

**MILK RIVER INTERCOUNTY DRAIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
February 23, 2023**

A meeting of the Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage Board was held on Thursday, February 23, 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  
Russ Strassburg, Tetra Tech  
Greg Tupancy, Tetra Tech  
John Brennan, Fahey, Schultz, Burzych & Rhodes

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Baker, Macomb County, moved to approve the agenda. The motion was supported by Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores. Motion passed.

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

**a. January 26, 2023, Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage District Board Meeting**

Mr. Baker, Macomb County, moved to approve the minutes for the January 26, 2023, Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage District Board Meeting. The motion was supported by Ms. Toutant, Harper Woods. Motion passed.

Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores, moved to approve the minutes for the January 26, 2023, *Closed Session*. Mr. Baker, Macomb County, supported the motion. Motion passed.

**4. Reports**

**a. Operations and Maintenance**

Mr. Trombley provided an update on the Operation and Maintenance of the facility. Mr. Trombley noted that it has been a busy month. Between February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, .85 inches of rain was received in the district. This resulted in a full capture and the in-system storage in the tunnel was utilized. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 9 million gallons were received and captured. The dewatering of the tunnel has been successful.

Kennedy Industries is ready to install the recirculation pump. The refurbishing of the recirculation pump is being worked on and an update will be provided at the next meeting. Dewatering of this area is restricted due to a bend in the pipeline. Pictures were shown on screen. They will open the sluice gate, pump the river down, and try to reduce the leakage. They hope to get a contractor in, possibly HESCO, to give a condition assessment for the repair. An estimate for the refurbishment of the pumps is included in the budget.

Residents along the river will be notified of any dewatering that will occur. The process should take around 36-48 hours. Door hangers have been created to help alert the homeowners that this will be happening. It was noted that environmental safety issues will be considered and respected while doing the work.

The SEMSD has recently worked on some tree removal projects, the dying trees have been removed and new ones will be planted. They are currently waiting for warmer weather to complete some of the other tree removal projects. A climber will be required to finish the large remaining tree.

The SEMSD has completed the safety grading on the spiral staircase leading to the rainbow rack, and caution signs will be posted. This was part of the punch list to be completed.

It was noted that during the February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> weather events, DTE took one of the electrical feeds down. Only one feed of power was available, but everything ran smoothly. The feed to the transformer was down for about 5 days, this was in the Marter and Jefferson area.

Lake level photos were shown. The lake levels are 36 inches lower now than they were when the lake was at its highest. It is still 8 inches above the 100-year average.

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

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

Mr. Tupancy reported that there has been no work performed by Spence, and therefore no construction update to report.

Tetra Tech is billed through the end of January and is tracking well with the budget. Spence has not submitted anything since last March.

The Allowance Authorizations are being worked on. The mediation agreement allowed for some additional costs on the project change orders that Spence submitted. They have been reviewed and approved. There is one item from mediation that is outstanding. This includes excavation work needed to be done for the repair work on the bridges leading to the pump house. This shall not exceed \$11,000. There is a balance remaining of \$162,000 and the project is still within budget.

Mr. Strassburg noted that there is no update on the PPC study and has not heard from EGLE.

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

## **5. New Business**

### **a. Generator**

Mr. Strassburg reports that they gathered additional data and incorporated it into their report. They have been waiting for a quote from a generator supplier, which will be eliminated from the report as they have not been responsive. This will be added to the March agenda.

### **b. Year End RTB Performance**

Mr. Seidel reported on the year-end summary, noting that it has been a very dry season. The average plotted rainfall over the last 6-7 years is 37.7 inches, the district experienced 24.66 inches of rainfall. The summary of the discharges are included in the report. This summary over the last 6-7 years shows the respective volumes. There is a substantial difference in discharges due to the current use of in-line storage, allowing for less discharges. Charts show how much rain total is received and what was the discharge volume. The sludge that accumulated in the past inhibited the storage capacity. During the event on February 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, .83 inch of rain was captured, with frozen ground. The removal of the Total Suspended Solids is also noted. They are at 45% TSS removal. The E. coli guidelines have also been met. Overall, the system has been operating very well. It was noted that it would be beneficial to share the data with EGLE to demonstrate the value of the investment made by the state and the overall performance of the operations. A refined version of the report will be brought to the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting to be shared with the communities and EGLE.

A motion to receive and file the Year End RTB Performance report was made by Mr. Baker, Macomb County. Support was given by Ms. Steele, Wayne County. Motion passes.

## **6. Unfinished Business**

### **a. SEMSD Building**

Mr. Walby noted that the new building bids have been received and are being evaluated. The issue of moving out of the SEMSD building during construction is no longer relevant, as we will be able to maintain operations out of the old building during construction. The bids will be presented to the SEMSD Board at the next meeting.

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

Mr. Walby reviewed the monthly invoice and pass-thru costs as presented in detail in the Board Packet. The pass-thru budget currently stands at 45%. It was noted that the garage roof project will be going out for bid and the results will be brought to the March meeting.

The budget should be ready for the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

A motion to approve the SEMSD Operations and Maintenance Invoice as presented was made by Ms. Steele, Wayne County. Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores, supported the motion. Motion passes.

## **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.

## **9. Closed Session**

Ms. Toutant, Harper Woods, made a motion to enter a closed session for the purposes of discussing with the board counsel, a written confidential opinion dated February 23, 2023, regarding pending mediation of a dispute with a contractor involving the Priority 1B Project. Support was given by Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores. Motion passes.

The Board entered a closed session at 11:00 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 11:40 a.m.

**10. Next Drainage Board Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is planned for Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting is 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 February 23, 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 11:41 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.