

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of The Miami Conservancy District (MCD) sitting as the Board of Directors of The Aquifer Preservation Subdistrict (APS) was called to order at 11:20 a.m. by Mark G. Rentschler, President, with Beth G. Whelley, Vice President and Michael H. van Haaren, member, present. The meeting was held at MCD headquarters.

Members of the staff in attendance at the regular meeting: MaryLynn Lodor, General Manager; James B. Casper, Manager, Operations and Maintenance; Michael P. Ekberg, Manager, Water Resources Monitoring and Analysis; Daniel K. Foley, Great Miami Riverway Director; Sarah Hippensteel Hall, Manager of Communications, Outreach, and Stewardship; Kenneth P. Moyer, Treasurer; Donald P. O'Connor, Chief Engineer; Christina M. Pfeiffer, Executive Assistant; Shannon E. Phelps, Manager of Administration; Barry M. Puskas, Chief of Technical and Engineering Services; and Rhonda K. Snyder, Secretary.

Legal counsel in attendance at the regular meeting: John M. Hoopingarner, McMahon DeGulis LLP, and Lee A. Slone, McMahon DeGulis LLP.

Guests in attendance: None

COMPLIANCE WITH SUNSHINE LAW AND BYLAWS

The meeting was held in compliance with the Sunshine Law and MCD and Subdistrict Bylaws. The meeting information was posted on MCD's website. Miami Valley news media and individuals requesting such notification were notified of the meeting by electronic mail dated September 8, 2023.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of June 21, 2023, were provided to members of the Board for review and comment.

M 2023-153

The Board of Directors, on motion by Ms. Whelley and seconded by Mr. van Haaren, unanimously approved the Minutes for June 21, 2023.

Next, Dr. Hall presented a request for ratification of the following grant funding application.

GRANT FUNDING RATIFICATION

In December 2022, the Board of Directors passed a resolution authorizing staff to submit grant funding applications for various purposes. Staff has submitted the following grant request.

Project Title: *Dicks Creek Streambank Stabilization*

Description: The goal of this project is to stabilize and restore 740 linear feet of severely eroding streambank on Dicks Creek in Butler County. Dicks Creek is a 10-mile-long stream that drains approximately 48.5 square miles. The project site is located at approximately river mile 0.2 on Dicks Creek and is partially owned by the MCD, and

partially by the MetroParks of Butler County. MCD is proposing to restore the severely eroding streambank by rebuilding the eroding banks and moving the channel back to its original location. This project will enable the bank to be stabilized, so a new segment of the Great Miami River Recreation Trail can be constructed by the City of Monroe along the stream restoration project site.

Total Project Cost: \$1,947,892.00

Grant Amount Requested: \$1,947,892.00

Source: Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Agriculture

The Miami Conservancy District Match: \$0

Other Participants: N/A

Status: Application was submitted on August 25, 2023.

M 2023-154

The Board of Directors, on motion by Ms. Whelley and seconded by Mr. van Haaren, unanimously approved staff action regarding the Dicks Creek Streambank Stabilization grant funding request.

Next, Mr. Ekberg presented the following report to the Board of Directors.

Monitoring Activities

The spring 2023 round of groundwater sampling was completed in June. MCD staff sampled 13 monitoring wells and one river location. Groundwater samples will be analyzed for E. coli, major ions, metals, nutrients, and 36 PFAS compounds. Results were received in July and August and are now housed in Aquarius for processing.

In May, June, and July, staff visited all 92 observation wells to measure the depth to groundwater and download logged groundwater level data from wells with recorders.

Staff visited each of the four nutrient sampling stations on a weekly basis to collect samples for nutrient analysis at the Dayton Wastewater Treatment Plant Laboratory. Two samples are collected each week by an automated sampler deployed at each of the monitoring stations.

MCD staff collected 28 samples starting in May at the two bacteria Nowcast sites for E. coli analysis. The sample results serve as a check on how the Nowcast web application is performing.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

The presence of PFAS continues to be a water quality issue of concern in southwest Ohio. Here are some recent developments regarding the presence of PFAS in natural waters:

- MCD cooperated with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) on a project to look at the presence of PFAS compounds in the buried valley aquifer system. The results of the study have been published and can be accessed online.

- During May and June, MCD staff collected groundwater samples for PFAS analysis from the 13 monitoring wells in its groundwater monitoring network. The results show one or more PFAS compounds were detected in groundwater samples from 6 of the 13 monitoring wells. PFAS compounds were also detected in the Great Miami River in Hamilton County at the Theis Environmental Monitoring and Modeling Station (TEMMS).
- The City of Dayton continues to have regular discussions with WPAFB and Ohio EPA regarding the presence of groundwater and surface water contamination with PFAS migrating off the base and into Dayton's Mad River Wellfield. The City of Dayton shared sampling results of production wells installed at Huffman Dam which revealed the presence of PFAS compounds in seven production wells.
- The City of Dayton is planning to study options for upgrading its treatment system at the Ottawa Plant to remove PFAS. The City also plans to expand its water testing lab to be able to analyze drinking water samples for PFAS.

Downtown Dayton Groundwater Levels

Monitoring by MCD of groundwater wells in downtown Dayton show declining groundwater levels which could threaten geothermal systems. If water levels fall below the screened interval of the geothermal well it may require wells to be shut down to prevent damage to pumps.

According to MCD research, the depth-to-water in two wells in downtown Dayton is trending downward starting around 2005 and continuing to the present. To track groundwater levels, MCD manages and maintains two real-time observation wells (named MT-6 and MT-426) in downtown Dayton in cooperation with USGS. Each well has a logger that records an hourly water level measurement and transmits the reading to MCD. Staff visit the wells to make a manual measurement and check the logger's accuracy.

While it is not certain, a possible cause for lower levels could be pumping for geothermal cooling systems, which was estimated at 3.6 billion gallons per year in 2005 and increased to 5.6 billion gallons per year by 2021 (according to ODNR water withdrawal data).

MCD created a fact sheet for the City of Dayton and met with the city's water department to facilitate taking some additional steps to investigate this issue.

Water Monitoring Strategy Sampling Plans for MCD Water Data

MCD is in the process of writing a water monitoring strategy for both quality and quantity data collection and use. Once the water monitoring strategy is complete, MCD will begin working on individual Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) for precipitation, groundwater levels, nutrient monitoring, and groundwater quality monitoring.

Upcoming Sampling Events

MCD will conduct a fall 2023 groundwater sampling event during the September to October timeframe. Groundwater samples will be analyzed for the same set of parameters as they were this spring (E. coli, major ions, metals, nutrients, and PFAS).

Test Your Well

MCD is talking with the City of Dayton about partnering to provide private water system owners with water analysis from the Dayton Central Water Quality Laboratory. A framework is now under development, including legal review. MCD would offer to offset the cost (under APS) of testing by the Dayton Central Water Quality Laboratory to run drinking water analytical methods for total coliform, arsenic, copper, iron, lead, manganese, and nitrate for private well owners. Private water system owners would contact MCD to obtain a voucher for drinking water analysis.

Stream Buffers

MCD is encouraging local jurisdictions with zoning authority to implement streamside buffers or setbacks as a measure to build resilience to increased precipitation and runoff in the southwest Ohio region. Streamside buffers give rivers and streams the room they need to adjust to higher flows. This helps to reduce streambank erosions and excessive sediment transport. Buffers also prevent development and infrastructure from being built in areas that are prone to streambank erosion and flooding.

Supporting Watershed Action Plans

MCD staff have supported local efforts with some financial contributions to develop Nine-Element Watershed Action Plans in the following HUC-12 watersheds: Beaver Creek, Little Beaver Creek, Huffman Dam – Mad River, and Price Creek.

An Ohio EPA-endorsed Nine-Element Watershed Action Plan is required to be eligible to apply for Section 319 grants for projects that fund reducing nutrient loading in watersheds.

Water Restoration/ Preservation Projects

MCD staff provided technical assistance on a wetland restoration project on Indian Creek which also received funding through an H2Ohio grant, managed by Three Valley Conservation Trust. MCD staff installed a stream gage upstream of the site to monitor flows into the wetlands area. MCD staff will assist by collecting water quality samples at the wetlands starting in 2024.

Low Dam Removal Project on the Stillwater River at Covington

MCD is supporting the Village of Covington, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and ODNR Division of Wildlife who desire to remove a low dam on the Stillwater River at Covington, Ohio. MCD provided \$2,500 in funding under APS to develop a conceptual design for the removal project. USFWS was awarded a grant from the USFWS National Fish Passage Program to fund engineering designs for the project. USFWS is now working with a consultant to design the project. Once the full design of the project is complete and necessary permits are obtained, USFWS will pursue a grant for dam removal.

FUTURE BOARD MEETING

At the December 2022 meeting, the Board members set the following dates for the 2023 regular meetings of the Board of Directors of The Miami Conservancy District sitting as the Board of Directors of Aquifer Preservation Subdistrict: March 8 (rescheduled to March 22), June 21, September 20 (rescheduled to September 18), and December 13.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:



Rhonda K. Snyder
Secretary



Mark G. Rentschler
President