

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT MEETING
October 29, 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

Jeff Riddell, Vice Chair, Lorain County Commissioner

Michelle Hung, Secretary/Treasurer, 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 & Jessie Nowjak, Stormwater Management District, Matt Spears, Assistant to Commissioner Hung and members of the public.

Item #3 – Approval of minutes

Motion by Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Riddell to approve the minutes of May 28, 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. 2025 Budget

Don Romancak said the 2025 budget is \$2,342,250 and revenue of \$1,889,378. There is a credit of \$35,000 from Republic and the Engineer does the comprehensive plan, while Soil & Water does Erosion Control. Will need to revisit the fee structure next year.

Commissioner Moore asked about the ARPA money for ditch work. Romancak said there are 3 ditches that are held up in court, which is around \$3.5 million, so around \$4 million probably will come back as loss revenue. In discussions with the Budget Director, he stated that this money would be brought back and then could be reallocated to stormwater district.

Commissioner Riddell said the is going to be a conference with the Judges to talk about the ditch process because the Commissioners have an administrative decision on the process rather than a fact of law and move these through the court system faster.

Following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. SWD 24-4

In the matter of approving the 2025 Stormwater
Management District budget) October 29, 2024

WHEREAS, Lorain County Storm Water Management District has approved the 2025 budget.

CATEGORY	2025
Debt Service	\$65,000.00
Ohio EPA Phase II Compliance & Administration	\$877,100.00
Administration	\$570,100.00
<i>Storm Water Management Plan</i>	\$35,000.00
<i>Customer Service/Technical Support</i>	\$36,000.00
<i>Database Management</i>	\$52,000.00
<i>MCM#1 - Public Education & Outreach</i>	\$32,000.00
<i>MCM#2 - Public Involvement/Participation</i>	\$10,000.00
<i>MCM#3 - Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination</i>	\$55,000.00
<i>MCM#4 - Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control</i>	\$16,000.00
<i>MCM#5 - Post-Construction Storm Water Management</i>	\$55,000.00
<i>MCM 6- Pollution Prevention / Good Housekeeping</i>	\$16,000.00
Storm Water Management District Projects	\$350,000.00
<i>Design / Prof Services</i>	\$250,000.00
<i>Construction</i>	\$100,000.00
Infrastructure maintenance	\$1,000,000.00
<i>Infrastructure grants program</i>	\$425,000.00
<i>Mini Grant</i>	\$50,000.00
<i>Planning Grant</i>	\$30,000.00
<i>Ditch Maintenance</i>	\$450,000.00
<i>Additional Contractual services</i>	\$45,000.00
Log Jams	\$50,000.00
Auditor 2% Surcharge	\$1,320.00
Refunds/Credits	\$150.00
Oberlin	\$320,765.00
S. Amherst Village	\$30,094.75
Kipton	\$6,976.51
Rochester	\$4,514.21
Transfer	\$0.00
Total County SWD Expenses	\$2,342,250.00
REVENUES - Available to County	
revenue fees	\$1,778,378
revenue -Plan Review	\$66,000
Revenue - Other (Oberlin, S Amherst, NEORSD et al)	\$45,000
	\$1,889,378
Pass Through not included	

Motion by Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Riddell to adopt Resolution. Upon roll call the vote taken thereon, resulted as: Ayes: Moore, Riddell & Hung / Nays: None
Motion carried. _____ (discussion was held on the above)

b. \$20,000 request from Rochester Village on storm sewer replacement

Don Romancak said Rochester Village has request assistance with a replacement of storm sewer down West North Street to SR511. Village has worked with the Engineer's office to receive OPWC funds in amount of \$40,000 and Village will allocate \$20,000

Following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. SWD 24-5

In the matter of authorizing payment of)
\$20,000 to the Village Of Rochester)
For a replacement of a storm sewer on)
West North Street to SR511) October 29, 2024

WHEREAS, Village of Rochester has requested \$20,000 towards a storm sewer down West North Street to SR511; and

WHEREAS, Village of Rochester will contribute \$20,000 and OPWC will contribute \$40,000.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Stormwater Management District hereby approves the allocation and payment of \$20,000 to the Village of Rochester for their storm sewer project on West North Street to SR511.

Motion by Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Riddell to adopt Resolution. Upon roll call the vote taken thereon, resulted as: Ayes: Moore, Riddell & Hung / Nays: None
Motion carried. _____ (discussion was held on the above)

c. Russell Avenue Sewer, Sheffield Township

Don Romancak said this sewer cost of \$120,000. Peter Zwick said it is replacing a 100-year-old tile.

Following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. SWD 24-6

In the matter of approving the Russell)
Avenue Sewer, Sheffield Township and)
Authorize Engineer to go out for bids) October 29, 2024

WHEREAS, Russell Avenue, Sheffield Township has a 100-year-old tile that needs to be replaced with a sewer.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Stormwater Management District hereby approves the project and authorizes Engineer to go out for bids.

Motion by Commissioner Riddell seconded by Commissioner Moore to adopt Resolution. Upon roll call the vote taken thereon, resulted as: Ayes: Riddell, Moore & Hung / Nays: None
Motion carried. _____ (discussion was held on the above)

d. 2025 Update water management plan

Don Romancak said there has been discussions with SWAC and community members to revamp the regulations with NPDES, which the permit expires March 2026.

Item #4 – Engineers Report

Peter Zwick gave a brief update on these projects since last report in May;

1. Construction of Firelands School storm water outlet improvement in Henrietta Twp. 100% complete by Denes Concrete--valued at \$51,000.
2. Gott Ditch in Penfield Twp. *substantially* complete by Marks Construction of Valley City--valued at \$200,000. Marks construction is also finishing Ravine's Edge storm water basin retrofit in Carlisle Twp. and valued at \$79,000.
3. Russell Ave. storm sewer replacement in Sheffield Twp. to go out to bid ASAP--valued at \$120,000.
4. Dellefield Main Ditch improvement in Elyria Twp. land survey underway by Rafter Engineering (\$550,000 Phase 1+2 improvement cost estimate).
5. Unfortunately, Brown Lateral #1 in Pittsfield (\$225,000 est.), and Roth Tile in Columbia (\$998,000 est.), are both delayed by court appeals.
6. This summer, County Engineer mowed remainder of ditches and drainage improvements that are on County maintenance. County Engineer also maintains two dozen "dry" storm water detention basins in subdivisions that are on County maintenance—recent excavation, repairs to pipe and concrete structures made to various basins.
7. SWAC Community Grant projects that are currently in the easement acquisition, survey and/or design phases by County Engineer:
 - a. Curtice Ditch Restoration—SWMD negotiating *one* remaining easement
 - b. Carlisle Twp.'s East River Rd. tile replacement to Black River easements
 - c. Columbia Twp.'s Smith Ditch Restoration—easement acquisition
 - d. County Engineer administers other SWMD or SWAC projects that are under design by various consulting engineers:
 - i. East Hamilton St. off-road tile replacement, New Russia Twp.
 - ii. Cole Ditch Extension, Pittsfield Twp.
 - iii. Daylight drainage tile outlet at State Route 83 to Giles Rd., Eaton Twp.
 - iv. Baumhart Rd. off-road Ditch, Brownhelm Twp.
8. County Engineer also reviews for code compliance storm water management for new developments in all townships—number of residential and commercial/industrial development projects has increased again this year.

Commissioner Riddell asked if Peter had comment on the May meeting on an idea posted that the culvert repairs for the ditches might belong to the road rather than the ditch? Peter Zwick said he disagrees and in the minority on a decision that was made by the Stormwater Advisory Subcommittee. He thinks if the townships bring a culvert or ditch forward as a project let them. The culverts in the roadway are in the right of way now and don't need an easement, don't need a petition, just do it and there are a couple of townships that have that now that could bring it to SWAC. He thinks it is perfect and great way to use the funds of the stormwater. Riddell thanked him and was looking for the alternative theory because someone says it is going to be a Commissioners decision and he likes to have an intelligent vote.

Romancak said if you insert stormwater money to replace culverts and they go after a OPWC match, it makes the Township project more competitive and OPWC has changed rules recently with scoring it is very hard to get Townships money for their roadways.

Riddell asked what would we do, if there was a culvert that needed to be repaired in a ditch that that was in a ditch that didn't need to be fixed? Zwick said just the culvert needed to be repaired, Riddell said yes.

Zwick said if it is a township road then township would have found a way to repair themselves, if it is in a county road then the engineers would repair. Zwick said anytime you would like to talk about permissive tax which is a great way to get OPWC money to the township and roads. Riddell said is it not more difficult to fund these with the OPWC changes?

Carl Wesemeyer, Grafton Township Trustee said road work is difficult, but the culverts are not so bad. In fact, Grafton Township had culverts replaced about 2 years ago with OPWC funds and Stormwater funds and along with Township and did Island Road.

Zwick said the changes of OPWC are money going to main roads and harder for Township roads to receive. Wesemyer said with the map apps they funnel traffic off of SR57 onto township roads like Erhart Rd and getting a lot of traffic that would normally stay on a State Route and it was aspirated when the two roundabouts were being put in SR303 and SR83. He is sure their traffic count is a whole lot higher with these road apps sending people the quicker way and don't like semi's coming down these roads. Going back to OPWC and on Law Road there was a failed culvert and was able to get emergency funds from OPWC to get it repaired. He knows years ago; Rochester Village had a culvert fail on SR511 and that was a no brainer to get that fixed. But he would like to see more ditches cleaned himself. Riddell said that is why they are pushing the Judges, it is not that they are doing anything bad, but they are giving the same space in the court docket as a trial that has depositions, discovery, hearing, etc. and taking months. This is not a trial, not a matter of fact it is an administrative decision to make sure that the Commissioners followed all the steps. As a result, if we can get the Judges to agree these could be expedited schedules and this should qualify. If there is a claim that is a separate action and if been harmed could go to Common Pleas, but that takes them outside the ditch process rather than holding up the ditch petition and that is what they are working on with the Judges and is in the preliminary stages and think it is being received well, just need to keep working together.

Riddell said he would like to see some guidelines with what culverts belong to do who and what conditions they are in. _____ (discussion was held on the above)

Item #6 – Correspondence - There was none

Item #7 – Old Business

- a. Lyn Ickes said Schroeder, Fowl, Zurcher, $\frac{1}{2}$ of Higgins is done because the 1st portion was not needed, Draper will be the last to be done and Curtis Phase 1 the trees were cut, and excavating should have started today. The contractor that was hired, Todd Wolfe has been great and well received by the residents and keeps in constant contact. Will be doing a change order for around \$1,000
Don Romancak said Lyn Ickes continues to work with Engineers office on mowing
- b. Don Romancak said \$425,000 is available for community grants and applications have been sent. There is \$50,000 available in mini grants and \$30,000 for planning grants.
- c. Don Romancak said waiting for OHEPA on the permit for the audit
- d. Don Romancak introduced Jessie to the Board. She will oversee illicit discharge and flow and working with KEM now and hope to do it next year with interns in the lab.
Commissioner Riddell asked where the lab was? Jessie said in the basement of this building, and it is just an office space with a sink and will be sending reports of failing septic's to the Health department.

Item #8 – Public Comment – There were none.

Item #9 – Meeting at 4:30 p.m.

- a. January 28, 2025
- b. May 20, 2025
- c. September 23, 2025
- c. As needed

Item #10 - Adjournment

Moore said with nothing further we are adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted; Theresa L. Upton, Clerk

Michelle Hung, Secretary/Treasurer, SWMD