

**REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR
THE METRO EAST SANITARY DISTRICT
ST. CLAIR AND MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS
HELD ON TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2021, AT 9:00 A.M.
LOCATED AT: 1800 EDISON AVENUE, GRANITE CITY, IL 62040**

President Oney called the Public Hearing to order, and the Clerk recorded the attendance.

The following was the attendance:

Present: Commissioners, Darwin, Dixon, Brinza, Lovette and Oney,
Absent: None

Metro East Sanitary District employees attending the meeting were:

Executive Director Rick Fancher, Attorney Schooley, Attorney Sprague,
Kim King-Treasurer.

Other Attendees: Charlie Juneau representing Juneau & Associates

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE:

- President Oney welcomed Commissioner Lovette to the Board.
- Mr. Lovette represents St. Clair County.
- President Oney requested that Commissioner Lovette's appointment be placed on record and filed.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Executive Director Fancher reported:

We have several projects still going on, one in particular is the Flood Wall Project.

Mr. Fancher informed the Board that he believes that the water company is still working with the Contractors regarding temporarily relocating the water line. He further went on to say that as of Thursday they will have worked out the situation with the electrical line.

- Charlie Juneau stated that “This is a big deal” because it seals up the two (2) windows. One being the North Pump Station out flow line.
- Charlie broadened the discussion by saying that there were two (2) or three (3) 10x10 boxes under the levee and they will grout underneath those structures and same will go for Illinois American Water Company’s intake line.
- The reason it is a big deal is because it will eliminate leaving those window gaps in this large cut off wall that has allowed so much water to come through. Otherwise, it would require more relief wells on the other side and trench drains in which MESD would have to maintain.
- Charlie also informed the Board that they were also having to relocate fiber optic lines if that window stayed open. Not to mention that they would have to request more land from the Terminal Railroad for the relief wells.
- In all it eliminated 15 to 20 relief wells. We are happy to get the ‘Change Order’ worked out with Bauer because it saves a lot of cost and takes a lot of pressure off the District.
 - o Attorney Schooley informed the Board that the estimated cost for moving the fiber optic cable was around \$70,000 to \$80,000. This saved the taxpayers money.

Mr. Fancher also informed the Board that the “Low Boy” which is what is used to haul all of our heavy equipment is out of commission but currently being worked on. We had some issues with the tanks we are going to fix the existing one for now and we ordered a new one which is about 8 weeks out.

All stations should be closing as of today since the river level is going down.

Everything else is just maintenance and ongoing mowing.

REPORT OF ENGINEER:

Charlie Juneau informed the Board that he continues to have monthly coordination meetings with the US Army Corp of Engineers.

One of the things that is in the minutes each month is that we continue to push the Army Corp on their relief well testing. If you remember in previous discussions, we were notified that each one of our relief wells must be test pumped every five (5) years. Keep in mind there are over 400 of these relief wells in your system.

That would require MESD to test pump 80 wells a year just to reach the minimum. Charlie Juneau stated that based on his opinion it is not possible but unfortunately that is the rule.

We are trying to get Rachel Lopez with the US Army Corp of Engineers (which dictates this rule) to the table in order to come up with a priority list in order for MESD to meet the test pump requirements. This is huge, to set up a test pumping operation in which you are testing what the flow of that well is and what the draw down is. You will be lucky to get one a day or one every other day.

Mr. Fancher has been talking about coming up with a plan to either do it in-house or have a contractor conduct the testing. It's going to add a lot of cost to your operations, so we need to be prepared because it will be a big dollar amount.

- Commissioner Brinza asked when the start date for this would be in effect?
 - o Charlie Juneau stated it's a requirement ongoing now.
 - Rick informed the Board that the issue is two (2) folds.
 - 1) We must get them tested.
 - 2) For the past 10 months we have been requesting a priority list.For example, the old wood staved wells are the ones that they are abandoning therefore we are not going to make those a priority and all the new ones have already been tested.
 - Attorney Schooley made a statement indicating that the Corp has informed us that they do not have a document that prioritizes. They are going to have to work from scratch as well to get a master list together.

Charlie Juneau stated that the next step was to develop a GIS program in which we can monitor and keep track of all the test data from now and in the future is going to be critical.

- Rick informed the Board that if we have a contractor do the testing it could be over \$2,500 for each well. If we, do it internally, we would have to hire people and purchase the equipment. To buy the equipment for the test is probably around \$100,000.
- Rick Fancher stated that the Army Corp is not giving MESD any direction at all regarding this matter.

Charlie Juneau stated that unfortunately it's the law according to them and right now we haven't started program, nor do we know how to start and its very frustrating.

- Commissioner Brinza asked if we can request the Army Corp to show where they expect the cost to come from pertaining to the testing?
 - o Attorney Schooley stated that they just pass it on saying this is what is required, and we have to figure it out.

Charlie Juneau commented that we again need to see if we can comply or not and we need to see if we can pass the cost on to Southwestern Illinois Flood Prevention.

- Attorney Schooley stated that he wrote a letter to Chuck Etwert advising him of the relief well issue going from 10 to 5-year requirement and could it be part of the cost to he could absorb.
- Attorney Schooley said that Chuck responded back right away stating that his funding was not allowed to be used for that type of project.
 - o President Oney asked if we could lose the certifications and if so, is Chuck aware of that?
 - Attorney Schooley stated that not only does this effect MESD it effects Prairie Dupont and Wood River. Maybe if we all get together with the politicians and amend it enabling the status for the Flood Protection District to get included.
 - President Oney asked if Chuck Etwert quoted the law where it states his funding can not be used for this?
 - o Attorney Schooley stated "No, Mr. Etwert did not cite him a specific section."

Charlie Juneau told the Board that Chuck Etwert is stating that he is construction and not maintenance. The next project he will be left from the Army Corp of Engineers is the 90 relief wells for MESD.

- Rick stated that they will be down through St. Clair County and a few in Madison County. Its an issue that we have dealing with almost on a daily

basis waiting to get some direction from them because its going to rear its ugly head and we need to be prepared.

Charlie Juneau stated that we need to start budgeting or finding the money somewhere.

- President Oney stated looking at the budget its not like we have a million dollars just sitting there every year. We levee at the maximum rate that we are allowed under law, and we get replacement tax. Until there is some funding coming from off the hill the only other avenue is to go back with a referendum asking to raise the rate and good luck with that. They need to understand there is not an endless source amount of money at MESD.

Charlie Juneau continued with his report by stating that the Granite City Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant annual cost allocation – I understand that the meeting will be held in August due to a change in the Administration.

We will continue to monitor Beelman.

American Recovery Act Infrastructure funds will be coming up and will require further discussion down the road.

MINUTES:

The minutes for the June 22, 2021, were presented for approval.

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded Commissioner Dixon 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, Darwin, Dixon, Brinza, Lovette and Oney.
Nays: None
Absent: None

CLAIMS AND SPECIFIC CLAIMS:

The General Fund and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded 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, Dixon, Brinza, Lovette and Oney.
Nays: None
Absent: None

The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Brinza: seconded Commissioner Darwin 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, Dixon, Brinza, Lovette and Oney.
Nays: None
Absent: None

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The General Fund Financial Reports for the month of June 2021 was submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Dixon to approve the General Fund Financial Report as submitted and place them on file for audit.

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

Ayes: Commissioners, Darwin, Dixon, Brinza, Lovette and Oney.
Nays: None
Absent: None

The Special Funds Financial Reports for the month of June 2021 was submitted for approval:

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

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

Ayes: Commissioners, Darwin, Dixon, Brinza, Lovette and Oney.
Nays: None
Absent: None

PAYROLL:

The Payroll for the period of May 30, 2021, through June 12, 2021, were submitted for approval.

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Brinza to approve the Payroll as submitted.

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

Ayes: Commissioners, Darwin, Dixon, Brinza, Lovette and Oney.
Nays: None
Absent: None

The Payroll for the period of June 13, 2021, through June 26, 2021, were submitted for approval.

Motion Commissioner Dixon; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve the Payroll as submitted.

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

Ayes: Commissioners, Darwin, Dixon, Brinza, Lovette and Oney.
Nays: None
Absent: None

LANSDOWNE ADJUSTMENT REPORT:

The Lansdowne Adjustment Reports were presented for approval:

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve the Lansdowne Adjustment Report as submitted.

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

Ayes: Commissioners, Darwin, Dixon, Brinza, Lovette and Oney.
Nays: None
Absent: None

REPORT OF ATTORNEYS:

Attorney Schooley informed the Board that he had nothing to report.

Attorney Sprague informed the Board that he had nothing to report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

An Ordinance to discuss and or approve the Metro East Sanitary District's Capital Improvement Prioritization Plan Summary for Madison and St. Clair County. Ordinance number 2021-0-009 was assigned to this document.

President Oney informed the board:

- That this is referencing the American Recovery Act 2021.
- MESD does not qualify to receive these funds, but other local Governments do therefore, we are starting to meet with them to discuss improvements that are needed.
- After meeting with Madison County, they requested that we provide a list of our projects that are a priority for the area.
- We have also consulted with Hurst-Rosche and received their project for St. Clair County.
- We are requesting 16 million from St. Clair County and 23 million from Madison County. We have reached out to St. Clair and have not received a response back from Chairman Kern.
 - o Attorney Sprague stated that he can set up a meeting at his office with Kern to discuss funding for these projects.
 - President Oney asked if we could request that Curtis McCall be present at the meeting because he also received funding and Harding Ditch is a big one that is in need of repairs.
 - President Oney went on to say that he has already spoken with the officials of Granite City and Madison.

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Dixon to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-0-009 approving the Metro East Sanitary District's Capital Improvement Prioritization Plan Summary for Madison and St. Clair County.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Dixon, Brinza, Lovette and Oney.
Nays: None
Absent: None

ANY FURTHER BUSINESS PLACED BEFORE THE BOARD:

Rick Fancher informed the Board that the Operators Union 148 will be voting on their contract Thursday.

- President Oney stated that from a financial aspect it mirrors what they did in the teamsters.

There being no further business, Motion President Oney seconded Commissioner Darwin to adjourn.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Dixon, Brinza, Lovette and Oney.
Nays: None
Absent: Dixon

So, adjourned at 9:28 A.M.

Clerk