

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

A Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage Board meeting was held on Thursday, October 26, 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
Elmeka N. 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, Director of Public Works, City of Harper Woods

Others Present

Kyle Seidel, Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick
Kip Walby, Southeast Macomb Sanitary District
Dianne Schelosky, Southeast Macomb Sanitary District
Jim Kowalski, City of Grosse Pointe Woods
Jessica Kenyon, Wayne County
Russ Strassburg, Tetra Tech

1. Call to Order

Mr. Gregg called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Steele, Wayne County, moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was supported by Ms. Toutant, Harper Woods. Motion passed.

3. Approval of the Minutes for:

a. September 28th, 2023, Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage District Board Meeting

Mr. Baker, Macomb County, moved to approve the minutes for the September 28th, 2023, 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

Light weather patterns have been reported over the last thirty days. Nothing has gone into the basins since the last meeting. Spence has been out to remove 15 hatches from basin #2. Laser measurements are being done to ensure that the specifications are met. The sanitary and grit pumps are back, and everything is good with the spares. Photos were shown of the flushing gate removal and the new handrail. A video of the river was also shown, noting that there is a lot of work to be accomplished to remove dead trees and debris.

Mr. Walby recommended installing cameras at the Milk River facility for safety and security. It was agreed that cameras should be installed, as it is generally expected that most facilities do have cameras.

They are waiting for Doetsch Environmental Services to come to do the vactoring and hope to have it completed by the next meeting.

The SEMSD is working on changing the landscape of the facility to provide a habitat for bees, butterflies, and other species that are beneficial to the environment. They are currently working with the gardeners from the Ford Estate to come up with a design that will make this area more environmentally friendly for pollinators. This will include providing Michigan native plants that will attract pollinators to the area.

Mr. Seidel reported on the lake levels. It was noted that levels are 20 inches lower than they were at their highest point. We are substantially below what is expected. Some communities are starting to dredge again. Pictures were shown of the water levels at the Milk River facility.

The Girard Drain level sensor report shows 26.7 feet in the RTB. This is making more room for in-line storage. It is a balancing job for the operators managing the levels. The operators can see what the level is in real-time, and balancing the in-line storage can result in a reduction in the number of discharges, storing more in the wet well. A lot of factors play into the level of storage. This information, including the performance improvement and reduced discharge events, will be provided in an annual report for the board.

Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores, motioned to receive and file the Operations and Maintenance Report. Ms. Steele, Wayne County, supported the motion. Motion passed.

b. Priority 1B and Select Improvements Project

Mr. Strassburg reported no change in the financial pay applications. No change in the financial reports. It was noted that Spence is in the process of removing all 15 gates from basin #2. They will get into the basin to start grinding as early as next week. They are looking for the final pay application to be submitted by the next meeting.

A motion to receive and file the Priority 1B and Select Improvements Project was made by Ms. Toutant, Harper Woods. Mr. Baker, Macomb County, supported the motion. Motion passed.

5. New Business

a. 2024 MRIDDD Meeting Dates

The calendar meeting dates for 2024 were presented and discussed. It was decided that the board will meet every other month for the 2024 calendar year. The standard monthly operating charge, \$57,387.37, will be paid each month. The operating pass-thru costs will be paid once they are reviewed and approved by the board at each meeting. The previously agreed upon \$20,000 authorization for spending stands and the emergency repair policy remains in place.

A motion to adopt the proposed 2024 MRIDDD meeting schedule of meeting every other month, beginning January 2024, and moving the May meeting to May 30th, 2024, was made by Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores. Ms. Toutant, Harper Woods, supported the motion. Motion passes. Meeting invitations will be sent out.

b. Insurance Renewal

Mr. Walby reviewed the insurance renewal policy as presented in the board packet, going through a breakdown of the coverages. Liability is the same as the previous year. Noted was the cyber-attack coverage in the policy. A large portion of the coverage results from property insurance. A third-party appraiser provided the value reports. The annual premium increased \$11,902 or 9.8%. This increase is most likely the result of the increase in property values and inflation. Nickel & Saph, Inc. put together the proposal. It was noted that the intake area may need to be inspected and cleaned of debris by a professional diver a couple of times a year.

Mr. Baker, Macomb County, moved to approve the insurance renewal as presented. Ms. Steele, Wayne County, supported the motion. Motion passed.

c. Q1 Financial Report

Ms. Kenyon, Wayne County, presented the Q1 Financial Report, noting that we are three months into the year and 25% spent and on track for the budget. The July and October invoices for communities have been processed. The debt payment that was due September 25th, 2023, was made in late August. Everything seems to be on track. This is a preliminary report as the numbers are not finalized. It was noted that the replacement account balance, meant to be a reserve account, stands at \$341,000. This account should be discussed and reviewed as the funds could be invested or used. This could be rolled into the O&M account going forward. Ms. Kenyon will do further research into this account and report back to the board.

A motion to receive and file the Q1 Financial Report was made by Mr. Baker, Macomb County. Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores, supported the motion. Motion passed.

6. Unfinished Business

a. Generator

Mr. Strassburg noted that the PPC report was submitted before the deadline, and a copy was sent to all the board members. They are waiting for a response from EGLE.

The generator report is being reviewed. The recommendations are to replace the DTE transformers that are aging. They are looking at a generator that will cover 84% of the rain events. This would entail obtaining a 2 to 2.5 Mega Watt generator. A meeting with the SEMSD to go through the operational aspects of the report to make sure that they are targeting the right number of pumps to get the right number of events is suggested. More information will be provided at the November board 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, noting that they are 25% spent in the pass-thru budget.

A motion to approve the O&M invoice for \$182,875.31 as presented in the board packet was made by Mr. Baker, Macomb County. Ms. Steele, 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. Next Drainage Board Meeting

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is planned for Thursday, November 30th, 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.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Baker, Macomb County, moved to adjourn the October 26th, 2023, MRIDDD meeting. The motion was supported by Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores. Motion approved.

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