

**MILK RIVER INTERCOUNTY DRAIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
November 30, 2023**

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A Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage Board meeting was held on Thursday, November 30, 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, Director of Public Works, 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  
Resident Participant

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was revised to include bullet-point Flushing Gate Repairs, under Item 4.b. Mr. Baker, Macomb County, moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores, supported the motion. Motion passed.

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

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

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

**4. Reports**

**a. Operations and Maintenance**

Mr. Trombley provided an update on the Operation and Maintenance of the facility, noting that there have been no storage events since the last meeting, and only a few wet weather events that resulted in in-system storage. There has been no need for storage in the RTB, which has proven to be helpful for the progression of the warranty work that is being done on the Flushing Gates. The SEMSD has awarded Safeway Vactoring

to clean up the large amount of sediment that resulted from the August rain events. This should be completed by the next board meeting.

They are preparing to shut down the Recirculation Station for the year. There has been a small issue with the constriction of the intake water there, possibly due to the lower lake levels, seaweed, and leaf debris. A diver will assess the intake status in the spring. This system will go back up in the beginning of March 2024. During March, April, and May there will be one pump running. June through September there will be two pumps operating. It was noted that they will piggyback with the City of St. Clair Shores to use their diver to perform the inspection work. The Dissolved oxygen levels have been great all year, with no issues noted.

There was a meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup> with a few residents from the area of Yorktown and Marter Road, as well as Mr. Kowalski to discuss concerns about odor issues around the facility. It was noted that the SEMSD is running an odor check sheet for the area. The operators perform this check with their daily station checks. They are working with Mr. Kowalski and the residents to determine when and where the odor might be coming from. They are monitoring the Milk River facility as well as the Marter Road Booster Station. They will continue to work with Grosse Pointe Woods to combat the issue.

It was noted that one of the key level sensors, an outbound flow meter, lost telemetry on Thanksgiving. There is an electrical disconnect box in the Grosse Pointe Woods DPW lot that failed. It is an old box that needs rehab. There is a sump pump and an old electrical box in this chamber as well. They plan to restore the data flow for visibility and then work to rehab and update this chamber. This may be a project that will be put out for bid and will be brought to the board for approval.

A video of the river, showing trees and debris hanging over the river was shown. The goal is to clean up the hanging limbs and debris, if possible once the river freezes. The property owners will be informed of any upcoming work. They are also moving forward with camera installation at the facility, the cost estimated to be \$10,900.

Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores, made a motion to receive and file the Operations and Maintenance report. Ms. Toutant, Harper Woods, supported the motion. Motion passes.

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

Mr. Strassburg reported that there has been no change in the financial status and no final PCO has been received from Spence Bros. The flushing gate work is being done in Basin #2. Scanning is done, and they are currently grinding the area to meet the specifications. They are waiting to hear back from Spence for a status update and reinstallation plan. The project is progressing and everything looks good so far.

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

### **5. New Business**

There was no report under New Business.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **a. Generator**

Mr. Strassburg noted that they are still working on the report for the Generator Project. Progress is being made and they hope to have a presentation at the December 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. It was noted that the Insurance Renewal premium and the pump repairs were larger items on the pass-through invoice. The budget is 41% spent through October.

A motion to approve the O&M invoice for \$217,987.93 as presented in the board packet was made by Mr. Baker, Macomb County. 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. A resident participant was present, noting he was attending to become educated about the facility and operations, but had no official comment.

### **9. Next Drainage Board Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is planned for Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 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**

Ms. Toutant, Harper Woods, moved to adjourn the November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, MRIDDD meeting. Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores, supported the motion. Motion approved.

There was no further discussion to come before the Drainage Board.  
The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 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.