

EAST SKOKIE DRAINAGE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
March 8, 2023

- I. A meeting of the East Skokie Drainage District was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Joseph L. Bridges at the Highland Park Police Department, 1677 Old Deerfield Road, Highland Park, IL 60035. Those in attendance included Chairperson Joseph L. Bridges, Commissioner Michele Mrachek, Commissioner Todd Needlman, Attorney Bryan R. Winter, Mike Warner and Carissa Smith of Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc. Notice of the meeting was accomplished by posting all requisite notices, all in accordance with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act.
- II. Public comment – no public comments were presented.
- III. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the minutes of the monthly meetings held on February 8, 2023 were approved by roll call vote, all Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.
- IV. The Commissioners reviewed the status of accounts which indicated a balance on hand as of February 10, 2023, in the amount of \$262,274.93.
- V. On motion duly made, seconded and by roll call vote, all Commissioners voted in favor of the motion to approve the payment of the following bills for services rendered to the District:
- | | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| PSW ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES | \$3,255.00 |
| PSW ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES | \$700.00 |
| NBWW 2023 MEMBERSHIP DUES | \$1,460.00 |
| FUQUA WINTER LTD. | \$4,270.00 |
- VI. The Commissioners received a report from Patricia Werner, Project Coordinator, who reported as follows:
- a. Skokie River Channel Improvements Project Phase 2 – rainy weather not allowed for bypass pumping in January or February, so Homer Tree Services will have to use alternative methods to remove trees by March 31st permit deadline. Coordinating of landscaping material is complete for Stage 1 of the Project, so that plantings should take place in late Spring 2023.
 - b. Highland Park Streambank Stabilization Project – planning continues for addressing the severely eroded streambanks at Sleepy Hollow Park located just north of Half Day Road in Highland Park. V3 expects to look at sever erosion areas in the next few weeks and

provide a proposal for performing the necessary engineering services to be able to submit this project for U.S. Army Corp permitting.

- c. Skokie River Conveyance Project in North Chicago (FEMA Grant Project) – SMC is proposing converting the District’s channel Route 137 south to the EJ&E Railroad to a stage 2 channel to provide compensatory storage for storm sewer improvements being planned within the Subwatershed. This project is still in the planning phase but would require an IGA with the District once preliminary plans progress.
 - d. Park District of Highland Park Trail Feasibility Study – representatives from the Park District of Highland Park have contacted the District to discuss the possibility of using the ESDD right-of-way south of Old Elm Road for a connector trail. The Park District has restored the old Highland Park Country Club Golf Course and is investigating the possibility of a trail connecting between Cunniff Park to the south up to Old Elm Road to the north. The Park District will be continuing with a trail feasibility process and may want to present an option to build adjacent to the drainage channel.
- VII. The Commissioners received a report from Bryan Winter, Attorney for the District, regarding a Gewalt Engineering proposal, which will provide some services formally provided by Coordinating Engineer, Bud Reed. The proposal is presented as an action item.
 - VIII. The Commissioners received a report regarding the administrative cost savings that would occur if the East and West Skokie Drainage Districts were to consolidate. The savings are indicated on the respective budget documents for each District. The next step in the consolidation process is to prepare the necessary court documents, which includes a petition that will need to be signed by a majority of the Commissioners from each District. Based on the discussion of the Commissioners, the Attorney for the District will begin drafting the required court documents for consideration at a future District meeting.
 - IX. The Commissioners received a presentation from Mike Warner and Carrisa Smith regarding services that Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc. firm provides to other entities which maintain stormwater systems. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the proposal for Coordinating Services proposed by Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc. was approved by roll call vote, all Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.
 - X. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the proposal for Streambank Maintenance Activities for the 2023 growing season proposed by Forest Builders Inc. was approved by roll call vote, all Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.
 - XI. There was no New Business.
 - XII. On motion to adjourn, duly made, seconded, and carried by roll call vote, all Commissioners voted in favor of the motion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/S/ Todd Needlman

Secretary