BOARD OF SANITARY DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

WENDESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025, 4:30 P.M. 1100 E. EIGHTH STREET

Michigan City Board of Sanitary District Commissioners

Andrew Sperling	(Mayoral appointment 6/20/2024 – 6/21/2028)
Tina Mahone	(Mayoral appointment 7/1/2025 – 7/1/2029)
Don Babcock	(Mayoral appointment 4/23/2024 – 1/1/2027)
Tance Falls	(Mayoral appointment 11/8/2024 – 11/9/2028)
Timothy Werner	City Engineer – virtue of position

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 P.M. by President Don Babcock.

Commissioners present were Don Babcock, Andrew Sperling, Tim Werner, and Tina Mahone. Tance Falls was absent.

Staff present at the meeting were:
Rhonda Anderson, Superintendent of Water Reclamation
All Walus, Operations & Inspections Manager
Rachel McCline, Administrative Assistant/Board Secretary
Christopher Yagelski, Business & Facilities Manager
Wendy Vachet, Director of Public Works
Jewll Harris, Legal Counsel

Also present for the meeting were:
Scott Meland, Michigan City Resident
Tom Nagle, Robinson Engineering
Lori Lathan, Wessler Engineering
Ryan Laughlin, Haas & Associates, LLC
John Kremke, Schneider Geomatics

Minutes

Mr. Babcock certified that an executive session was held before this meeting and that there was nothing discussed outside of the information posted in the advertisement for the session.

Mr. Werner made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 27, 2025, and September 10, 2025, Executive Sessions and the September 10, 2025, Special Meeting as presented – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Public Comment

Mr. Meland recommended that the current ordinance regarding water meter size and usage be taken under review to ensure that the customers are being billed appropriately.

Financial Report

The financial report was tabled until the next regular meeting due to technical difficulties.

Harris Law Firm, PC

Mrs. Anderson submitted Invoice No. 11432 in the amount of $843.75, Invoice No. 11433 in the amount of $618.75 and Invoice No. 11434 in the amount of $645.75 from Harris Law Firm PC and recommended approval of the same. Mr. Werner made such a motion – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Schneider Geomatics

Mr. Kremke provided the Board with a project status report for the Lake Avenue/U.S. Highway 12 Lift Station Project.

Mrs. Anderson submitted Invoice No. 197210 from Schneider Geomatics in the amount of $10,997.50 and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling made such a motion – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Kremke submitted Change Order Request No. 1 from H&G Underground Utilities LLC pursuant to a Sanitary District staff request to modify the lift station communication control technology. This Change order increases the project cost by $3,220.00. Mrs. Anderson recommended approval of the same in addition to the Work Change Directive.

Mr. Werner made such a motion – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Kremke submitted Pay Request No. 2 from H&G Underground Utilities, LLC, in the amount of $177,703.99. Mrs. Anderson recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling made such a motion – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Kremke provided the Board with a project status report for the Michigan City Annexed Area Sewer Extension Project (MCASE). Mr. Kremke submitted Invoice No. 197209 from Schneider Geomatics in the amount of $8,535.00. Mrs. Anderson recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling made such a motion - seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Kremke submitted Invoice. No. 3620457-6 from Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of $289,758.15. Mrs. Anderson recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Werner made such a motion – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Mrs. Anderson submitted Invoice No. 2023349-09 from Haas & Associates, LLC. for MCASE Engineering Services in the amount of $12,100.00 and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling made such a motion – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC.

Mrs. Anderson submitted Invoice No.40077 from Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC. for professional services in the amount of $6,602.50 and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Werner made a motion to void the original Invoice No. 39898 in the amount of $7,712.50 and approve Invoice No. 40077 as submitted – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

CDS Engineers, Inc.

Mrs. Anderson advised that the pilot study for the Primary Clarifiers will last for three (3) weeks to compare technologies regarding plant capacity. It was noted that more information will be shared at the next Board meeting.

300 N Lift Station Sewer System Project Update

Ms. Vachet advised that the City of Michigan City and the Sanitary District continue to work with LaPorte County on technical issues to finalize the project.

MCSAN Staff Monthly Reports

Mrs. Anderson advised that the Sanitary District received its renewed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit that became effective on September 1, 2025, and will expire on August 31, 2030.

Mrs. Anderson reported that the Sanitary District had an Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) inspection. It was noted that the Sanitary District was rated satisfactory throughout many processes of the wastewater treatment facility.

Mrs. Anderson advised that the Sanitary District received a marginal rating due to an April 2025 chlorine violation and lift station power failures that resulted in sanitary sewer overage (SSO's). It was noted that a plan is in place to inspect the problem areas more frequently to proactively address any potential issues.

Old Business

Mr. Walus submitted a **Joint Funding Agreement for the Trail Creek Streamgage with the U.S. Department of Interior – U.S. Geological Survey** in the amount of $16,500.00. It was noted that the agreement covers a one-year period from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. Mr. Walus then recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling made such a motion approving agreement No. 26NFJFA00000014 in the amount of $16,500.00 – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Walus advised that the Sanitary District staff officials have reviewed the bids for the **Utility Emergency Repairs**. Mr. Walus noted that the Local Hiring/Equal Employment Opportunity Program submittals from each bidder were reviewed by the Michigan City Code Enforcement Manager/EEO Officer D'Marcus Briscoe. Mr. Briscoe found that the submittals from both bidders were complete and in compliance with Michigan City Ordinances.

Mr. Walus then recommended approval to accept the bids from Woodruff & Sons, Inc. and Rieth-Riley Construction Co., that establish the rates of future utility emergency work during the period of October 1, 2025, to December 31, 2026.

Mr. Werner made such a motion – seconded by Mr. Sperling. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Regarding the matter between the **Town of Long Beach** and the Sanitary District, Attorney Harris advised that the next step is to file a motion with the Court requesting that the matter be ordered to mediation for a resolution.

New Business

Mr. Walus reported that there are two (2) failed drywell/infiltration structures located in the **1900 Block of Lake Shore Drive** that need to be repaired. It was noted that Schneider Geomatics submitted a proposal for Engineering Services in an amount not to exceed $8,500.00. Mr. Walus then recommended approval for the proposal as mentioned.

Mr. Werner made such a motion – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Walus advised that Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) is proposing to replace the pipe that crosses beneath the Striebel Arm of Kintzele Ditch. NIPSCO has reached out to Sanitary District staff officials, and an early coordination meeting was conducted on August 18, 2025. An **official request from NIPSCO to cross the Stiebel Arm of Kintzele Ditch easement** was submitted in writing, dated August 21, 2025.

Mr. Walus recommended approval of NIPSCO's request as submitted.

Mr. Werner made such a motion – seconded by Mr. Sperling. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Walus advised that the Sanitary District is seeking approval for **Springland Avenue Diversion Sanitary Sewer Engineering**. It was noted that all the sanitary sewer flow over 3,200 acres of this area is currently routed in a southwesterly direction and into/through a combined sewer area. Mr. Walus reported that there is an opportunity to divert this flow westward on Springland Avenue, which would allow this flow to bypass the combined sewer area. Mr. Walus added that site survey and detailed engineering need to be completed for the diversion. It was noted that Chrisopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC. was contacted to submit a proposal to provide these engineering services. A proposal was received on September 19, 2025, not to exceed $34,000.00. Mr. Walus then recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Werner made such a motion - seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Ms. Vachet provided the Board with a proposal from **Sera Group** for website development for the Sanitary District in the amount not to exceed $6,400.00 and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Werner made such a motion – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Yagelski submitted a sales proposal from **Best Equipment Co.** for two hundred (200) refuse toters in the amount of $16,033.93 and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Werner made such a motion – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Ms. Vachet submitted a proposal from **Krohn & Associates, LLP to perform Municipal Advisement services** for Wastewater Utility, Storm Water Utility and Refuse not to exceed $35,000.00 and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling made such a motion – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Walus provided the Board with a **2-year Facility-Operations-Maintenance Plan.** Mr. Walus advised that an update will be provided at each regular Board of Sanitary District Commissioners meeting.

Mr. Walus submitted a **Lift Station Assessment Joint Proposal** between Christopher B. Burke Engineering LLC (Burke) and CDS Engineering, Inc. (CDS) as part of the **2-year Plan Priority 1B** addressing the (10) top priority lift stations. Mr. Walus advised that Burke would perform site inspections at five (5) of the lift stations and CDS would perform site inspections at the remaining five (5) lift stations. Mr. Walus then recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Werner made a motion to approve the Lift Station Assessment Joint Proposal as presented not to exceed $44,000.00 – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no further question or comment, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Babcock entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:37 P.M. – seconded by Mr. Werner There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Next Board of Sanitary District Commissioners Regular Meeting – **October 29, 2025, at 1100 E. Eighth Street, Michigan City, IN 46360 at 4:00 P.M. Local Time (in lieu of October 22, 2025).**

Don Babcock, President