



MINUTES LORAIN COUNTY STORM WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC)

DATE: Thursday, October 19, 2023 @ 5:30 pm

PLACE: 226 Middle Ave. Elyria, OH 44035, 4th floor Mtg Rm A

CALL TO ORDER – Don Romancak @ 5:30 pm

A) ROLL CALL-

Present: Donald Romancak, Ken Carney, Peter Zwick, John Born, Mark McConnell, Rick Carlson, Rich Baren, Chip Wendt, Lyn Ickes

Absent: Dan Petticord, Rob Duncan, Butch Born

Guests: Matt Arnold, Mark Rufener, Carl Weseley, Neil Lynch, Rick Conrad, Jessica Hozalski, Jack Fisher

B) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES from May 18, 2023

**MOVED BY Ickes SECOND BY Wendt TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM May 18, 2023,
MOTION PASSED**

C) Old Business-

1) Project update by Peter Zwick

- Community Grant projects now in easement acquisition or design phase with County Engineer
 - Carlisle Twp's East River Rd Tile replacement to Black River
 - Battenhouse Ditch logjam removals in Amherst Twp
 - Smith Ditch Restoration in Columbia Twp
 - Daylight SR 83 tile in Eaton Twp
 - Also, other SWAC projects farmed out to consulting engineers
- Pictured box culvert recently constructed under Indian Hollow Rd by County Engineer in anticipation of upcoming one mile long Gott Ditch cleaning project in Penfield Twp. Currently waiting for ODOT permit to clean-out sediment from SR 301 highway culvert; then will bid out \$250,000 ARPA project ASAP.



(a) ARPA Projects by Don Romancak – Battenhouse Lateral 2 is done. Battenhouse extension is primary a logjam removal and we have been working on easements that have been difficult to obtain. We met with Mr. Estruth and believe we have come to an agreement. We are still working on getting in contact with the Dolics and First Energy seems good to go after we get them a better description of the work to be done.

Brighten Twp the Rolfe Rd project is 95% complete with stabilization left to complete.

Murdock Tile or Gore Orphanage we still need 2 easements. Met with a farmer who is representing the Mills and we sent a revised easement that better explained the scope of the project. Project is pretty much designed. This project will go through the 6117 process.

Baumhart Rd needs to be surveyed

Camden Main is close to final design and working on getting easements signed.

Carlisle Twp – Hope Ct Miller Ct Oakwood - not a lot has happened because do to hoping to use ARPA money as well as work with the County Engineer do to the need of sanitary sewer to apply for State funding. We did apply and didn't get awarded but we believe there is another round coming that we would like to apply for.

Columbia Twp Smith Ditch – close to final design and getting close to looking to do the easements. It is ARPA and Community grant funded.

SR RT 83 outfall in Eaton Twp has been surveyed and easements have been sent out. One home owner wanted to make sure the Willow Creek is free and clear before we clean out SR 83 sending water to his yard.

Bannister Extension the preliminary survey done. It will primarily be logjam removal and looking to get funding to get a low head dam removed.

Haag / Halter we need final survey to be able to do final design

Latteman Ditch in Henrietta Twp – need to finalize design. We had a call with US Army Corp who has agreed to provide a letter stating no permit needed after we provide in writing what we are going to do.

Firelands School Outlet is out to bid for the 3rd time after increase the construction estimate to \$52,500.

Beaver Creek we need to get to a survey crew to get easements

Baird Rd culvert and tile is still in the planning stage

Huntington Twp has completed one culvert that came in under cost. We are going to be going to the Board for approval of a second culvert with remaining funds.

Foster Ditch – we are applying for H2Ohio funding and the Board approved us to apply for \$400,000

Dudley Ditch we are still waiting on easements and we owe an agreement to a couple of the home owners on the original ditch to set an understanding.

E. Hamilton in New Russia has been jetted and camera. The jetting lasted roughly a year and we have identified an issue that we have asked New Russia to address that is

within the right of way.

Abraham Tile on Pyle Rd has been proposed but has had no movement.

Battenhouse Lateral 2 is complete

Gott we have all the easements but we need one more on Curtice and are hoping to get it to be able to do these together.

Webster/Whitehead Ditch in Lagrange – working on easements and one homeowner has agreed to do the work himself and we won’t need an easement.

Cole Ditch – Mark McConnell cleaned out the portion on maintenance and a portion of the we got an easement for and are looking to put on maintenance. It is still under design and waiting on Rafter for easements to extend it to its outlet.

Russell Ave in Sheffield Twp – going to board to award a contract to a new engineer firm – Wade Trim

Liberty Lane in Sheffield Twp is complete

Chip asked how do we confirm owners self-performing adhere to design and permitting? Don stated in this case there are no wetlands so no permitting. Chip asked about disposal. Don stated we are looking to have something in writing to hold both parts to what is expected.

2) Petitions in Progress:

- a) Dickson / Fortune: Romancak- One appeal has been filed. We are waiting on the court to rule.
- b) Kelner: Romancak reported the final report is due in March 2024 and the 2nd hearing will be in May 2024
- c) Roth – Zwick reported the report is due in December. At the first hearing we were also tasked with investigating a couple alternate proposals.

- 3) Planning & Mini Grants – Romancak: Planning funds are all gone and mini grants has soon money left.
- 4) Community Grants- Romancak reported Earhart Rd we have the easement and it has been recorded and KEM is working on design.

D) New Business

- 1) Board Approved 2024 SW Budget- Romancak reported that the maintenance budget increased and a lot of this years maintenance budget will be moved forward to next years budget. Lyn has been working on putting together a plan that will make sense to prioritize. Community Grants stayed at 400,000 plus the carry over from last year of \$185,000. Planning and Mini Grants remained the same.
- 2) Release of Community Grant Applications – Romancak stated they will be due at the end of January. Romancak pitched an idea to the committee that he wanted to draft a form for when someone is working on a ditch project they can obtain the name, addresses, phone number, email, and maybe a signature that would acknowledge that an easement would be required. This would be something that would show project readiness and could possibly earn points. Peter stated that readiness is a part of scoring criteria. Neil Lynch asked if the phone numbers and emails were the main priority. Romancak stated the signature acknowledging and easement is going to be requested would make everyone feel good and it isn’t committing anyone to anything at that time

but that they are open to the idea of an easement.

E) Other: Rick Carlson stated he received a letter from the District and asked what it was about. Romancak explained we received a complaint, and we are asking for permission to go investigate.

F) SWAC Member comments-

G.) PUBLIC COMMENT- Neil Lynch asked if we were working on the ODNR H2Ohio grant with only internal personnel. Romancak state we are working with Coldwater and KEM on Foster Ditch and on the Gerber Property we were working with KEM and Davey Resources. Soil & Water is also working on hiring a Conservation Technician for this. Jack stated they work help assess or guide H2Ohio needs. Neil asked if we had any feel for the chances for success? Lyn Stated we applied in April for the Gerber property and just found out we were awarded and that it overall wasn't bad to apply for.

Mark McConnell asked if he should turn the Hughes Rd project in for a Community Grant. Romancak stated he should go ahead and turn it in but we are looking to try to camera it a second time and we are going to have to put a little more effort into studying it.

**ADJOURNMENT: @ 6:21 pm motioned by John Born; seconded by Mark McConnell.
Motion Carried.**