

**MILK RIVER INTERCOUNTY DRAIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT
DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 27, 2023**

A Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage Board meeting was held on Thursday, April 27, 2023, 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
Elizabeth Barrera, Assistant Division Director, Deputy 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
Jessica Kenyon, Wayne County
Greg Tupancy, Tetra Tech

1. Call to Order

Mr. Gregg called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Baker, Macomb County, moved to approve the agenda. The motion was supported by Ms. Toutant, Harper Woods. Motion passed.

3. Approval of the Minutes for:

a. March 23, 2023, Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage District Board Meeting

Mr. Baker, Macomb County, moved to approve the minutes for the March 23, 2023, Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage District Board Meeting. The motion was supported by Ms. Barrera, Wayne County. Motion passed.

4. Reports

a. Operations and Maintenance

Mr. Trombley provided an update on the Operation and Maintenance of the facility, noting that there was a busy and rainy stretch of time between March 31st and April 5th. Three and one-third inches of water was received during this time period and resulted in three discharges. The facility ran well during the rain events. The year-to-date discharge total is about 160 million gallons, last years total was fifty-five million gallons. It was noted that last year there were two discharges for the entire year, and so far, this year there have already been four discharges. The annual rainfall for this year is 3 to 3.5 inches higher than the average.

Three tanker loads of bleach have been received, they are restocked and ready for the next event. It took about three days to clean the basin after the last events and they are working on the flushing gate issues. They are ready for the next rain event.

The Sanitary pump has been pulled and is being refurbished. This is within the budget to have repaired. The budget is \$40,000, and the quote for the repair is \$34,000.

The lake recirculation pump has been pulled and replaced with one that has been rehabbed. Two recirculation pumps are back in place after being refurbished. Kennedy will be doing the work for the repair of the recirculation pumps. Pictures were shown on the screen of the new and refurbished pumps and the installation process. The budget reflects the repair and replacement costs of these pumps.

On Friday, April 28th the SEMSD will be hosting a tour of the facilities to the local DPW Directors and personnel.

It was noted that the E.coli numbers have been in compliance throughout the discharge events. The recirculation station is stocked and ready for chlorination. Continuous dosages of chlorine will be applied to deter Zebra mussels throughout the swimming season. The Zebra mussels begin to appear when the water reaches approximately fifty-four degrees Fahrenheit. The current lake water temperature is forty-nine degrees Fahrenheit.

A motion to receive and file the Operations and Maintenance report was made by Mr. Baker, Macomb County. Ms. Barrera, Wayne County, supported the motion. Motion passes.

b. Priority 1B and Select Improvements Project

Mr. Tupancy noted that progress has been made with the SCADA work. They are waiting for information on the mediation agreement. It was noted that Tetra Tech has not received a Progress Payment request.

Tetra Tech is billed through the end of March and is currently under budget. There have been no submissions by Spence for over one year. They are waiting for the mediation agreement items to be settled to complete the Allowance Authorizations. There should be a credit coming back to the district. They are under budget for unforeseen conditions. The concrete work is scheduled to start soon and is dependent on the weather.

A motion to receive and file the Construction Progress Update Report was made by Ms. Toutant, Harper Woods. Mr. Baker, Macomb County, supported the motion. Motion passed.

5. New Business

a. PPC

The Project Performance Certification work, under the plan that was developed and approved, will be completed by the end of the month and a report will be put together. This should be completed by June and submitted to EGLE.

b. Generator

No update was available for the Generator report. This will be added to the May agenda.

A motion to receive and file the PPC and Generator reports was made by Ms. Barrera, Wayne County. Mr. Baker, Macomb County, supported the motion. Motion passes.

c. Wayne County Financial Update

Ms. Kenyon reviewed the financial report as prepared in the board packet. It was reported that spending is on track. There are some invoices still to be submitted. Ms. Kenyon noted the expenses are on track and will do more research on the budget moving forward. The O&M account is the main cash account that pays all the O&M bills. The construction account is related to the SRF funding.

Ms. Kenyon will look into the ability to use the SFR funding account for future emergency needs that were not included in the budget.

It was noted that a debt payment was made at the end of March for April. The next one will be made in September for October.

A motion to receive and file the Wayne County Financial Update was made by Mr. Baker. Ms. Barrera supported the motion. Motion passes.

d. SEMSD Rates

The 2024 monthly charges for sewer rates, which were approved at the March 22, 2023, SEMSD board meeting, were presented and explained. The fee for the MRIDDD community totaled \$187,790.30 monthly. This is a decrease from the previous year and is based on a five-year average. The cost distributed across the communities equaled \$29,799,377.64. The rate summary calculation was explained and reviewed as noted in the board packet.

A motion to adopt the 2024 monthly bill for sewer rates to become effective July 1, 2023, and go through June 30, 2024, was made by Ms. Toutant, Harper Woods. Mr. Baker, Macomb County supported the motion. Motion passed.

e. SEMSD O & M Service Fee

The Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage District's monthly fee for the SEMSD contractual services to operate and maintain the Milk River RTB is \$57,387.37. The new rate starts July 1, 2023. This is up 1.7% from the current \$56,409.75. The increase is primarily a result of the additional hours required for servicing the flushing gates and the labor required to run the facility. Milk River is charged one-third of the cost, while the SEMSD is responsible for two-thirds. Overtime expenses were driven by the Milk River facility's operation and standby needs.

Mr. Baker, Macomb County, motioned to approve the new O & M rates starting July 1, 2023, as noted in the board packet. Ms. Barrera, Wayne County, supported the motion. Motion passes.

f. FY24 Budget

The Fiscal Year 2024 budget was reviewed, and a summary of costs was detailed. The summary of costs includes O&M costs of \$4,057,596; Priority 1b Debt at \$2,317,750; New Bond Debt at \$272,156; and a total budget of \$6,647,502.

It was noted that the operations team is looking into getting SWAN meters, which read levels in real time and tend to be more efficient for operations. They are compatible with the SCADA systems, have better data, and are ultimately better for the environment as they tend not to result in an overdosing of chlorine. Chapaton RTB is currently using this technology. Other Capital Projects totaling \$308,000 were also reviewed and listed in the board packet.

A motion to adopt the Milk River FY24 Budget was made by Mr. Baker, Macomb County. Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores, supported the motion. Motion passes.

g. May Meeting Date

Due to conflicts in board members' schedules, the May MRIDDD meeting date will be changed from Thursday, May 25, 2023, to Wednesday, May 31, 2023. The meeting has been scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. and will take place at the City of St. Clair Shores City Hall.

h. Sanitary Pump Repair

It was noted that \$40,000 was allocated for the repair of the sanitary pump. An estimate of \$33,950 was received for the project. Three pumps are being refurbished. Pictures of the pumps were displayed on the screen. SEMSD is looking for approval to move forward with the repair of the sanitary pump.

A motion to authorize the repair of the sanitary pumps for the amount quoted was made by Mr. Baker, Macomb County. Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores, supported the motion. Motion passes.

6. Unfinished Business

a. MRIDDD Annual Performance

Mr. Seidel highlighted and reviewed the MRIDDD performance report as noted in the board packet. This report notes that the system data for 2022 was reviewed and compared with previous years in an effort to evaluate the facility's operational performance over the past year. The E.coli numbers were reviewed and were noted to be below the permitted allowances. The total residual chlorine balance was below 1.5 mg per liter. The average ranged between 1.26 and 1.36 mg per liter and is within the permitted numbers. The district is meeting the NPDES permit standards. A summary of this information should be put on the municipal website pages and shared with EGLE. The SEMSD/MRIDDD 2022 End-of-Year System Summary will be put on the SEMSD website.

A motion to receive, file, and direct the SEMSD to transmit the Year End System Summary to EGLE was made by Mr. Baker, Macomb County. Ms. Barrera, Wayne County, supported the motion. Motion passes.

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. It was noted that the expenses are 53% spent and are currently under budget. The 2022 Capital item of replacing the garage roof was awarded to Premier Builders and the Capital Items are getting accomplished.

A motion to approve the O & M Invoice for \$87,708.35 and as presented in the board packet was made by Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores. Ms. Barrera, Wayne County, 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

It was noted that mediation negotiations are ongoing, and forward progress is being made. A Closed Session did not occur. More updates will be provided at the May MRIDDD meeting.

10. Next Drainage Board Meeting

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is planned for Wednesday, May 31st, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. The meeting is scheduled to be held at St. Clair Shores City Hall, 27600 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081.

11. Adjournment

Ms. Barrera, Wayne County, moved to adjourn the April 27th, 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 11:32 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.