

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT MEETING
January 14, 2025 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
Marty Gallagher, Lorain County Commissioner

Others present:

Jeff Armbruster, County Administrator, absent
Peter Zwick, LC Engineer's Office
Don Romancak, Stormwater
Leigh Prugh, LCAPA
Kathy Perales, LC APA
Theresa L. Upton, Secretary

Also present: Lyn Ickes, Stormwater Management District, Amherst Township Trustee Neil Lynch, Columbia Township Trustee Mark Cunningham, Aimee Marcil, Assistant to Commissioner Moore & Blaze Bickley, Assistant to Commissioner Gallagher

Item #3 – Approval of minutes

Motion by Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Riddell to approve the minutes of October 29, 2024 as submitted. Upon roll call the vote taken thereon resulted as: Ayes: All Moore, Riddell & Gallagher / Nays: None

Motion carried.

Item #4 – New Business

a. Election of Officers

Chair

Commissioner Riddell moved, seconded by Commissioner Gallagher to nominate Commissioner Moore as 2025 Chair. Being no more nominations, following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. SWD-25-1

In the matter of appointing Commissioner David J. Moore)
As Lorain County Stormwater Management 2025 Chair) January 14, 2025

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Lorain County Stormwater Management District we hereby appoint Commissioner David J. Moore as Lorain County Stormwater Management 2025 Chair.

Motion by Commissioner Riddell, seconded by Commissioner Gallagher. Upon roll call the vote taken thereon, resulted as; Ayes: All Riddell, Gallagher & Moore / Nays: None

Motion carried.

Gallagher said when he was in the township and an issue, he had with doing his own ditch. Did he dig it out deep enough. Is it too high or too low. Septic's ditch into them. He always had an issue with being responsible for the people's water upstream. They were able to do it with the township at the time. But what guidance do the property owners receive on how to maintain that ditch? He believes this needs to be done to explain to the owners and how to maintain it.

Romancak said by ORC 6131 = county maintenance and 6117 = make part system and clean out for benefit.

Riddell said the courts are going to streamline the process as an administrative rule when someone appeals a ditch approved by the Commissioners. Therefore, it will not be held up in court so long.

Prugh said she would like to review the discussion on easements and acknowledgements.

- * Ickes said all maintenance for last year has been done with no complaints with Wolf. Wolf actually speaks with the residents and lets them know what work is being done. 2025 has 4 ditches; 2nd half of Schroeder, Mauer, Gilson & Draper Lateral 4 and equals over 6,141 lf.
- * Romancak said Kelner is moving along.
 - * Russell Ave. will be going to Commissioners for award of a contract soon.
 - * Cole ditch hearing is January 21.
 - * Easements are going out on Ludwig Ditch, New Russia/South Amherst
- * Romancak said had discussions with some developers on a non-school TIF to clean out some additional ditches to provide developers with adequate outlets. Great opportunity for temporary easement rather than permanent. Locations would be 2 in Eaton Township (Carpenter Ditch, running through Creekwood Golf Course), south of Fortune Ditch to SR83. Carpenter Ditch, Columbia has received flood complaints. Also, Beaver Creek Subdivision, SR82/Durkee to SR57 and goes by Castleton Subdivision, built up settlement and flood. Also, Battenhouse Main, adequate outlet for that subdivision. Albrecht Road east to Oberlin Road for drainage at airport.
- * Romancak has been working with developers on a non-school TIF to clean out a school ditch with temporary easement. Riddell asked about the non-school TIF. Romancak said taxes are still given to the school but off new development real estate taxes are redirected for infrastructure improvements that would benefit the area of said development. Riddell said there needs to be a primer on that and like to have discussion.
- * Romancak said there is a lot of wetland mitigation banks being proposed and constructed within the county. It is a private activity that transforms land that could be developed, sometimes farmland and/or woods and then it is transferred to the Lorain County Metroparks that are tax exempt or other entities. So, townships are losing part of their tax base even though agricultural or vacant land and might not be a lot of tax, but it could be 100 acres, 200 acres or more that becomes tax exempt within the township. Trustee Cunningham said in this case it is 400 acres and generates some money. He is going to call Army Corp of Engineers because this land is all agricultural residential and this is a commercial activity constant with zoning. Romancak said also Huntington Township between the state parks, Metroparks and potential a wetland mitigation bank much of their land tax exempt. Ickes said 12% of the entire township land is non-taxable and yet, township must maintain roads to get to all these parks and the budget of the township is only around \$500,000 and includes 21 miles of road. Gallagher asked about zoning. Ickes said how do you not zone out a Metroparks because most of the land is donated to Metroparks or Western Reserve Conservation District. Most people don't realize when

they donate a 400 acre farm how the outcome has effect on the tax base. Moore said the overall plan of the county the ditches are dumping into some. So, how is Metroparks partnering? Romancak said Metroparks does pay for impervious surface they have within township, but no real estate taxes. Ickes said they also don't want district to clean out dams, etc.

Peter Zwick, Chief Deputy Engineer gave a brief update on 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.

Riddell asked about the retention pond north of Coopers Run. Zwick said it is with Amherst City.

Moore said SWAC members are being appointed and asked if there was anything going on? He stated Mark McConnell had nothing to report at some of the meeting because he did not know. Cunningham said trustees need to come to meeting and only him and Lynch attend. So, if the townships have developments, they need to see what is going on.

Item #6 – Correspondence - There was none

Item #7 – Old Business

- a. Update on Projects was just discussed.
- b. Programs

Romancak said mini grants are available annually at \$50,000 but capped at \$7,500 and has a required match of 20%. Lynch said Amherst Township makes a consensus decision as to what they submit.

Moore asked about the ARPA funds. Romancak said \$1.5 million is for Kelner Ditch. Depending on Fortune will be over \$1 million. \$3.3 went back. Roth is \$1 million. Cole is \$200,000. Russell is \$120,000.

Riddell said ditch renovations have been piling up for years and allocation of the money and assessment to owners = free and can't get it done. When APRA was put back into gene4rla fund rather than sending it back and ditches are going to be done. But what happens in 2025 and 2026 will county do something with the funding to clean these ditches. Romancak said the fee structure needs to be looked at because the annual 3% was fine, but inflation has hit.

_____ (discussion was held on the above)

Item #8 – Public Comment – There were none.

Item #9 – Meeting at 4:30 p.m.

- a. May 13, 2025
- b. September 16, 2025
- c. As needed

Item #10 - Adjournment

Moore said with nothing further we are adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted; Theresa L. Upton, Clerk



Marty Gallagher, Secretary/Treasurer, SWMD