

**REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE
METRO EAST SANITARY DISTRICT
ST. CLAIR AND MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS
HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2022, 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, and Oney.
Absent: Commissioner Jackson (at the time of roll call).

Metro East Sanitary District employees attending the meeting were:

Rick Fancher, Executive Director, Attorney Tom Schooley,
Attorney Robert Sprague
Absent: None

Other Attendees: Charlie Juneau with Juneau and Associates

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Executive Director Fancher informed the Board TRRA is requesting an extension of the temporary construction easement for the Merchant Bridge Project. He stated the wall is up and work on the fence has started. TRRA has already submitted the right-of-entry paperwork and paid the \$1000 fee. A bill for \$28,000.00, which is the same amount charged for the first easement, has been mailed.

Mr. Fancher stated relief well package project 12 is ongoing. Relief well station #1 is being torn out and replaced to meet the 500-year flood level requirements.

Mr. Fancher also informed the Board that he met with IDNR regarding the permission of deer hunting off Sand Prairie Lane. He stated, "NO HUNTING" and "NO TRESPASSING" signs have been posted on MESD property.

- President Oney stated IDNR and Cahokia Mounds have information posted on their websites regarding hunting regulations. He asked Mr. Fancher to see if they will mention on their websites, hunting and/or trespassing on MESD property is not allowed.
 - Mr. Fancher responded he will contact IDNR.

Mr. Fancher discussed the ongoing issue with IDOT regarding the Route 3 Connector. IDOT would like a 2 to 1 slope, which is impossible to mow. A minimum 3 to 1 slope is needed for mowing. He stated if the slope is not changed IDOT will have to maintain that section.

REPORT OF ENGINEER:

Charlie Juneau reported the continuation of monthly coordination meetings with the Corps of Engineers. Still waiting on relief well testing requirements from the USACE.

Mr. Juneau stated he and Mr. Fancher recently received a letter relating to the Lansdowne Sewer Project. The letter advised MESD will need to put in a bid before March 2023 to continue with the half million in reserve. He advised the Board he spoke with Mr. Fancher to discuss putting a package together for the Cahokia Canal manholes that are in the ditch, with the full understanding that the Lansdowne system may be sold.

Mr. Juneau informed the Board the new FEMA maps are out for both St. Clair County and Madison County.

Mr. Juneau advised the Board of Mr. Fancher's concern with TRRA on the east approach to Merchants Bridge. The open truss work has been sealed up with 10ft. by 12ft. openings. It is a barrier. When the river gets high debris of trees and logs will be masses. He explained that Mr. Fancher expressed to TRRA his concern about the design, acknowledging that it was all permitted with the approval of the US Army Corps of Engineers. The Attorney for TRRA Association did acknowledge that it is a potential problem. She said this will need to be addressed with an agreement between TRRA and MESD. Mr. Juneau expressed it is important that MESD follow up with this.

- Attorney Tom Schooley added, after looking at it with Mr. Fancher, another concern could be the downriver side of the structure. Mr. Fancher thinks this being where the weakest link of the levee is, erosion could become an issue.
 - Mr. Juneau also added due to new road openings, new easements may be necessary to cross TRRA property.
 - Mr. Fancher agreed and relayed concern that the new road access could be an issue. When the river is high the road will be under water leaving limited access. He stated he advised the Attorney representing TRRA he would not sign off on the project until an agreement is put into place regarding debris removal.

REPORT OF ENGINEER CONTINUED:

Commissioner Brinza asked if the records at Washing Park garage are continuing to be scanned.

- Mr. Fancher responded, “yes they are being scanned on a daily basis.”

Commissioner Brinza also asked if there are copies of the new FEMA maps available.

- Mr. Fancher responded, “we have the maps, but not hard copies.”
 - Mr. Juneau added maps of Madison County with a colored overlay showing the changes are available. He stated the most impacted areas are Pontoon Beach and Tri City Port.
 - Mr. Brinza requested a copy of the maps.

MINUTES:

The Regular Minutes for August 23, 2022, were presented for approval.

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

MINUTES:

The Executive Minutes for August 23, 2022, were presented for approval.

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

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

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

CLAIMS AND SPECIFIC CLAIMS:

The General Fund and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Brinza 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
Absent: None

The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Jackson: 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, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: None

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The General Fund Financial Reports for the month of August 2022 were submitted for approval:

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

The Special Funds Financial Reports for the month of August 2022 were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded Commissioner Dixon 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, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: None

The Lansdowne Financial Reports for the month of June 2022 and July 2022 were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Jackson, seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve the Lansdowne 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, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney
Nays: None

Absent: None

PAYROLL:

The Payroll for the period of August 7, 2022, through August 20, 2022, were submitted for approval.

Motion Commissioner Jackson; seconded Commissioner Brinza 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
Absent: None

The Payroll for the period of August 21, 2022, through September 3, 2022, were submitted for approval.

Motion Commissioner Jackson; seconded Commissioner Brinza 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
Absent: None

LANSDOWNE ADJUSTMENT REPORT:

The Lansdowne Adjustment Reports were presented for approval:

- President Oney informed the Board that he spoke with Mr. Fancher regarding two large adjustments on the Lansdowne adjustment report.
 - Mr. Fancher explained one adjustment was a water main break at an apartment complex and none of the water went into MESD system. The other large adjustment was a meter change out by Illinois American, which in turn caused a faulty read. Once the read was corrected the bill was adjusted correctly.

Motion Commissioner Jackson; seconded 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
Absent: None

REPORT OF ATTORNEYS:

Attorney Sprague had nothing to report at this time.

Attorney Schooley reported an update on the Earth Justice lawsuit in Cahokia Heights. He explained the Attorney representing MESD reported to him the preliminary motions are done and plaintiff depositions have started.

Attorney Schooley also reported he requested a brief from Andy Economy's lawyer and did not receive it, nor has the insurance counsel. The Judge continued the motion for the first week of October. He stated as with all the other employment hearings, nothing is being prosecuted very vigorously at this point.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Board discussion / approval of Ordinance No. 2022-0-027 establishing the appointment and salary of the District Clerk for the Metro East Sanitary District Pursuant to 70 ILCS 2905.

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Jackson to approve Ordinance No. 2022-0-027 establishing the appointment and salary if the District Clerk for the Metro East Sanitary District Pursuant to 70 ILCS 2905.

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

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

Board discussion / approval of Resolution Number 2022-R-008 designating Stacy Partney, District Clerk as the IMRF Authorized Agent.

Motion Commissioner Jackson; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve Resolution Number 2022-R-008 designating Stacy Partney, District Clerk as the IMRF Authorized Agent.

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

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

Board discussion / appointment of Freedom of Information Act Office – Stacy Partney

Motion Commissioner Jackson; seconded Commissioner Darwin to appoint Freedom of Information Officer – Stacy Partney.

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

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

Bid Opening / Discussion and or/approval of RFP & RFQ on Lansdowne Sewer System (Illinois American Water)

- A copy of the bid packet was passed out to each Commissioner. President Oney stated the bid is 8.7 million with the addition of three job offerings. Mr. Oney asked the Commissioners to read over the packet before the next board meeting. The proposal is good through December 20, 2022 but can be extended. He stated after the RFP is accepted, MESD will then go into negotiation with Illinois American, which will have everything laid out in detail.
 - o Attorney Schooley stated, “Again, all this is contingent on the sale of Granite City Treatment Plant going through.”
 - President Oney added, “The sale will still need approval from the ICC and will have two appraisals to justify the price.”

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Dixon to table discussion/and or approval of RFP on Lansdowne Sewer System (Illinois American Water).

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

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

ANY FURTHER BUSINESS PLACED BEFORE THE BOARD:

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

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

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

So, adjourned at 9:32 A.M.


Clerk