

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS  
MONROE, MICHIGAN  
March 28, 2022**

1. At a Regular Meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners at their offices located at the Monroe County Road Commission (MCRC) 840 S. Telegraph Road, Monroe, Michigan on Monday, March 28, 2022, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Stewart at 5:30 p.m.
2. Roll Call by Deputy Clerk as follows:
 

<u>PRESENT IN-PERSON</u>	<u>EXCUSED</u>
James Jacobs	
William Kipf	
Dan Minton	
Jack Thayer	
Greg Stewart	

A quorum being present, the Board proceeded to transact business.
3. Commissioner Stewart led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Commissioner Stewart led the Opening Moment of Silence or Prayer.
5. Approval of Regular Meeting Agenda  
 Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Thayer to approve the March 28, 2022 regular meeting agenda as presented.  
 Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Excused: 0 Motion carried.
6. Public Comment - None
7. The following items were listed on the Consent Agenda: *(with immediate effect)*
  - 7.1) Approval of Minutes – March 14, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
  - 7.2) Approval of Minutes – March 14, 2022 Closed Session
  - 7.3) Approval of Journal Entries

Entry No.	Date	Description	Transfer Amount
160	03-10-22	Vendor Checks # 78609 - 78688 Bank Service Fee February 2022	\$ 366,942.84
166	03-16-22	Payroll Checks # 66070 - 66086 Advices # 33828 - 32909 1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr Cafeteria Plan # 66087 - 66105 Bank Service Fee February 2022	\$ 286,565.42

- 7.4) Approve the Resolution to participate in the State of Michigan Local Bridge Program 2022 applications for 2025 funding on the primary road bridge rehabilitation on Deerfield Road crossing the River Raisin with a commitment capped in the amount of \$950,000.00
- 7.5) Approve the Resolution to participate in the state of Michigan Local Bridge Program 2022 applications for 2025 funding on the primary road bridge rehabilitation on Dennison Road crossing North Macon Creek with a commitment capped in the amount of \$250,000.00.
- 7.6) Approve the Resolution to participate in the State of Michigan Local Bridge Program 2022 applications for 2025 funding on the local road bridge replacement on Bay Creek Road crossing Bay Creek in Erie Township.
- 7.7) Award the bid for 2022 Asphalt Emulsions to all bidders who submitted a bid.

7.8) Award the bid for 2022 HMA Mixtures to all vendors who submitted a bid.

~~7.9) Approve the acceptance of the \$2,000,000.00 Michigan Economic Development Corporation grant and approve the agreement (CASE-35082) and authorize the Managing Director to sign all documents related to the grant on behalf of the Board. Removed from the Consent Agenda and placed under New Business for discussion.~~

Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Thayer to approve the March 28, 2022 Consent Agenda item numbers 7.1 through 7.8 as presented with item number 7.9 moved to New Business for discussion.

Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Excused: 0 Motion carried.

## 8. Unfinished Business

### 9. New Business

7.9) Approve the acceptance of the \$2,000,000.00 Michigan Economic Development Corporation grant and approve the agreement (CASE-35082) and authorize the Managing Director to sign all documents related to the grant on behalf of the Board.

Commissioner Minton consulted with legal counsel on section XV. Liability and Insurance of the agreement presented.

Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Thayer to approve the agreement as presented and authorize the Managing Director to sign all documents related to the grant on behalf of the Board.

Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Excused: 0 Motion carried.

## 10. Report of Officers

*Dori Hawkins-Freelain (Managing Director)* – Ms. Hawkins-Freelain provided an update on the audit. Mr. Hoskins from UHY, LLC. contacted Ms. Hawkins-Freelain to notify of a delay in the audit review process. The cause of the delay was indicated as a scheduling conflict with UHY, LLC which occurred at no fault of the MCRC. Mr. Hoskins indicated the audit review will be completed as soon as possible and submitted within 30 days of the due date. This will have no impact on funding for the MCRC.

Discussion was held by the commissioners with many expressing dissatisfaction with the auditing firm. Ms. Hawkins-Freelain reiterated that all documents were submitted to the auditing firm in a timely manner. The delay is no fault of staffing at MCRC. Commissioner Stewart requested a review of the UHY, LLC. contract by Mr. Costello [legal counsel] for any repercussions which may be imposed on the firm.

Ms. Hawkins-Freelain reported the estimated revenues from the State for the next three years have been received. The MCRC adopted 2022 budget was approximately \$90,000.00 less than the State estimate. Ms. Hawkins-Freelain informed the Board that a financial statement will be distributed at the next meeting for their review.

*Matthew Snell (County Highway Engineer)* – Mr. Snell thanked the Board for approving the local bridge program resolutions and indicated that one additional resolution for the program should be forthcoming.

Mr. Snell informed the Board that he anticipates the suspension of seasonal weight restrictions for all roads under the jurisdiction of MCRC late this week or early next week.

David M. Leach (Superintendent of Maintenance) – Mr. Leach reported hearing many concerns from the public regarding gravel road conditions. A post was made to the MCRC social media pages indicating how we are handling and addressing isolated areas.

Mr. Leach reported receiving correspondence from several vendors who are now passing on surcharges to the MCRC due to increasing costs of goods and services.

Discussion was held regarding the US-23 closure. Ms. Hawkins-Freelain reported that invoices were submitted to the Michigan Department of Transportation for damage to roads under the jurisdiction of the MCRC. The invoices totaled over \$500,000.00 for preliminary repair costs on local and primary roads. The invoices included items such as materials, overhead, labor, and contractor expenses.

Commissioner Minton reported receiving phone calls from multiple supervisors regarding drainage; he asked for an update on what the MCRC is doing to address drainage issues.

Mr. Leach responded that the MCRC team meets every Thursday to discuss drainage related issues and how they are impacting the road system. In addition, a new Gradall was purchased last fall and has been running all winter, weather permitting. Going forward, when the seasonal weight restrictions are removed, the intent is to have all three Gradalls working on various drainage projects and other drainage concerns.

Ms. Hawkins-Freelain added that drainage within the county has been a continual issue for many years. It will take a substantial amount of time to address and correct areas of concern. The teams have been working on a plan of action however it must be a collaborative approach among many individuals and entities.

Commissioner Stewart commented that during his monthly meetings with the Drain Commission, drainage is always mentioned. Mr. Stewart suggested providing literature and education to the public to help with the understanding that drainage is not just the responsibility of the Road Commission, but also the Drain Commission, and the property owner.

Additional discussion was held regarding drainage.

L. Camden Regis (Human Resource Director) – Ms. Regis reported no new COVID cases among employees.

Ms. Regis provided an update on the employee exit interview information previously shared with the Board. Discussion was held regarding staffing, training, and wages.

Ms. Regis explained a new training program which the MCRC is working to establish. The program is called the Advanced Training Opportunity Program (ATOP). Within the program, employees will be able to train in various areas and earn certificates. Each certificate will be tied to an additional sum of money which would be in addition to the employee's base wage. The intent is to foster an environment of growth with cross training and employees who feel they have the skills and knowledge to complete their jobs successfully.

Commissioner Thayer applauded the team for getting this type of program started.

Philip Costello (General Counsel) – Mr. Costello reported that the MCRC requested language to be changed in the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Grant agreement. Original language requested the MCRC to agree to indemnification. As a municipal organization, we cannot legally agree to this language. The MEDC made the language changes requested and the agreement was then brought to the Board for approval.

11. Public Comment - None

12. Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Kipf - Nothing to report.

Commissioner Jacobs - Nothing to report.

Commissioner Thayer - Nothing to report.

Commissioner Minton - Nothing to report.

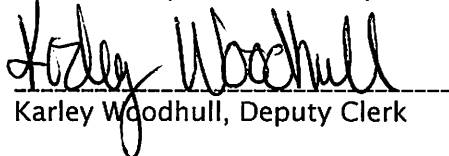
Commissioner Stewart - Nothing to report.

13. Adjournment -

Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Minton moved, seconded by Commissioner Thayer to adjourn; the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Excused: 0 Motion carried.

  
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Karley Woodhull, Deputy Clerk