

Conservancy District
Board of Directors Meeting
February 20, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District met in regular session at the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District office in Defiance, Ohio, on February 20, 2024. In attendance were George Ropp, Mark Moats and Dave Kuhn, Directors; Wendy Yunker, General Manager; Emilee Rankin, Secretary/Treasurer; Kurt Warnimont, Maintenance Manager; Jim Weaner, Legal Counsel; Steve Wilson, Project Manager; Adam Hoff, Hoff Consulting; Mark Keber, Van Wert County citizen.

President George Ropp called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the December meeting were approved as mailed. Motion was made by Mark and seconded by Dave. Yeas 3.

Approval of Financial Reports: The financial reports for December and January along with the CD tracking were approved as mailed. Motion was made by Mark and seconded by Dave. Yeas 3.

National Watershed Coalition Membership: George moved to renew the membership in the amount of \$75 for the National Watershed Coalition. Mark seconded. Yeas 3.

Spray Rig Update: Wendy stated that the final invoice for the spray rig came in bringing the total to \$31,040. The original estimate was \$30,000. Dave moved to approve the final invoice. Mark seconded. Yeas 3.

Lower Blanchard Update: Steve Wilson stated that Senator McColley and his staff are working with OEMA to restore the funding necessary to pay for the Dominion Energy invoice. Wilson requested a status update in January and is still waiting for a response.

Upper Blanchard River Update: Steve Wilson reported on the following items:

Upper Blanchard – Funding:

- ❖ Updated estimated costs for the Findlay projects are as follows:
 - Eagle Creek - \$75 million
 - NS Bridge \$16.7 million (\$7.1 million Federal grant)
 - Additional Benching - \$6 million

The City of Findlay is submitting an application to FEMA requesting a grant from Flood Mitigation Assistance funds in the amount of \$24 million. If awarded, these funds would be used to help pay for the Eagle Creek Basin and the Additional Benching. FEMA funds cannot be used for the NS Bridge since we already have another Federal grant. It could take 18 to 24 months for the FEMA application to be approved. No construction can take place prior to the approval if we intend to use FEMA funds to help pay for construction.

NS Bridge:

- 100% plans and specs have been reviewed and approved by NS.
- NS **will not** be providing a cost share. A request will be made to NS asking them to at least cover their internal costs that would normally be passed on to the local community.
- FRA agreement is waiting for 2 more supervisors to sign off.
- NS cannot complete the construction agreement until the FRA agreement is complete.

- Hancock County approved funding for the Stantec change order that covers the additional costs for responding to plan reviews.

Hydraulic Improvements Phase 1:

- Still working on the settlement agreement for the eminent domain case.

Additional Hydraulic Improvements:

- Agreement has been reached on a purchase price for the final parcel.
- Bidding will be dependent on property acquisition and remediation of the brownfield site.
- More excavation is needed to complete the brownfield site cleanup. Funding for a change order is being reviewed by the Department of Development.
- The City of Findlay completed a Phase 2 environmental survey within the Benching footprint that discovered the presence of lead at several locations. Stantec and MWCD are working with the City's consultant on a plan to remediate the lead as part of the project.

Eagle Creek Dry Storage Basin Planning Update and Property Acquisition: Steve Wilson reported the following:

- Rezoning of the parcel zoned R-2 Residential was denied by the Eagle Township Trustees at their meeting on December 19, 2023. An appeal to the Trustees to reconsider this issue will be presented at a future Township meeting.
- Tree clearing has begun and will be complete by the end of February.
- Closings can be scheduled on the Lammers and Scarbrough properties as soon as Phase 1 environmental reviews are complete.
- A purchase agreement with a closing date on or before December 31, 2024 has been submitted to the Marra's for their signature.
- Purchase agreement for the Farmer parcel has been signed. Appraisal review was not approved by ODNR. BRWS is working with ODNR on next steps to get an approved appraisal.
- Flowage easement appraisals have been approved by ODNR. BRWS has begun negotiations.
- Will schedule another meeting with Camp Berry officials in March to discuss flowage easement and easement for Hancock Wood powerline relocation.
- Plans for an Industry Day are on hold until a clearer path for funding is found.
- The design plans have been approved by ODNR Dam Safety section.

Steve Wilson stated that MWCD is required to provide a Surety Bond for the Dam construction on Eagle Creek before a dam construction permit will be issued. The amount of the bond required is based off Stantec's construction cost estimate. After ODNR reviewed the construction cost estimate, Wendy worked with Conrad Beck to get all the information needed to complete a performance bond request.

After discussion, Mark moved to approve the following resolution:

Resolution No. 2353
Approve Performance Bond
With Jett Insurance Company

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Directors of the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District move to accept the General Indemnity Agreement through Jett Insurance Company in the amount of \$5,124,500 with a premium payment of \$102,490 to Beck Insurance.

Dave seconded. Yeas 3

US 68/15:

- Project is on schedule for bidding on March 21. Construction should begin around May 1.
- The MOA between MWCD and the City of Findlay to provide funding for the 20% local match (\$529,500) was approved at City Council's meeting on February 6.

After discussion Dave made a motion to approve the following resolution:

Resolution No. 2354
Final Legislation
65/15 Interchange

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Directors of the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District move to execute final Legislation with ODOT to reconfigure the SR15/US 68 Interchange and submit payment for the local match after we receive payment from the City of Findlay.

George Seconded. Yeas 3.

Little Auglaize River Update: Stream inspection notes were turned in and now maintenance is working on those items.

Grassy Creek and Schaller Ditch Update: The office received an e-mail complaint about the trash along Grassy Creek. Wendy and Kurt went out to pick up 5 bags of trash and boxes. Kurt will research the cost associated with putting up a fence to prevent this from happening in the future.

St. Joseph River Update: The contractor removed 65 logjams in December, 28 logjams in January, and will continue as weather cooperates.

Legal Counsel Update: Jim Weaner reported that he sent a letter to the assistant prosecutor last week regarding the rezoning that the Eagle Township trustees denied at their meeting on December 19, 2023. He is also preparing for a meeting Thursday regarding the McMonigal case.

General Manager Report:

- Meeting with lawyers and Steve regarding Township trustees' decision for zoning change
- Meeting with lawyers, Steve, and Adam regarding prequalification for eagle creek basin
- Discussions with Mayor and BRWS regarding applying for a FEMA grant and press release
- Completed and submitted 2023 audit reports to the State Auditors office

- Put together the 2023 Annual Report – submitted to the print shop
- Sent the MWCD Judges a save the date email for the annual hearing
- Mailed out tax exempt application for MWCD parcels purchased in 2023 and paid first half taxes
- Cut trees off side slopes and installed No Trespassing signs with Kurt
- Inspected Grassy Creek and picked up trash off our property with Kurt
- Restocked supplies-including new phones for district office
- Completed the close out for 2023 which includes:
 - financial reports for Directors
 - filed all required annual IRS tax forms
 - completed and sent out W2's for all employees
 - completed and sent out 1099 forms to all of our contractors
 - boxed up all important financial documents from 2023 in preparation for the Auditor
- Researched new tax withholdings for 2024 Federal, State, City and school to update payroll
- Researched mileage reimbursement rate for 2024 – .67/mi
- Sent out the Van Wert miscellaneous assessments and have been documenting the payments received –28 paid in full the other 2 payments will be here this week.
- Signed Kurt and Todd up for pesticide recertification
- All invoices are paid up to date with supporting vouchers filed
- Addressed the February CDARS that matured
- Check our bank accounts daily to verify their balance matches our balance

Maintenance Report:

- Pulled several Trees from Dog and Maddox Creeks
- Viewed future Ridge Quarry expansion work area on Dog Creek with Wendy
- Inspected areas of LA and Town Creek with Wendy
- 3 Tires taken for repair, ordered 1 new rim for spare tire for District spray rig
- Spoke with Landowner to clarify easement area boundaries on Dog Creek
- Rotated tires on 2019 Truck
- Went with Wendy to Grassy Creek to pick up trash along the Diversion Channel, removed 5 bags of trash and multiple cardboard boxes
- Cut down several large Cedar Trees from along Dog Creek using chainsaw
- Spoke with Director Ropp about what Herbicides the District uses to pass along to concerned property owner
- Continue with Equipment maintenance

Meeting dates 2024: April 9, May 3, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, November 12, December 10

Adjournment: Mark moved for adjournment at 10:25 a.m. George seconded. Yeas 3.

George Ropp, President

Emilee Rankin, Sec/Treas.

Maumee Watershed Conservancy District
Audit Committee Meeting
February 20, 2024

The Maumee Watershed Conservancy District Audit Committee met in regular session at the District Office at 1464 Pinehurst Dr., Defiance, Ohio, on February 20, 2024. In attendance were George Ropp, Mark Moats and David Kuhn, Directors; Wendy J. Yunker, General Manager; Emilee Rankin, Secretary/Treasurer; Jim Weaner, Legal Counsel.

George called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Emilee explained the financial procedures, while the committee reviewed the vouchers, bank reconciliation and financial statements to be in accordance with, and to satisfy the State Auditors checks and balances of an accounting system.

George moved to adjourn the Audit Committee meeting at 10:52 a.m.

George Ropp, President

Emilee Rankin, Sec/Treas.