

**STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT MEETING**  
**May 28, 2024 at 4:30 p.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

Others present:

Jeff Armbruster, County Administrator, absent

Peter Zwick, LC Engineer's Office

Don Romancak, Stormwater

Greg Peltz, LCAPA, Absent

Theresa L. Upton, Secretary

Also present: Lyn Ickes, Stormwater Management District, Matt Spears, Assistant to Commissioner Hung, Rob Duncan, LCCDD and members of the public.

**Item #3 – Approval of minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Riddell, seconded by Commissioner Moore to approve the minutes of January 23, 2024 as submitted. Upon roll call the vote taken thereon resulted as: Ayes: All Moore, Riddell & Hung / Nays: None

Motion carried.

**Item #4 – New Business**

a. Romancak said 8 community grant requests were received from the Townships, totaling over \$1 million. District has approximately \$545,000 available; \$400,000 new monies and \$125,000 was carryover. SWAC reviewed and ranked the projects. The first 4 projects are being recommended with available resources;

1. Smith Ditch, Columbia, requested \$95,000 and ranked the highest. Project was awarded a couple of phases ago and has some ARPA in it. Design almost complete by county engineers office and township is working on easements. This project will provide relief for Plum Creek, SR82 by Columbia Airport to Station Rd. It will improve drainage on SR82/Station Rd., which is very swampy and Zwick had a hard time located that ditch.

2. Law Road, Grafton requested \$196,000 and included \$16,000 for log jams that are not necessary. SWAC recommended \$171,560. Carl Wesemeyer, Grafton Township stated that all property owners would sign easements.

3. Dellefield Main, Elyria Township (Martins Run Phase 1) requested \$250,000. Working with Carvana to clean out their portion of the ditch, which would come from TIF funds. Directly and upstream is Rich Beran's property and he will clean along the ditch along his property and working with Elyria Township to get permission from ODOT to clean out ditch as well. So this project would start from Carvana to SR2 to I90/I80 opening up Murray Ridge/Griswold area where there has been flooding complaints. Moore asked about NORD? Romancak said City of Lorain is doing that.

4. Mini Excavator, Rochester/Huntington requested \$66,605 to do in house stormwater maintenance. Did this in the past with Columbia Township and has worked well. Rochester/Huntington are looking at a 30% match. SWAC asked them to review specification for state purchase or bidding and equipment might be to small.

The remaining projects if funding would be available are;

5. Anderson/Jones Road, Brighton request \$14,231.04
6. Rowell Road, Camden broke up project into 2 pieces and submitted upstream, but SWAC and engineer requested they start downstream. He has a meeting with Trustee Hozalski and will look into a revised application for pitch cleaning request of \$179,920.
7. Dent Ditch, Carlisle need more study and planning for Banks Road lateral drainage at a request of \$160,004
8. Gore Orphanage Tile, Brownhelm drainage requested \$121,680. But engineers do not feel this would relieve their maintenance cost. Tile seems to be a plug and nothing will prevent leaves from blocking intake and water will flow across road.

Romancak indicated that SWAC members; Mark McConnel and Rick Carlson believe that culvert projects should not be part of Stormwater funds they should be paid by road funds. Stormwater funds are for ditches only. He said he disagreed and said culvert is part of the stormwater infrastructure and it is up to the Commissioners to decide.

Moore said you recommend 4 of the 8 projects to be funded. Why can we not fund all 8?

Romancak said the following project request are:

|    | Project  | Original request | SWAC recommended |
|----|--|------------------|------------------|
| 1. | Smith Ditch, Columbia                                      | \$95,000         | \$95,000         |
| 2. | Law Road, Grafton  | \$196,560        | \$171,560        |
| 3. | Dellefield Main, Elyria Township<br>(Martins Run Phase 1). | \$275,000        | \$250,000        |
| 4. | Mini Excavator, Rochester/Huntington                       | \$66,605         | \$66,000 (cap)   |
| 5. | Anderson/Jones Road, Brighton                              | \$14,231.04      | \$14,231.04      |
| 6. | Rowell Road, Camden  | \$179,920        | \$179,920.00     |
| 7. | Dent Ditch, Carlisle                                       | \$160,004        | \$160,004        |
| 8. | Gore Orphanage Tile, Brownhelm                             | \$121,680        | \$121,680        |

Moore said recommendation is to fund 1-4, but #5 is only \$14,231.04. Romancak said if the Board would like to make funds available it could be moved up. Moore said what about Camden? Romancak said this would go over what is in available resources. Moore asked about the APRA funds? Romancak said those funds were set aside for other projects. These grant requests come in annually and is what has been asked for this year with the available resources. He said remember, Fortune Ditch was and is tied up in court for over a year and county received a favorable ruling and that county cost is around \$1.8 million from ARPA. Moore said SWAC has recommended these? Romancak said yes at least 1-6, but 7 and 8 have issues and more project study.

Ian Wilkshire, Soil & Water asked if these projects could be done by them? Romancak said if there is money available. Fortune is \$1.8 million, Gerber property \$1.8, which is \$3.6 million of the \$5.6 million of ARPA funds and still have Kelner and other projects. This money needs to be committed quickly and still need to spend it. His concern is not to let the board overcommit and then years from now, how do they fund the promises that were made. Moore said he appreciates that, but thinks they have enough funds to cover that. He said if we end up in court, which takes time that means that money has to be sent back and trying to work with Budget Director on ARPA funds and what is loss revenue. Romancak said him and Budget Director are working on closing out purchase orders and freeing up money. Moore said he would like to see that 5 and 6 are added to the funded projects instead of waiting until the next meeting in September.

Riddell said there is an annual meeting on July 18 at 6:30 p.m., Penfield. Romancak said that meeting is an opportunity to go to the Township Association Meeting and go over special topics, permits and updates.

Moore said he is not sure about #4. Could that amount be higher, is that the right equipment needed? Maybe Mr. Pollen knows and can give recommendations. Ickes said they want smaller equipment in order to not have much swing in the roadway, especially Rochester because the roads are not big and this also includes the trailer and a warranty. Hung said those townships do not have a lot of money and are putting in 20%. Riddell said it is normal practice for the townships to do the roadside ditches? Zwick said absolutely because county engineer is not permitted to work on township roads, only county roads. Ickes said she will be attending the township meeting next Monday.

Zwick said the request are made by the Township, Engineer reviews and SWAC recommends and some just don't make the cut. Taylor Abraham asked if the money could go towards ditch maintenance since you are behind on that? Romancak said they are in the process of hiring someone to begin to maintain ditch in house and should begin July/August.

Riddell asked if the projects have been engineered? Romancak said just Columbia, Grafton has been walked by KEM. Riddell asked if they are aware of the timeline? Romancak said this is outside of the ARPA funds. When projects become available they would just substitute ARPA for stormwater funds.

Following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. SWD-24-2

In the matter of approving the 2024 community)  
grant applications recommended by Stormwater)  
Advisory Committee to include 6 projects in the)  
in the total amount of \$710,711.04 )

May 28, 2024

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Lorain County Stormwater Management District we hereby approve the 2024 community grant applications recommended by Stormwater Advisory Committee to include 6 projects in the total amount of \$ 710,711.04 .

|    |  |             |
|----|--|-------------|
| 1. | Smith Ditch, Columbia                                      | \$95,000    |
| 2. | Law Road, Grafton  | \$171,560   |
| 3. | Dellefield Main, Elyria Township<br>(Martins Run Phase 1). | \$250,000   |
| 5. | Rowell Road, Camden  | \$179,920   |
| 6. | Anderson/Jones Road, Brighton                              | \$14,231.04 |

Moore moved, seconded by Hung to adopt Resolution. Upon roll call the vote taken, thereon resulted as: Ayes: All Moore, Hung & Riddell / Nays: None

Motion carried. \_\_\_\_\_(discussion was held on the above)

## RESOLUTION NO. SWD-24-3

In the matter of allowing Rochester & )  
Huntington Township to purchase an )  
Excavator in the amount not to exceed )  
\$100,000 with a \$28,545 match from )  
the Townships )

May 28, 2024

WHEREAS, Rochester and Huntington need an excavator to do roadside ditches; and

WHEREAS, they have requested this purchase from Stormwater District and will need to go out for bid or state term; and

WHEREAS, Stormwater will approve funding in amount not to exceed \$100,000 and includes a match from the Township in the amount of \$28,545 and final approval will be given by the Commissioners.

Moore moved, seconded by Hung to adopt Resolution. Upon roll call the vote taken, thereon resulted as: Ayes: All Moore, Hung & Riddell / Nays: None

Motion carried. \_\_\_\_\_(discussion was held on the above)

**Item #5 - Report of presiding officer(s), and/or director or staff:**

Zwick gave a brief update of selected construction projects since last report (Jan. 2024)

1. Gott Ditch, Penfield Twp. cleaning project will go to construction ASAP, now that Commissioners have recently entered into the contract with Marks Construction of Valley City (\$200,000 ARPA mile-long project). Pre-construction meeting scheduled for next week.
2. Construction of Firelands School storm water outlet improvement in Henrietta Twp. is scheduled for dry weather in Summer 2024 by Denes Concrete, Inc.
3. County Engineer removed large log jams from West Branch of Black River at an off-road location in Wellington Twp., and at Pitts Rd. and Butternut Ridge Rd. bridges.
4. Petitioned drainage improvements: Roth Tile delayed by an appeal in court and this is just under \$1 million in ARPA funds.
5. SWAC Community Grant projects that are currently in the easement acquisition, survey and/or design phases by County Engineer:
  - a. Columbia Twp.'s Smith Ditch Restoration—easement acquisition
  - b. Carlisle Twp.'s East River Rd. tile replacement to Black River survey
  - c. Curtice Ditch Restoration—SWMD negotiating one remaining easement
  - d. County Engineer reviews other SWMD or SWAC projects that are under design by various consulting engineers:
    - i. Russell Ave. storm sewer replacement, Sheffield Twp.
    - ii. Daylight drainage tile outlet at State Route 83, Eaton Twp.
    - iii. Baumhart Rd. off-road Ditch, Brownhelm Twp.
    - iv. Ravine's Edge storm water basin retrofit, Carlisle Twp.
    - v. Battenhouse Ditch log jam removal easements, Amherst Twp.
6. County Engineer also reviews for code compliance storm water management for new developments in all townships—there are numerous commercial/industrial and residential development projects again this year!
7. County Engineer recently reviewed SWAC community grant applications from townships for SWAC subcommittee evaluation (Item #4).

Riddell asked if #1-4 have been all engineered? Zwick said he engineered #1, Gott Ditch and hired local surveyors. #2 Firelands was done by Erie County Soil & Water. Riddell said roman numerals i-v. Zwick said county engineer is reviewing all and getting outside input and many are being done by ARPA funds.

**Item #6 – Correspondence** - There was none

**Item #7 – Old Business**

- a. Lyn Ickes said the mowing is going to be done on a rotational program
- b. Some ditches are being contracted out for dipping and sediment removal
- c. Ickes has been doing inspections and finding impediments. Going through there are not a lot of easement paperwork, some have been plated and others have not and many were done on the old petition process and things should be clarified.
- c. Ian Wilkshire, Soil & Water said it will be easier for them to talk with the residents and explain what is happening rather than residents just receiving a letter stating they owe money, but they really don't. Taylor Abraham said it is the whole easement of someone's' property that people don't like.  
Romancak said him and Soil & Water are having a meeting to discuss a plan and get some job descriptions together.

**Item #8 – Public Comment** – There were none.

**Item #9 - Meeting**

- a. September 24, 2024 at 4:30 pm
  - c. As needed
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**Item #10 - Adjournment**

Moore moved, seconded by Hung to adjourn at 5:50 p.m. Upon roll call the vote taken thereon, resulted as: Ayes: All Moore, Hung & Riddell / Nays: None  
Motion carried.

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Respectfully submitted; Theresa L. Upton, Clerk



Michelle Hung, Secretary/Treasurer, SWMD