

**MILK RIVER INTERCOUNTY DRAIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
December 12, 2024**

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A Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage Board meeting was held on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at the SEMSD Operations Center, 20001 Pleasant Street, St. Clair Shores, Michigan, 48080.

**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  
Russ Strassburg, Tetra Tech  
Joe Brezvai, Intercounty Drain Project Manager  
Jim Kowalski, Grosse Pointe Woods  
Jessica Kenyon, Wayne County  
Sabrina Quince, Wayne County

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Gregg called the regularly scheduled MRIDDD meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Ms. Steele, Wayne County, moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores, supported the motion. Motion passed.

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

**a. October 21, 2024, Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage District Board Meeting**

Mr. Baker, Macomb County, moved to approve the minutes for the October 21, 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 working with Safeway on the sediment removal project. It has taken three days to remove forty yards of debris, there was also 2-3 days of prep work that had to be done for the removal to take place. Both basins are currently clean, and the winter weather preparation is done. There was a leak in the water service to the blower building, which has been repaired. This is important for the proper functioning of the aeration blowers.

The Flushing Gates are holding well, and they are waiting for the sign-off and final approval from engineers.

Mr. Trombley reported that there have been no discharges since the last meeting. Eight discharges and about 454 million gallons were discharged for the year 2024.

It was also noted that they are working, along with staff at the Edsel Ford Estate, on the beaver issue.

The Recirculation Station cameras are installed, and the clarity is good.

It was noted that the Plume Study is due by April 28, 2026.

Mr. Baker noted that the SEMSD rain gauges can be seen on the Macomb County website.

A Capital Expense project will be going out to bid in January, this will include a piping project that will make the vactoring process more efficient. Additionally, a gate that is broken at the Recirculation Station will be included in this bid.

They will be working on the rehabilitation of the flow meter station located in the Grosse Pointe Woods DPW lot.

A section of the bar racks has been replaced, however, there are five additional panels on the top rack that will need replacing. An update will be given in February, with a quote for the repairs. They hope to have this done before the wet weather begins in the spring.

Mr. Baker, Macomb County, 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. Strassburg noted no changes in the report since the last meeting. They are waiting for Spence to issue the Final Pay Application. This should be approximately \$61,000.

Mr. Strassburg presented information to establish the breakdown of expenses by community for the Generator Project. These expenses would be considered O&M expenses and distributed by percentage. The options were displayed on screen. Due to the size of the investment, a petition would be needed to authorize the Board to move forward with the project. The cities of Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe Woods would need a draft of the expenses to take to their City Councils for review. Ms. Steele will prepare an email explaining the blended methodology used to determine the annual cost per community for this project. The

lead time for this project to be implemented is expected to be two to three years. It was recommended that Kari Blanchett, Financial Advisor for the SRF, be contacted to prepare a proposal and cost breakdown per community in order for the cities to make an informed decision. Mr. Strassburg plans to revise his report and send it out in PDF form.

It was also noted that DTE has not responded regarding upgrade requests for the current transformers on site. Ms. Steele will meet with a DTE representative to discuss this further.

Ms. Steele, Wayne County, moved to receive and file the Priority 1B and Select Improvements Project Report. Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores, supported the motion. Motion passed.

**c. FY25 Q1 Financial Report**

Ms. Keyon announced that Ms. Sabrina Quince, DPS Finance, will be filling in for her while she is on her upcoming leave.

It was noted that the finances are on track in every area except for the County Chargebacks. Ms. Kenyon will continue to monitor the chargebacks. It was noted that the interest revenue has not been posted to date. This will be monitored as well.

Discussion occurred regarding adding a reserve for Capital Projects. This will be considered for the next budget year. This could be noted, for example, as a 5% reserve in the replacement fund.

The Board will direct and provide recommendations on how to proceed with the budget options.

The goal is to present a budget at the April MRIDDD meeting.

Mr. Babcock, St. Clair Shores, motioned to receive and file the FY25 Q1 Financial Report. Mr. Baker, Macomb County, supported the motion. Motion passed.

**5. New Business**

**a. AT&T lease Revision**

Ms. Steele reported that AT&T has reached out again regarding a lease revision as they expand their 5G network. The AT&T consultant provided two options for consideration. Neither proposal offered acceptable terms. Ms. Steele noted that Mr. Brennan and Mr. Watzka had been previously retained to negotiate with AT&T on the Board's behalf. Mr. Baker suggested that it may be in the Board's interest to decline the offer and operate under the current lease. The Board's consensus was to decline AT&T's offer and continue under the current agreement.

Ms. Steele will communicate to AT&T that the lease offers were presented to the Board, and the Board was not inclined to accept either lease option offered at this time.

**6. Unfinished Business**

No report was presented under Unfinished Business at this time.

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

Mr. Walby reviewed the SEMSD invoice and pass-thru costs for October and November 2024 as presented in detail in the Board Packet. Property Insurance renewal, Wet-Well cleaning, Milk River Bar Screen repair, and Security Camera installation were noted costs reviewed.

Mr. Baker, Macomb County, motioned to approve the pass-thru invoice for \$241,636.29. 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 commenting publicly. No public attendance or comments were noted.

Mr. Walby thanked Mr. Gregg for his many years of dedication and commitment to the Milk River Intercounty Drain Drainage District - noting that it has been a pleasure to work with him over the past years. Mr. Gregg will be greatly missed and is wished a very happy retirement.

**9. Next Drainage Board Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is planned for Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting is scheduled to be held at the SEMSD Operations Center, 20001 Pleasant Street, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080.

It was noted that Mr. Kowalski, Grosse Pointe Woods, will be stepping in as a Board Member, replacing Ms. Toutant of Harper Woods. This is a regularly scheduled City Representation change.

**10. Adjournment**

Ms. Steele, Wayne County, moved to adjourn the December 12, 2024, 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 11:14 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.