noted that a year-end letter highlighting what happened in 2022 will be provided at the February meeting.

A motion to receive and file the Operations and Maintenance Report was made by Ms. Steele, Wayne County. Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores, supported the motion. Motion passes.

b. Priority 1B and Select Improvements Project

Mr. Tupancy noted that there was no construction update to report.

Tetra Tech is billed up through the end of December and has no issues with the budget. Spence has not submitted anything since last March.

As part of the mediation, there has been a push to get the cost proposals put together into an Allowance Authorization. Two have been negotiated during mediation, which will be revised by Spence accordingly, then it will be signed off on.

Mr. Strassburg shared information regarding the flushing system, specifically, the flushing gates. Photos and videos of properly installed and functioning systems were shown, as well as a video of the current systems at the Milk River facility. Gushing leakage was witnessed at the flushing gates in the Milk River facility. There are 23 gates at the Milk River facility, 15 gates have been identified as having issues, and 14 of the gates have very significant issues. Measurements were taken by both Spence and Tetra Tech to determine the leakage rate, as shown in the report in the board packet. The published specs for the gates are .16 gallons per minute or 10 gallons per hour. A blended team of contractors, engineers, and SEMSD prepared the measurements. It is noted that in four hours 33% of the flushing value for gate 1.1 was lost, this is more than 8% per hour. Total leakage equates to thousands of gallons over four hours. It was noted that this work is still under warranty. Spence contests the spec requirements of the contract. The manufacturer reviewed the specs and approved them as stated in the contract.

A motion to receive and file the Construction Progress Update Report was made by Ms. Steele, Wayne County. Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores, supported the motion. Motion passed.

5. New Business

a. PPC

Mr. Strassburg reports that they continue to gather data and are waiting for EGLE to issue a decision as to whether further monitoring will be required for the Project Performance Certification to be issued. This will be added to the March agenda.

b. Generator

Mr. Strassburg noted that additional data has been provided from the SEMSD, and three years of data have been added to this study, this showed that a higher percentage of events are being captured, with less discharge. This is due to the efficient running of the facility by the SEMSD. Further results should be available to be presented at the February meeting.

c. Budget to Actual Report

Ms. Steele introduced Ms. Jessica Kenyon, the new Assistant Division Director of Finance. She will be taking over as Ms. Moore is departing Wayne County. Ms. Moore reviewed FY22 and FY23 reports as seen in the board packet. FY 22 ended in June of 2022. This was a 9-month budget year. FY23 will be the full fiscal year. FY22 ended with \$14,000 in revenue over expenses. The total FY23 cash/fund balance is \$3.4 million as of January 23, 2023.

A motion to receive and file the budget to the actual report was made by Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores. Mr. Baker, Macomb County, supported the motion. Motion passes.

d. SEMSD Building

Mr. Walby reviewed a project involving the construction of a new building for the SEMSD. The project has been put out for bid; the ideal situation would be to leave the current building on-site during project construction. However, it was discovered that the building may need to be torn down during the construction due to cost issues. If the existing building cannot stay on-site during construction, a trailer may be required for the SEMSD staff to operate. Permission to station a trailer and possible storage units on the Milk River site was discussed. The project is expected to extend for roughly 18 months. Bids are due February 22, 2023. More information will be forthcoming at the March MRIDDD meeting.

6. Unfinished Business

Mr. Gregg discussed a press release that was drafted and approved. This should be released next week.

No other unfinished business was noted.

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. The pass-thru budget stands at approximately 41%.

A motion to receive and file the report and approve the SEMSD Operations and Maintenance Invoice as presented was made by Mr. Baker, Macomb County. Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores, 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 noted.

The board entered a 5-minute recess from 11:10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

9. Closed Session

Ms. Steele, Wayne County, made a motion to enter a closed session for the consideration of an Attorney/Client Memorandum and Opinion regarding a dispute with a contractor. Support was given by Ms. Toutant, Harper Woods. Motion passes. The Board entered a closed session at 11:16 a.m. as permitted by State Statute MCLA 15.268 Sec. 8(e).

The Chair, Mr. Gregg, declared the MRIDDD meeting to be in open session at 12:05 p.m.

Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores, moved to approve the minutes for the December 15, 2022, Closed Session. Mr. Baker, Macomb County, supported the motion. Motion passed.

10. Next Drainage Board Meeting

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is planned for Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. A tentative date of February 9, 2023, at 10:30 a.m., is reserved for a Special Meeting of the Board to approve the Mediation Agreement. These meetings are scheduled to be held at St. Clair Shores City Hall, 27600 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081.

11. Adjournment

Ms. Steele, Wayne County, moved to adjourn the January 26, 2023, MRIDDD meeting. The motion was supported by Ms. Toutant, Harper Woods. Motion approved.

There was no further discussion to come before the Drainage Board.
The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 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.