

**Curtice & Branches Intercounty Drain**  
**Intercounty Drain Drainage Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, June 29, 2023**

The Drainage Board for the Curtice & Branches Intercounty Drain met at the office of the Midland County Drain Commissioner, 220 W. Ellsworth St., Midland, Michigan at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 29, 2023.

Present: Mike Gregg, MDARD, Chairman  
Joe Sova, Midland County Drain Commissioner  
Terry Walters, Gladwin County Drain Commissioner

Also Present: Lucy Zeestraten, Gladwin County Deputy Drain Commissioner  
Norma Stuart, Midland County Deputy Drain Commissioner  
Christian Valesano – Spicer Group  
Joe Brezvai – MDARD  
Nick Czerwinski – Spicer Group  
Tonya Lewandowski – ECT (via Teams)

Chairman Gregg called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Joe Sova made a motion to elect Midland County to serve as secretary, seconded by Terry Walters.  
Motion carried.

Sova moved to approve the agenda. Walters seconded the motion.  
Motion carried.

Walters made a motion to accept and file the minutes from May 24, 2023. Sova seconded the motion.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Gregg then turned the meeting over to Christian Valesano to give an update to the progress of the project. NRCS has made updates to the plans, so Spicer is working on updating calculations of riprap and other items. The plans will be finalized when NRCS requirements are met. Nick Czerwinski said NRCS wants calculations, not necessarily updated plans. Chairman Gregg asked about the calculations, Nick responded the calculations were primarily hydraulic capacity with or without brush. In addition, calculations of hydraulic grade calculations on all branches. Essentially, calculations to prove the plans.

Czerwinski stated that the paperwork is ready to send to EGLE. He is waiting until the finalization of the plans from NRCS before they are sent to EGLE.

Tonya Lewandowski hopes 30 days for approval from NRCS. Form CPA55 is NEPA clearance. Just waiting on plans. She thinks that it will move quickly. Once the CPA55 is issued, it triggers ability to move into Supplemental Agreement (essentially the contract for construction). After the Supplemental Agreement is in place, hoping the work to begin in mid to late October.

Czerwinski gave a timeline. He said the timeline is pretty close to what ECT expects. The following are the approximate dates each phase of the project will occur:

Day of Review of District Boundaries	8/22/23
Plans available to bidders	9/8/23
Bid Opening	10/5/23
Day of Review of Apportionments	11/2/23
Notice to Proceed	12/27/23
Substantial Completion	8/22/25
Final Completion	10/30/25

The completion dates might be extended depending on the bat tree clearing, there is a heavy wooded area on Branch #2, Branch #3 is wooded downstream of Baker Road. ECT has shape files of areas on concerns. Czerwinski will work with Lewandowski to get the data on locations of Wood Turtles, Northern Long Ear Bats, EM Rattlesnake, Bald Eagles, wetlands etc....to work out timeline of project construction.

Walters inquired if the project should be broke out and bid the project in divisions. Czerwinski stated that there would be more administrative costs to do it that way. With the many restrictions, it would be better for one contractor to do the whole project.

Lewandowski reviewed the times of year that removal of the threatened species. She will meet with Czerwinski to go over what can be done at what times during the year. There are things that can be done as BMP to work around timelines for specific species.

Landowners that live downstate own the upper end of the drain in Gladwin County. Stacy is putting a letter together to send with the easement for them to sign.

Czerwinski submitted an amendment for the extra engineering costs due to the additional work that is required by NCRS. PSA amendment #3 in the amount of \$25,000.00 was presented to the board. Walters made a motion to have the Chairman sign the PSA on behalf of the board. Sova seconded the motion.

Chairman Gregg presented the financial report. Current balance is (\$342,029.51). Walters made a motion to accept and file the Treasurers report, seconded by Sova.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Gregg presented the following invoices for payment.

#221514	Spicer Group	\$4,707.00
#221994	Spicer Group	\$2,263.75
#233027	ECT	\$2,441.13
#221903	Spicer Group	\$5,242.25
#11913	FSBR	\$ 96.00
#060723	Raushi	\$ 700.00

Sova made a motion to pay the invoices, seconded by Walters.  
Motion carried.

Drain Orders were circulated for signatures.

Lewandowski reviewed Best Management Practices for the EM Rattlesnake, Wood Turtle, Northern Long Ear Bats, etc....Southern mile of the project is the area where BMPs are needed.

There was no public comment

Date of next meeting is set for August 25, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at Midland County.

Sova made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Walters. Meeting adjourned at 11:59 am

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph J. Sova  
Midland County Drain Commissioner