



**Board of Drainage and Flood Control  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 22, 2025  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by Ms. Eavenson at 7:05 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Board members present: Mr. Abens, Ms. Awig, Mr. Balog, Mrs. Eavenson, Mr. Fanning, Mr. Ford, Mr. Gontkovsky, Mr. Scott, Mr. Weaver, Mr. Winkel

Ms. Eavenson welcomed Mr. Weaver and Mr. Reitz to the Board and asked them to introduce themselves.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Chairperson

Ms. Eavenson stated that, according to the bylaws, the Board has positions that need to be appointed. Ms. Eavenson opened the floor for nominations for Board Chairperson. Ms. Eavenson nominated Mr. Reitz to be appointed Board Chairperson. Mr. Balog moved, seconded by Ms. Awig, to appoint Mr. Reitz Chairperson, motion approved 10-0.

Vice Chair

Ms. Eavenson opened the floor for the nomination of Vice Chair and nominated Mr. Ford. No other people were nominated. Mr. Fanning moved, seconded by Mr. Balog, to appoint Mr. Ford Vice Chair, motion approved 10-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Scott moved, seconded by Mr. Weaver, to approve the minutes of October 22, 2024. Motion approved 10-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mills Creek Flood Control Basin Project Update

Ms. Eavenson said the project was moving forward and shared a presentation of the project. Working with First Energy over encroachments by the existing towers are ongoing. It has been found that in several locations the tower bases are outside the First Energy property and near the work areas for the stormwater control project. The City has a meeting scheduled for the week between the design engineer, Bramhall Engineering, the City, and First Energy to discuss the project moving forward. The City is in contact with NRG Pipeline about the related coordination of work along the existing high pressure gas

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pipeline within the project area. The culvert related to the Mills Creek project, crossing under Cypress Avenue, will be constructed with the project for extending Cypress Avenue to Lorain Road.

Ms. Eavenson commented on the work with the Army Corp. of Engineers on the wetlands concerns and that the City has made the appropriate payments to the land banks and believes the permitting is in place.

**Fortune Ditch Update**

Ms. Eavenson spoke about this County project in Fortune Ditch near the Ridgefield Development. This project is ongoing and is being handled by Lorain County.

**Chestnut Road Bridge Replacement Update**

Ms. Eavenson showed several photos of the project now that it is complete and stated that the project went well with minimal issues.

**Crossings at French Creek Update**

Ms. Eavenson showed the layout of the area north, south and along the SR-83 frontage of the Crossings Subdivision. The City is sharing the cost of a new storm line along the south side of the development to reroute the stormwater from an existing storm pipe out to the French Creek. This development will also install improved storm sewers and roadside drains along the frontage of SR-83. The developer is also installing a storm line from SR-83, along the north side of the development to French Creek, at their expense.

**Maddock Road Culvert Replacement Update**

Ms. Eavenson said the project has been completed with some minor punchlist items.

**SR-83 over the Phelon Ditch Update**

Ms. Eavenson stated that the City is still seeking design engineers for the replacement of the existing sandstone/concrete culvert under SR-83 south of Lorain Road. This culvert needs to be replaced due to the movement of existing stone blocks, but it is being monitored closely. It was stated that the City has received a grant for this culvert replacement and is planning to move forward with design in 2025.

**Sugar Ridge Road Bridge over Ridgeway Ditch Update**

Ms. Eavenson stated that this bridge is being monitored and that a weight restriction has been put in place for this section of Sugar Ridge Road. The Lorain County Sheriff's Department has been monitoring this section and is thanked for their cooperation.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Ford showed photographs of several projects that the Public Works Division had completed for ditch cleaning and deepening. Special mention was made to advise the Board that the Public Works Division has installed a total of six Stack Early Warning water level monitors in the French Creek. This is an active system where the flow depth in French Creek can be monitored in real time and retains active data. There is a yearly cost of \$1,495 per monitor per year, but the system will give early warnings before problems occur. Mr. Abens asked if this information could be added to the City website for residents.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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Ms. Eavenson opened the meeting to public comments. There were approximately eight people in the audience.


Mr. Abens asked if any decisions have been made about backyard shared drainage and maintenance by the City. Mr. Ford stated that these are difficult situations and the assistance by the City depends on easements and ownership. The City does not want to go onto private property and in many situations, there are fences, sheds, etc. in the way that would have to be dealt with.

Kathy Keefer, 5048 Creekside Lane, shared concerns about the trees that were taken down behind Mills Creek South. She and her husband have had problems with standing water in their back yard. They are asking if they or the City can clean or install a swale from behind their property towards the existing creek.

Chris Frame, 36280 Hedgerow Drive, spoke up about his concerns for a ditch cleaning project being done by Public Works. Mr. Ford stated that Public Works will be removing an existing pipe and regrading the area to keep the water within right-of-way and flowing west to the existing ditch. Mr. Balog asked if Public Works could provide a schedule for these smaller drainage projects.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

  
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Joe Reitz, Chair

  
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Nicole Rambo-Ackerman, Acting Secretary

7/22/25  
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Date

The next Board of Drainage and Flood Control regular meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

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