

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 10:10 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: 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, Watershed Partnerships; Kenneth P. Moyer, Treasurer; Donald P. O'Connor, Chief Engineer; Shannon E. Phelps, Manager of Administration; Barry M. Puskas, Chief of Technical and Engineering Services; and Rhonda K. Snyder, Secretary.

Legal counsel in attendance: 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 March 14, 2023.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on December 13, 2022, were provided to members of the Board for review and comment.

M 2023-149

The Board of Directors, on motion by Ms. Whelley and seconded by Mr. van Haaren, unanimously approved the Minutes for December 13, 2022.

ASSESSMENT RATE FOR 2024 COLLECTION

Section 6101.53 of the Ohio Revised Code provides that the Board of Directors of a conservancy district, on or before the thirtieth of September of each year, may levy an assessment upon each tract or parcel of land and upon each political corporation for the purpose of maintaining, operating, and preserving the works of the district. Such assessment is to be known as a conservancy maintenance assessment. Said assessment shall not exceed one percent of the benefits without prior authorization of the Conservancy Court.

The following rate was recommended for the 2024 assessments collection.

Levy No.	Purpose	Rate*
28	The Aquifer Preservation Subdistrict	.00371

*The rate is the same as the 2023 assessments collection.

M 2023-150

The Board of Directors, on motion by Ms. Whelley and seconded by Mr. van Haaren, unanimously approved the recommended rate for the 2024 collection of assessments for The Aquifer Preservation Subdistrict and directed the Secretary to prepare the necessary assessment duplicates.

Observation Wells

MCD staff collect depth to water measurements at 93 observation wells within the Great Miami River Watershed. Of these 93 observation wells 32 wells are equipped with loggers that measure depth to water and store the data electronically. The remaining 61 wells are measured manually. Since the last Board meeting, MCD staff made monthly field visits to each of the observation wells to download the data from loggers or make a manual depth to water measurement. The data was imported into the AQUARIUS cloud system. The data show recent groundwater levels at most observation wells were trending below normal in January and February 2023.

Monitoring Wells

MCD staff collected groundwater samples at 12 monitoring well locations during the spring and fall seasons of 2022. The samples were analyzed at Pace Analytical Services Englewood, Ohio for major ions, metals, nutrients, pathogens, and volatile organic compounds.

The groundwater quality data collected in 2022 was compiled into a report and imported into the AQUARIUS cloud system.

Nutrient Monitoring Stations

MCD operates four automated nutrient sampling stations in the Great Miami River Watershed. Since the September Board meeting, MCD staff visited each of the sampling stations 14 times to collect samples. The samples were analyzed by the laboratory at the Dayton wastewater treatment plant. Analytical data from the laboratory was imported into the AQUARIUS cloud system. The data from the sampling stations is used by MCD staff to track long-term trends in nutrient concentrations in the Great Miami, Mad, and Stillwater rivers.

Miami County Test Your Well Event

MCD supported a Test Your Well event at Miami East High School on January 18, 2023. The event screened 84 samples for nitrite, nitrate, and dissolved iron. MCD supported the event by providing test strips for the screening process. The Miami East High School FFA chapter hosted the event.

Partnerships

Staff participated in:

- Bike Miami Valley's Regional Advocacy Committee meeting
- Biochar and Stormwater informational webinar
- Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion training for conservation professionals
- Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission's Planning & Capacity Building Resiliency planning committee
- The Nature Conservancy planning meeting
- Ohio Department of Agriculture Technical Assistance Team

- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Southwest District leadership team updates
- Ohio Watershed Professionals Association board meeting
- U.S. Water Alliance One Water Council meeting
- Water Management Association of Ohio board meeting

GRANT FUNDING UPDATE

The following is a status update regarding a grant application approved by the Board of Directors at the September 2022 meeting.

Project Title: *Storybook Trail "Into the River"*

Description: To install a new storybook trail called "Into the River." The storybook trail includes 12 signs, spaced 80 yards apart, to be installed along the Great Miami River Recreation Trail in downtown Dayton, beginning at the intersection of Stewart Street and Patterson Boulevard, and ending at the intersection of Carillon Boulevard and Patterson Boulevard. Each sign will feature two pages of a children's book that was written and published by students from the University of Dayton's Rivers Institute at the Fitz Center for Leadership and Community, and partially funded by MCD.

Total Project Cost: \$8,000.00

Grant Amount Requested: \$6,400.00

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

The Miami Conservancy District Match: \$1,600.00 (Aquifer Preservation Fund 250)

Other Participants: N/A

Status: Application was submitted on July 15, 2022. ODNR notified MCD on November 29 that the grant funding request was approved on the condition that the State of Ohio Controlling Board approved the grant award. MCD was notified on January 23, 2023, that the grant award was approved by the Controlling Board.

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: *Great Miami River Watershed Report Card*

Description: MCD collects extensive data on the Great Miami River Watershed's surface and groundwater resources including nutrient and other nonpoint source pollution. This project will synthesize and disseminate that complex data set into simple scores that can be communicated to decision-makers, the general public, and the contributors to nutrient discharges. Similar to a school report card this project will develop performance-driven numeric grades that reflect the status of the water quality, and create a design that is easy to understand by the general public.

Total Project Cost: \$10,000.00

Grant Amount Requested: \$5,000.00

Source: Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Education Fund

The Miami Conservancy District Match: \$5,000.00 (Aquifer Preservation Fund 250)

Other Participants: N/A

Status: Application was submitted on January 17, 2023.

M 2023-151

The Board of Directors, on motion by Ms. Whelley and seconded by Mr. van Haaren, unanimously ratified staff action regarding the grant funding request for the Great Miami River Watershed Report Card project.

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS


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 The River Corridor Improvement Subdistrict: March 8 (rescheduled to March 22), June 21, September 20, 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