

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE METRO EAST SANITARY DISTRICT, ST. CLAIR AND  
MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS HELD ON TUESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 19, 2019 AT 1800 EDISON AVENUE, GRANITE  
CITY, ILLINOIS AT 8:00 A.M.**

President Brinza called the meeting to order and the Clerk recorded the attendance.

The following was the attendance:

Present: Commissioners McCall, Brinza, Krekovich and Dixon.  
Absent: Commissioner Darwin.

Metro East Sanitary District employees attending the meeting were Executive Director Adler, Deputy Executive Director Sawicki, Attorney Calvo, Attorney Craney, Superintendent Rick Fancher, Superintendent Scott Hillman and Superintendent Cedric Irby and Lansdowne Office Manager Roger Morthland. Also, attending the meeting were Charlie Juneau representing Juneau Associates, Britt Donoho from Craney Law Group, Attorney Barney Mundorf and Matt Foster.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

Deputy Executive Director Sawicki reported:

We have a full set of data on Nameoki Ditch water. The beginning of the ditch has high fecal levels. There is another spike between Johnson road and the twin 60's, and Wilson and Terminal Avenue. We are going to try to isolate which of the 4 pipes is contributing to this and how much.

Superintendent Hillman presented his report:

Superintendent Fancher reported:

We are preparing for our United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) inspection. We are almost done with the Hartford area and then we are moving to the flood wall on the front levee and working down towards Eads.

Deputy Superintendent Irby reported:

We have been cutting areas now that we are out of pump station. We are having problems with the ley becoming a dump site for people and companies. Last week a company dumped over 300 tires on to the levy. I am working with police and the mayor to eliminate problem. New signs have been put on levy walls to identify flood levels.

Lansdowne Office Manager Roger Morthland reported:

I have contacted the prison; they are sending 2 more checks by the end of this month. I would the Board to consider a flat rate charge for commercial accounts. I feel this would be fair for all commercial accounts and will stop the need for samples to be taken. I would like the Board to consider eliminating closed bill reminders and swimming pool adjustments.

Executive Director Adler reported:

We had a meeting last week with FEMA about getting the reimbursement we requested. We are at the phase where they want to see the actual damages that occurred.

The Deep Cut Off Wall Project has been bid for 35 million.

We have a new employee Matt Foster who has joined our management team. He is in control of animal control.

You have a proposal from DDI Media, I would like to talk about that when the time comes.

**REPORT OF ENGINEER:**

Mr. Juneau reported:

We have ongoing meetings with USACE and there is one scheduled for today.

We had a meeting with Ameren last week about replacement of all their transmission towers. I have sent them dates that I am available to review those plans.

I have sent drafted letters and sent them to the District Clerk to print out and have the Executive Director sign, about the erosion underneath the I-255 bridges. This ties into the System Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF).

**MINUTES:**

The minutes for the October 15, 2019 were presented for approval.

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Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Krekovich to dispense with the reading of the minutes, approve them as submitted and place them on file.

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Brinza, Krekovich and Dixon

Nays: None.

Absent: Commissioner Darwin.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:**

The executive session minutes for the October 15, 2019 meetings were presented for approval:

Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Krekovich to approve the executive session minutes, as submitted and place them on file.

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Brinza, Krekovich and Dixon

Nays: None.

Absent: Commissioner Darwin.

**CLAIMS AND SPECIFIC CLAIMS:**

The General Fund and Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Krekovich to approve the General Fund and Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims as submitted and order them paid.

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Brinza, Krekovich and Dixon

Nays: None.

Absent: Commissioner Darwin.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

The General Fund, Special Funds and Lansdowne Financial Reports for the month of October 2019 were submitted for approval:

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Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Krekovich to approve the General Fund, Special Funds and Lansdowne Financial Reports for the month of October 2019 as submitted and place them on file for audit.

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Brinza, Krekovich and Dixon

Nays: None.

Absent: Commissioner Darwin.

**PAYROLL:**

The Payroll for the period of October 6, 2019 through October 19, 2019 and the Payroll for the period of October 20, 2019 through November 2, 2019 were submitted for approval.

Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Krekovich to approve the Payroll as submitted.

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Brinza, Krekovich and Dixon

Nays: None.

Absent: Commissioner Darwin.

**REPORT OF ATTORNEY:**

Attorney Craney reported:

Attorney Mundorf is here, the District has hired him to assist with the Labor issues and negotiations.

I am sure everyone is aware that the District has been recently been served with 2 lawsuits. One lawsuit is for small claims in St. Clair County from a Debra Blassingame, who is alleging that she is on septic not MESD sewer system. The bills she has been charged are not valid.

Executive Director Adler “In Illinois, the law states if you are within 200 feet of a Municipal sewer system, you have to be connected and there is no legal recourse.”

The second lawsuit is from Madison County by citizens of Granite City. The lawsuit has 5 or 6 Plaintiffs all resident of Granite City. They are suing MESD and claiming in August when we had the large rain event their basements flooded and fell it is MESD’s fault.

We have video during this rain event showing our ditches were flowing and still had capacity. We could have taken more water at that time. Everything was done by USACE standards. If basements backed up in Granite City is was not our fault. I will talk more about it in closed session.

Mr. Juneau do you have an opinion about this?

Charlie Juneau commented:

The biggest opinion that I have is that MESD takes care of surface water drainage. You do not take care of sanitary sewers that are connected to basements. Granite City has a long history in the old part of town having an old combined sewer system that takes on both sanitary sewers connected to basements and surface water.

Executive Director Adler “I went into one basement, and folks have their sump pumps hooked up to the sanitary system.”

If you have an older home in Granite City and you have your basement connected to the combined sewer system. The sewer system becomes surcharged and basements will flood.

Attorney Craney “Will you sign a letter stating it is not our fault?”

I will talk to you about that and yes, I think I can.

Attorney Britt Donoho reported:

The main change of the DDI Media easement is rather than it be a permanent easement it will be a temporary right of entry and a 20-year payment schedule. There is protection regarding insurance provisions you want to include.

Attorney Calvo reported:

The Ameren Ordinance is an existing line that Ameren is replacing the towers. There is going to be construction work during the time they are doing the replacement. The old Ordinance had no fee, the new Ordinance has a fee of \$4000.00 per year. Ameren has not seen the Ordinance, but they want to start work tomorrow.

Attorney Craney continued:

The ABD 24-inch sewer break, if we want to recover our losses, we are going to have to file suit. I will draft a lawsuit and draft it and send it to them.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

A letter from Attorney Baricevic was presented:

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Executive Director Adler “This was talked about earlier, going to a flat rate for commercial accounts.”

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Discussion and/or approval of easement for DDI Media:

President Brinza “Can I get a motion to amend the DDI Media Easement with the 8.4 license amendment.”

Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Dixon to amend the DDI Media Easement with the 8.4 license amendment.

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Brinza, Krekovich and Dixon

Nays: None.

Absent: Commissioner Darwin.

President Brinza “Can I get a motion to approve the DDI Media Easement with the 8.4 license amendment.”

Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Krekovich to approve the DDI Media Easement with the 8.4 license amendment.

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Brinza, Krekovich and Dixon

Nays: None.

Absent: Commissioner Darwin.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

An Ordinance regarding Ameren replacement of towers. Number 2019-0-011 was assigned to this document.

Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Krekovich to adopt Ordinance 2019-0-011 regarding Ameren replacement of towers.

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Brinza, Krekovich and Dixon  
Nays: None.  
Absent: Commissioner Darwin.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Dixon; to enter into Executive Session for the exceptions noted under 5 ILCS 120/2(c) 1. Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline or performance of employees and pending or threatened or imminent litigation.

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Brinza, Krekovich and Dixon  
Nays: None.  
Absent: Commissioner Darwin.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 8:58 A.M.

Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Krekovich to return to regular session at 9:41 A.M.

The Clerk recorded the attendance:

Present: Commissioners McCall, Brinza, Krekovich and Dixon  
Absent: Commissioner Darwin.

Also, attending the meeting at this time was Executive Director Adler, Deputy Executive Director Sawicki and Attorney Craney, Attorney Britt Donoho and Attorney Mundorf.

President Brinza “We have one-point order for the general session to approve becoming a member of third-party litigation in response to a lawsuit we have received. I will let Attorney Craney clarify”

Attorney Craney “The motion if anybody would like to make it. A motion to authorize the filing in the third-party lawsuit to bring Granite City into the recent flooding litigation.”

Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Dixon to authorize the filing of a third-party lawsuit bringing Granite City into the recent flooding litigation.

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Brinza, Krekovich and Dixon  
Nays: None.  
Absent: Commissioner Darwin.

There being no further business, Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Krekovich to adjourn.

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Brinza, Krekovich and Dixon  
Nays: None.  
Absent: Commissioner Darwin.

So, adjourned at 9:43 A.M.

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Clerk