

**REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE
METRO EAST SANITARY DISTRICT
ST. CLAIR AND MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS
HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023, AT 9:00 A.M.
LOCATED AT: 1800 EDISON AVENUE, GRANITE CITY, IL 62040**

9:00 A.M.- President Oney called the meeting to order, and the Clerk recorded the attendance.

The following were in attendance:

Present: Commissioners, Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson, and President Oney
Absent: None

Others attending the meeting were:

Operations Manager Mike Nordstrom, Attorney Tom Schooley, Attorney Sprague, Treasurer Kim King, and Engineer Charlie Juneau

Absent: Executive Director Rick Fancher

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

Madison County Zoning Board of Appeals notice of public hearing: Loretta Cox, 1221 Franko Lane, Granite City, IL Parcel 18-1-14-22-00-000-007.

- Attorney Schooley stated this information serves the purpose of informing about a zoning change. The District owns a piece of land adjacent to the location where the mobile home will be situated.

REPORT OF OPERATIONS MANAGER

Mr. Nordstrom reported the following:

Mr. Nordstrom, Superintendent Roehr and a few pump operators joined Kevin Williams from Wood River Levee District to observe relief well testing. Due to low water levels, MESD is not able to test, so taking their well truck and observing Wood River's testing was beneficial.

Grass cutting is coming to an end for both Madison and St. Clair Counties, except for the ongoing project at Cahokia Canal, extending from Sand Prairie Lane to Highway 162. This project will continue throughout the winter months. The focus will shift to equipment maintenance and cable structure work on the levees during the winter months.

The replacement of the culvert pipe by Camp Jackson Road was completed. They will begin another 50 – 60 ft pipe repair project just north, near Millstadt Road.

At the Board's request, a capital improvement plan was developed to prioritize repairs for the next few years. MESD coordinated with Charlie and Chad Juneau to develop this plan. Charlie will give the details in his report.

Concluding his report, Mr. Nordstrom stated Superintendent Roehr completed the bid project for all the surveillance equipment and monitoring.

- Superintendent Roehr presented three updated bids. CDS Office Technology came in at \$32,900 with no lease option, Utilitra came in at \$34,000 with no lease option, and Barcom, his recommendation, is offering a lease option of \$559 a month for 60 months with a \$5000 down payment. Following the 60 months, the service plan reduces to \$225 a month. Justin expressed his satisfaction with their organization and detailed site plan.

REPORT OF ENGINEER

Charlie Juneau reported the following:

At the request of the Board, a list of all capital improvement projects with estimates of costs has been prepared. The staff of MESD and Juneau Associates collaborated to prepare a list of projects needed to maintain the MESD infrastructure. The intent of this is to assist the Board in evaluating improvement projects as well as potential grant opportunities in selecting the most crucial and cost-effective improvement projects going forward. The following six improvement projects warrant immediate consideration of the MESD Board.

1. Complete replacement of the electric motor control panels at the North Pump Station. The equipment is very old making the existing parts hard to find or no longer produced. This project is budgeted between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000.
2. Upgrading electric motor control panels at the remaining District owned stations. This project is budgeted around \$500,000 per pump station.
3. Replace East St. Lous Pump Station trash rack I beam. Trash racks, located at the inlet to the forebay, prevent debris and trash from the gravity drain sewer from entering the forebay and clogging the sumps and pump intakes. The trash racks must be cleaned to remove the accumulated debris and trash, so that the debris and trash do not accumulate to a sufficient extent that the water flow to the forebay is obstructed. The "I" beam which supports the trash rack is deteriorated and requires complete removal and replacement. This project is budgeted between \$25,000 and \$50,000.
4. Removal of the tainter gates at Cahokia Canal. This structure consists of a trash rack and double set of tainter gates mounted in the concrete structure. The structure was previously used in conjunction with the dam bypass structure located in the same area on Horseshoe Lake canal to regulate the water level of Horseshoe Lake and the amount of flow into the Cahokia Canal. Trash, trees, and debris is getting over the bar screen and hung up on the tainter gates. They no longer serve a purpose and should be cut out. This project is

budgeted between \$250,000 and \$400,000, however, there will be a significant amount of salvage materials available.

5. East St. Louis collapsed gravity gate. The 10.5' x 10.5' sluice gate on the river side of the levee needs to be rehabilitated. Per the original agreement, the District is in charge of conducting maintenance at this location, and then is to be reimbursed by East St. Louis and Cahokia Heights. This project is budgeted between \$50,000 and \$100, 000.
6. Upgrade the operators and stems for the 4 roller gates at North Pump Station.

The total cost of all six of these projects is roughly \$3 million dollars.

Mr. Juneau continued, after this, projects were separated into secondary improvement projects and general maintenance improvements. These projects are summarized in no order of importance.

- Chouteau Nameoki and Venice Pump Station total reconstruction. This structure was originally constructed in the early 1940's and the facility is in need of complete removal and reconstruction. The USACE estimated this project to cost \$8.5 million. As of now, MESD believes this is a low priority project if the USACE operates their adjacent pump station. Budgeted at approximately \$10.5 million.
- Remove trash rack at Blue Water Pump Station. The existing trash rake has never operated properly. The USACE agreed with the removal of the existing gate. Budgeted between \$25,000 and \$50,000.
- South Pump Station unknown pump vibration needs to be addressed. It is recommended that an electric motor company visit the site and analyze the pump to make a recommendation for repair.
- Tuckpointing the interior and exterior brickwork and limestone at North and South Pump Stations. This project is noted on the USACE deficiency project list and will need to be addressed. North pump station is budgeted between \$200,000 to \$250,000 and South pump station between \$175,000 to \$225,000.
- Widening of Harding Ditch. The City of Granite City is removing and replacing the three existing structures along Nameoki Ditch. Upon completion of improvement of the City's structures, MESD has agreed under the general maintenance program to remove the material within the channel area back to its original plan dimensions and grade. A concrete liner would greatly improve the hydraulic characteristics of the ditch and is recommended. Budgeted between \$3,000,000 and \$5,000,000.
- Clean out heavy growth, brush, and trees along the length of Harding Ditch. It is recommended that the growth be cleared from the banks of the ditch and the ditch be reopened to a bottom width between 30 to 40 feet in width. Budgeted between \$16.5 million and \$20 million.
- Cahokia Ditch side slope stabilization. Over the past several years federal emergency disaster declaration attempts have been made to fund the side slope slides which have accrued based on poor soil composition and slopes. FEMA has denied these applications in the past because side slope slides cannot be correlated to any one disaster declaration. Maintenance documentation efforts have been initiated which will assist in these applications going forward, however, previous slides still need to be addressed. Areas

along the channel should be rip rapped to protect channel sides. Budgeted at \$200,000 per year.

President Oney inquired about the operation of the pumps during the replacement of the electric motor control panels.

- Mr. Juneau clarified the control panels would be replaced one section at a time.
 - o President Oney followed up by inquiring about the expected completion timeframe for the control panel replacement and whether this might coincide with the spring months when heavy rains are a possibility.
 - Mr. Nordstrom contributed to the discussion, highlighting an additional challenge, the equipment being six months out.
 - Mr. Juneau mentioned that the panels would likely take one year to arrive.
 - o Commissioner Brinza proposed that MESD initiates the bid process.
 - Attorney Schooley recommended that Juneau Associates work out the specifications and present them back to the Board for the next meeting.

President Oney conveyed that he instructed Operations Manager Nordstrom and Superintendent Roehr to prepare a financial budget for the other projects, so that MESD can phase out a 5-year plan for budgeting purposes. His opinion is prioritizing projects that benefit the most people in the levee district.

- Commissioner Brinza added it's an opportune time to discuss the expenditures that include the drainage area along the bluffs.

MINUTES

The Regular Minutes for October 17th, 2023 were presented for approval:

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Darwin to dispense with the reading of the minutes, approve them as submitted and place them on file.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney
Nays: None

CLAIMS AND SPECIFIC CLAIMS

The General Fund and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Darwin to approve the General Fund and Specific Claims as submitted and order them paid.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney
Nays: None

The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Jackson to approve the Lansdowne and Specific Claims as submitted and order them paid.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza Dixon, Jackson and Oney
Nays: None

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The General Fund Financial Reports for the month of October 2023 were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Brinza to approve the General Fund Financial Report as submitted and place on file for audit.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney
Nays: None

The Special Funds Financial Reports for the month of October 2023 were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Brinza: seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the Special Funds Financial Report as submitted and place on file for audit.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney
Nays: None

The Lansdowne Financial Reports for the month of October 2023 were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Brinza to approve the Lansdowne Fund Financial Report as submitted and place on file for audit.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney
Nays: None

PAYROLL

The Payroll for the period of October 1st, 2023, through October 14th, 2023, was submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Jackson to approve the Payroll as submitted.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney
Nays: None

The Payroll for the period of October 15th, 2023, through October 28th, 2023, was submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Darwin to approve the Payroll as submitted.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney
Nays: None

LANSDOWNE ADJUSTMENT REPORT

The Lansdowne Adjustment Reports were presented for approval:

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Darwin to approve the Lansdowne Adjustment Report as submitted.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney
Nays: None

REPORT OF ATTORNEYS

Attorney Sprague - No Report.

Attorney Schooley updated the Board on the Illinois American Water sale. He reported he has been in contact with Ken Jones, Attorney for Illinois American Water. Mr. Jones is in the final phase of reviewing MESD's submission. Chad Juneau identified several intergovernmental agreements dating back 60 years. Mr. Jones is currently reviewing these agreements, noting that many have not been renewed and some have extensions. According to the office staff, billing has been going through MESD for decades.

- Mr. Juneau added that the facility plans for the IEPA funding Lansdowne lining project, previously bid, are expiring, and reinstating them would be necessary. However, he advised them MESD would not be furthering that project.

OLD BUSINESS

Board discussion and /or approval of security camera system.

- Based on Mr. Roehr’s recommendation, the Board agreed to proceed with Barcom Security.

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Darwin to approve Barcom Security System.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney
Nays: None

Board discussion and/or approval of Ordinance 2023-0-017 adoption of the Madison County Multi-Jurisdiction All Hazards Mitigation Plan.

- President Oney stated at the last meeting, questions arose about the mitigation plan. Following the meeting, everyone should have received an email answering those questions.

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Darwin to approve Ordinance 2023-0-017 adopting the Madison County Multi Jurisdiction All Hazards Mitigation Plan.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney
Nays: None

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and/or approval to adopt Ordinance 2023-0-019 providing for the Metro East Sanitary District for the Annual Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2023.

- Commissioner Brinza questioned if the rates changed.
 - o President Oney stated MESD is still below the statutory rate limitation, with a proposed 4.4 percent increase. The challenge lies in uncertainty about the upcoming assessment evaluation. Based on history, unless MESD holds a public hearing for an increase over 5 percent, reaching the statutory rate is not possible. Mr. Oney expressed doubt that the Board would want to increase the rates to that extent.

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Darwin adopting Ordinance 2023-0-019 providing the Metro East Sanitary District for the Annual Tax Levee for Fiscal Year 2023.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney
Nays: None

Discussion and/or approval IDOT purchase of permanent easement at Illinois Route 111 Granite City, IL (Cahokia Canal), certified resolution, permanent easement, and warranty deed.

- Attorney Schooley informed the Board that the property is located off Highway 111, near the old Venture store, and there are plans to reconstruct the overpass bridge in that area.

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Darwin approving IDOT purchase of permanent easement Illinois Route 111 Granite City, IL (Cahokia Canal), certified resolution, permanent easement, and warranty deed.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney
Nays: None

Discussion and/or approval of Resolution 2023-R-004 intervening in property tax appeal for WPT Inner Park Drive LLP Tax Appeal Board No 22-104416.001-1-3.

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Darwin approving to intervene in property tax appeal for WPT Inner Park Drive LLP Tax Appeal Board No 22-104416.001-1-3

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney
Nays: None

Discussion and/or approval of Resolution 2023-R-005 intervening in property tax appeal for LEX Edwardsville LP Tax Appeal Board No 22-104416.001-1-3

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Brinza approving to intervene in property tax appeal for LEX Edwardsville LP Tax Appeal Board No 22-104416.001-1-3

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney
Nays: None

Discussion and/or approval of Resolution 2023-R-006 intervening in property tax appeal for Sealy Lakeview Corporate Drive II LLC Tax Appeal Board No 22-104419.001-I-3, 22-04419.002-I-3, 22-04419.003-I-3, 22-04419.004-I-3, 22-04419.005-I-3

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Dixon approving to intervene in property tax appeal for Sealy Lakeview Corporate Drive II LLC Tax Appeal Board No 22-104419.001-I-3, 22-04419.002-I-3, 22-04419.003-I-3, 22-04419.004-I-3, 22-04419.005-I-3

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney
Nays: None

Discussion and/or approval to renew health insurance coverage for specific non-union employees.

- Commissioner Brinza inquired about the option to decline the insurance.
 - o President Oney commented if they choose to decline the insurance, they must inform the office by December. Additionally, he suggested a shared cost approach, recommending that board members split the insurance expenses with the District, setting a baseline and covering any increase to reduce the burden on the District.

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Darwin to approve health insurance renewal of specific non-union employees

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney
Nays: None

Board discussion/acceptance of Executive Director Richard Fancher's resignation letter to the Metro East Sanitary District Board

- President Oney stated that this is a formal letter to announce Mr. Fancher's retirement, effective January 12, 2024. The MESD Board thanks him for all his years of service.

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Darwin accepting the retirement of Richard Fancher, effective January 12, 2024.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney
Nays: None

There being no further business placed before the Board, Motion Commissioner Darwin:
seconded by Commissioner Brinza to adjourn.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney
Nays: None

So, adjourned at 9:36 A.M.


Clerk