

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT MEETING
January 23, 2024 at 9:37 a.m., Meeting Room A – Administration Building

Item # 1 – Call meeting to order

Item # 2 - The Secretary called the Roll, with the following members present:

David J. Moore, Chair, Lorain County Commissioner
Michelle Hung, Secretary/Treasurer, Lorain County Commissioner
Jeff Riddell, Vice Chair, Lorain County Commissioner
J.R. White, County Administrator, absent
Peter Zwick, LC Engineer's Office
Greg Peltz, LCAPA

Erica Hawkins, Secretary

Also present: Don Romancak, Stormwater, Lyn Ickes & Matt Arnold, Stormwater Management District, Jacob Pullar, Assistant County Prosecutor, Matt Spears, Assistant to Commissioner Hung

Item #3 – Approval of minutes

Motion by Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Hung to approve the minutes of September 26, 2023 as submitted. Upon roll call the vote taken thereon resulted as: Ayes: All. Motion carried.

Item #4 – New Business

RESOLUTION NO. SWMD-24-1

In the matter of electing the 2024)
Officers for the Lorain County)
Stormwater Management District)
for 2024)

January 23, 2024

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Lorain County Stormwater Management District hereby elect the 2024 Officers for Lorain County Stormwater Management District for 2024.

Commissioner Moore, Chair
Commissioner Riddell, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Hung, Secretary/Treasurer

Motion by David Moore, seconded by Michelle Hung to adopt. Upon roll call the vote taken thereon, resulted; Ayes: All / Nays: None

Motion carried. _____(discussion was held on the above)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Taylor Abraham, 41555 Russia Road, Elyria said these meetings should not be held during the day, people work and needs to have notification. Moore said hearings for ditches have been changed until 4:30 p.m. due to residents schedule. Abraham said what is ditch maintenance? Does not see anything being done. Riddell said there are several projects that are being held up in court right now. Moore said Commissioners allocated \$6.5 million to the stormwater district to get projects done, but if a resident rejects it can stall the project.

Dick Polen, 44287 Russia Road, Elyria has a farm and takes care of his property. If owners don't clean or maintain their property, what are the options? Romancak said a lot of times it is a civil issue.

Jeremy Thome, 45205 Telegraph Road said there are Ohio drainage laws. No one should be allowed to obstruct the flow of water.

Taylor Abraham said the Metroparks has caused obstructions. The water goes down hill and affects businesses. Engineer mows, but that is not maintenance there are 2" sediment in some ditches. Who checks retention ponds? Peter Zwick said he knows there is need for improvement and asked him to send him a list of ditch priorities. Zwick said the engineers inspect ditches and retention basins. Abraham said he is only trying to help and offered to do surveying free. Romancak said some ditches just need to be vacated.

Dick Pollen said he tiled his farm 6-7 years ago and cleaned it. He believes it is the Schroeder/Straw ditch that is not maintained and people refused to have runoff. Is there any leverage there? What if he does not maintain his? What are the consequences? Greg Peltz, Assistant County Prosecutor said owners would have to solve issue, becomes a civil matter, county can only go by the Ohio Revised Code.

Lyn Ickes said many years ago Soil & Water designed ditches and there are no recorded easements.

Taylor Abraham said there are different methods to get these ditches done cheaper.

_____ (discussion was held on the above)

Item #5 – Staff Reports – There were none

Item #6 – Correspondence - There was none

Item #7 – Old Business

a. Romancak said there are around 34 projects that will be using the APRA funds and starting to move along

- Brown Lateral. APA Peltz said the appeal from Mr. Tavenner is still in court waiting to hear from Trail Court
- Gott Ditch, Penfield Township will go to the Commissioners to set a hearing
- Kelner Ditch report should be sometime in March
- Roth Ditch, Engineer submitted report, Commissioners to set final hearing
- Gerber Property is around a \$4.8 million project waiting on H2OH grant of \$1 million
- Russell ROW, Sheffield Township

b. Peter Zwick gave a brief update of selected construction projects;

- Gott Ditch cleaning project will go to bid when Commissioners so authorize early this year (\$250,000 ARPA mile long project)
- Large log jam removal performed by Engineer at Butternut Ridge Rd bridge over West Branch of Black River
- Petitioned drainage improvements; Roth Tile next hearing to be scheduled
- SWAC Community Grant projects that are currently in the easement acquisition and/or design phases by County Engineer
 - Smith Ditch Restoration, Columbia Township
 - Carlisle Townships East River Road tile replacement to Black River
 - Battenhouse Ditch log jam removal, Amherst Township
 - Daylight SR83 tile, Eaton township
 - Other SWAC projects have been farmed out to consulting engineers

- 2024 new SWAC applications will be due January 31st and working with townships.

c. Matt Arnold said the community grants from the Townships are due January 31. Some townships have discussed the following projects and annual EPA report is due in March.

- Brighton – road ditch culvert
- Camden – ditch
- Carlisle – road flooding
- Rochester/Huntington – ditch
- Brownhelm – ditch erosion
- Grafton - ditch road flooding

Don Romancak said Erosion Sediments had a small change made regards to stop work order violations and these now will be signed by County Administrator.

Taylor Abraham asked if ARPA money could be used for ditch maintenance program? Lyn Ickes said maintenance is considered blockage out, sediment out, dipping but mowing should be continuous.

Taylor Abraham asked if Sandstone Development was private, because the county paid for the road? Romancak said Spline Road said it is private development but that road was paid from TIF funds.

Taylor Abraham said there needs to be more public outreach to change people opinion of ditches and he is here and available to help. _____ (discussion was held on the above)

MEETING

- a. May 23, 2024 at 9:30am
 - b. September 24, 2024 at 9:30am
 - c. As needed
- _____

ADJOURNMENT

Moore said nothing further, meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Theresa L. Upton, Clerk



Michelle Hung, Secretary/Treasurer, SWMD