BOARD OF SANITARY DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING

WENESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026, 4:00 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 4:05 P.M. by President Don Babcock.

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

Staff present at the meeting were:

Rhonda Anderson, Superintendent of Water Reclamation
Wendy Vachet, Director of Public Works
Rachel McCline, Administrative Services Manager
Al Walus, District Engineer
Leon Jones, Sanitary & Stormwater Engineer
Christopher Yagelski, Business Manager
Jewll Harris, Legal Counsel

Also present at the meeting were:
Carlie Dunn, Constituent

Public Comment

None

New Business

Mrs. Anderson introduced Katrina Vedo as the new Laboratory Manager.

Mrs. Anderson advised that after reviewing the duties and qualifications of the Laboratory Technicians, it was determined that Laboratory Technician I and Laboratory Technician II be eliminated. The Sanitary District would like to move forward with a single Laboratory Technician. Mrs. Anderson submitted updated Salary Resolution reflecting the change and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Werner moved to approve the Salary Resolution as presented – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

Mrs. Anderson reported that the Job Description for the Plant Operators has been updated to show that the employee reports to the Plant Operations Manager. It was noted that the update was information only with no Board action required.

Mr. Walus gave a detailed presentation regarding the Save the Salmon program. Mr. Walus explained that critical tree plantings along the east bank are necessary to create shade and maintain cooler water temperatures for the sustainability of the salmonid lifecycle.

Mr. Walus advised that the Sanitary District solicited a request for quotes from the following companies: Dunland Landscape, Slusser's Green Thumb Inc., Davey Tree Expert Co., and Dogwood Hill Tree Farm. Mr. Walus reported that the Sanitary District only received one quote from Dogwood Hill Tree Farm in the amount of $72,005.00 for the Fall phase of the contract and $54,900.00 for the Spring phase of the contract.

Mr. Walus recommended that the Board consider the approval of awarding the Karwick Nature Park Fall Phase Tree Planting Project to Dogwood Hill Tree Farm in the amount of $72,005.00. It was noted that there are funds in the Karwick Remediation Fund that can only be used at Karwick Nature Park. It was noted that the trees can be installed as early as October 2026. Mr. Werner asked if both phases can be approved at once. Mr. Walus recommended that the Board holds off on approving the Spring Phase of the project. Mr. Walus added that it will be the responsibility of the Sanitary District to install weeper hoses along the tree row to ensure adequate watering.

Attorney Harris asked how the Sanitary District plans to get the quote to contract. Mr. Walus advised that upon approval, Dogwood Hills Tree Farm will be issued a notice of award followed by a finalized contract. It was noted that Dogwood Hill Tree Farm already has a contractual relationship with the City of Michigan City. Attorney Harris recommended that the Sanitary District enter into a formal contractual agreement, contingent on the Board's approval of the quote.

Mrs. Mahone moved to approve the Fall Phase of the Tree Planting Project with Dogwood Hills Tree Farm in the amount of $72,005.00 – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

Regarding the Amended Rate and Fee Ordinance, Ms. Vachet reported that a Scrivener's Error was identified regarding minimum billing in *Exhibit A*. For clarification,

Ms. Vachet advised that the error does not change any of the information provided in terms of billing. It was noted that the billing is based on 300 CU.FT. usage. Ms. Vachet reported that *Exhibit A* had an amount of 270 CU. FT. usage which is considered average usage. Ms. Vachet also advised that the Septage Hauler fees were never intended to increase, and the proposed revision to Resolution #2026-71 reflects that as well. Ms. Vachet then recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Werner moved to approve Resolution #2026-71-R1 correcting the Scrivner's Error of 270 CU. FT. to 300 CU. FT. as presented – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

Ms. Vachet provided the Board with an update regarding the Bond Anticipation Note (BAN). It was noted that the Sanitary District has received engagement letters from the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Legal team. Ms. Vachet advised that the Sanitary District anticipates a Declaratory Resolution that is on schedule to be presented to the Board at the next regular meeting. Attorney Harris recommended that a Confirmatory Resolution be added to the schedule for transparency.

Ms. Vachet advised that the Sanitary District is in the process of implementing parcel numbers and other improvements into the billing system in the amount of $1,500.00.

Regarding the Michigan City Annexed Sewer Extension Project (MCASE), Mr. Walus advised that there are outstanding Pay Requests No. 9 in the amount of $81,460.44 and No. 10 in the amount of $10,271.70 to Rieth-Riley Construction in addition to the invoice for the Release of Retainage in the amount of $167,179.31. Mr. Walus then recommended approval of the same.

Mrs. Mahone moved to approve Pay Request No. 9, No. 10 and the Release of Retainage as presented – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Werner moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 P.M. – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion caried 3 – 0 in favor.

Next Board of Sanitary District Commissioner Regular Meeting – **October 28, 2026, at 1100 E. Eighth Street, Michigan City, IN 46360 at 4:00 P.M. Local Time.**

Don Babcock, President

10/28/26
Date