

**MILK RIVER INTERCOUNTY DRAIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT
DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 30, 2024**

A Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage Board meeting was held on Thursday, May 30, 2024, 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
Willie Anderson, 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
Greg Tupancy, Tetra Tech
Russ Strassburg, Tetra Tech
Jessica Kenyon, Wayne County
Jenna Hulme, City of St. Clair Shores
Heather Throne, State of Michigan

1. Call to Order

Mr. Gregg called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Steele moved to amend the agenda with the addition of item 4 (c.) Q3 Budget to Actual Report and item 5(a.) Drainage Board-House Bill 5758. Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores supported the motion. Motion passed.

Mr. Baker, Macomb County, moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores, supported the motion. Motion to approve the agenda passed.

3. Approval of the Minutes for:

a. March 28, 2024, Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage District Board Meeting

Mr. Baker, Macomb County, moved to approve the minutes for the March 28, 2024, Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage District Board Meeting. Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores, supported the motion. Motion passed.

4. Reports

a. Operations and Maintenance

Mr. Trombley reported that they have been very busy since the March 28th meeting. There was a small discharge, a little over eight million gallons, on April 12th, 2024. All went well and they were within all compliance numbers. There were also four additional captures during that time frame. They are doing well maximizing in-system storage within the existing infrastructure. On May 3rd they received one inch of rain, resulting in full capture in the RTB. About 11.7 million gallons were captured and prevented from going into Lake St. Clair. Operationally everything is running well. An update on a motor control was done on one of the sanitary pumps.

Mr. Walby noted that the employees work very efficiently, doing an excellent job utilizing the level sensors, and take considerable pride in not discharging into the lake.

Mr. Seidel provided a review of the Black Marsh Drain profile. There are thirty-four feet of pliable storage, they do not exceed thirty-two feet during events. Personnel is on site to monitor these levels and the level sensors let them know what is coming. The Girard Drain offers additional space for storage. It was noted that EGLE should be notified of the efficiency of the system.

It was noted that the DTE feed was down to one power source for 52 days. They have been in constant communication with the primary representative from DTE and are currently back in full electrical redundancy.

There continue to be issues with the flushing gates. In Basin #1, only two gates are completed, and they are not operational. Sediment continues to accrue, due to not being able to be flushed. Additional vactoring work will need to be done to remove this sediment and not overwhelm the pumps. Mr. Brennan will be contacted to look into filing a claim for additional costs. Four of the flushing bin faces, which the gates go onto, have passed scanning, and can move forward. Two remain to be repaired.

AT&T was on site inspecting the antenna on the roof of the building.

Divers have been inspecting the Jefferson Bridge.

Beaver sightings continue to be an issue, although no damns have been observed to be forming. Residents have complained of tree and property damage. It was recommended to obtain a trapper for proactive beaver control of the area.

Mr. Walby reported that the SEMSD new building is almost complete. They are planning a ribbon-cutting ceremony in August. Hosting the September MRIDDD meeting at this site was discussed.

Mr. Seidel presented a quarterly report for the Girard Drain. This showed the in-system storage from January through March. He also reported on the lake levels, which are projected to be equal to or lower than last year.

Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores, made a motion to receive and file the Operations and Maintenance report. Ms. Steele, Wayne County, supported the motion. Motion passes.

b. Priority 1B and Select Improvements Project

Mr. Tupancy reported on the Engineering Service Contract Summary Report, noting that Tetra Tech is billed through the end of April and is on track. Spence has not submitted anything for over a year. He also reported on the Summary of additional construction costs that are incurred and paid for out of the unforeseen condition allowance. There is a balance left to finish the additional work. Change order #4, which is the final contract price-reconciling change order, this change order balances the unit priced work for quantities above and below the contract quantity and adjusts the final allowance authorization. This balances out the contract and produces a final contract price. The flushing gate work is done under warranty and is not part of the final contract price. Spence has submitted its final quantities. Mr. Tupancy suggests that the board authorize the chairman to sign the change order on behalf of the district. \$61,000 was withheld for additional work. A change order will be made to adjust the contract price, which includes the bridge and concrete work. Deductions may be made from the final payment if necessary. When all paperwork is received, Tetra Tech will sign off and submit it to the county. No further contract changes will be necessary to produce the final payment.

Mr. Baker, Macomb County, motioned to accept change order #4 and to authorize the Chair to sign. Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores, supported the motion. Motion passed.

A motion to receive and file the Summary of the Engineering Contract report was made by Ms. Steele, Wayne County. Mr. Baker, Macomb County, supported the motion. Motion passed.

Carol Hufnagel reported on the TRC Plume Study. She noted two recent requirements from ELGE in terms of getting submittals in. On April 30th, 2024, they submitted a TRC Minimization document to EGLE. This was a summary of work that has been going on at the basin, reporting on the data collection regarding levels of residual chlorine within the basins during events. The goal of this minimization assessment is to reduce the amount of Total Residual Chlorine in the effluent because it is bad for aquatic life. It is difficult to meet the numbers required. She noted the staff has done a wonderful job in keeping the Total Residual Chlorine to the lowest numbers possible.

Another requirement is to submit a plan for doing a Total Residual Chlorine Plume study. This looks at the TRC plume spread into receiving waters. Although the plume exists, they ask if there is access for aquatic life to avoid the toxic plume. The requirement includes collecting samples to show how much spread exists in the receiving waters. Intensive sampling and data collection efforts will take place over the next two years, along various locations of the Milk River and into Lake St. Clair when discharges occur. Discussion occurred about who will be doing the sampling methodology. The goal is to identify the limits of the plume, from an aerial distribution and depth perspective. This will take a dedicated crew to perform the sampling at several separate locations and during different-sized events. The results are to be recorded to build a history of what the levels are, and the samples will need to be analyzed on-site or immediately. The two-year study starts after the TRC Minimum Assessment Report plan is approved by EGLE. Ms. Hufnagle will share a copy of the plan that was submitted to EGLE with the Milk River Board. This study is a stipulation of the NPDES permit and is a required criterion. An approvable demonstration shall be submitted on or before April 28, 2026.

Mr. Strassburg also noted that the bridge condition assessment report is completed and is to be sent out. The report shows the condition of the bridges to be in good condition.

Mr. Strassburg reported on the Flushing Gate repair project, noting that the project is not finished. The next step is to talk with legal counsel to obtain advice on proceeding. Basin #2 gates are working, but the final sign-off has not occurred. Two out of the fifteen gates still have issues, but it was noted that the repairs made to the gates have significantly improved their functionality, reducing the leakage.

Ms. Steele, Wayne County, motioned to receive and file the Construction Progress Update Report. Mr. Baker, Macomb County, supported the motion. Motion passed.

c. Budget to Actual Report

Ms. Kenyon reviewed the Budget report as presented in the Board Packet. It was noted that everything is on track, and the assessment invoices are being sent out at the beginning of each quarter. They are 75.59% overall spent on expenditures. The cash balances are straightforward and on track. The debt payments are paid in September and May.

Mr. Baker, Macomb County, motioned to receive and file the Budget to Actual Report. Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores, supported the motion. Motion passes.

5. New Business

a. Drainage Board – House Bill 5738

Ms. Steele reported on this bill which proposes to amend Chapter 21 of the Drain Code. The Bill intends to hold constant the seats of Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe Woods without the two-year rotation. This is a new proposal that they will review and track. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will be the lead agency on this Bill. The current structure was set up to create an odd number of Board Members to prevent a tie on any significant issue that may have been divisive. This has never been an issue with the MRIDDD Board.

6. Unfinished Business

a. Generator

Mr. Strassburg noted that a draft has been prepared, and a settlement study was conducted to determine claims that could occur if a flooding event took place, without a backup generator. This assessment justifies looking into a backup generator system. The analysis will be added to the overall study. Fuel cell analysis will be added to the study, as alternatives to diesel generators. They provide a nice alternative as they are clean and quiet but could be expensive. ARPA funding will also be investigated for funding the project; however, they may not be available and would have to be spent by 2026. Mr. Walby noted that the Great Lakes Coastal Group visited the Milk River for a tour. They may be able to help fund the generator project. He will be following up with them on behalf of the Milk River. A tour of the Milk River facility will be scheduled for the board members in the upcoming months. Ms. Steele will also investigate setting up a bond for the proposed project. This is projected to be a two-year process to get the project started.

7. Approval of the SEMSD Operations and Maintenance Invoice

Mr. Walby reviewed the SEMSD invoice and pass-thru costs as presented in detail in the Board Packet. They are on schedule with the budget. He noted that the Security Cameras have been installed and are working well. Discussion occurred about installing them at the Recirculation Building.

Mr. Baker, Macomb County, made a motion to approve the invoice for \$96,686.17. 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 attendance or comments were noted.

Mr. Tupancy, Tetra Tech, announced that this will be his last meeting, as he is retiring. Mr. Gregg noted how valuable Mr. Tupancy has been to the success of this project. Best wishes to Mr. Tupancy going forward.

Ms. Throne, State of Michigan, thanked the board for the opportunity to learn about the facility and operations of the system.

9. Next Drainage Board Meeting

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is planned for Thursday, July 25th, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting is scheduled to be held at the St. Clair Shores City Hall, 27600 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Anderson, Harper Woods, moved to adjourn the May 30th, 2024, MRIDDD meeting. Ms. Steele, Wayne County, supported the motion. Motion approved.

There was no further discussion to come before the Drainage Board.
The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 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.