

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their offices Monday, February 26 , 2018.
The meeting was called to order at 8:30am with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mike Reed, Absent
Adam Shriver, Vice-President
Tim Vanhorn, Member

18-098- Motion by Mr. Vanhorn and seconded by Mr. Shriver to approve the minutes of February 20, 2018.
Mr. Reed absent Mr. Shriver yea Mr. Vanhorn yea Motion Carried

Vicki Quesinberry, Job & Family Services

-Kari Schaad to Columbus, Ohio on 2-22-18 and 2-23-18 for training, "Intercourt Conference".
-Carrie DeWinter to Columbus, Ohio on 2-22-18 and 2-23-18 for training, "Intercourt Training".

*Commissioners discussed possible locations for the dog pound.

Gary Woodward, Auditor

Discussed with the commissioners changes he would like to see made in new county policy. Commissioners agreed to make the requested changes.

Shannon Wells , Development Office

-Submitted bills
-Mrs. Wells held Interconnect Meeting with Julie Ward leading the meeting.

Morgan County Interconnection Project Partners

Participation Partners: Morgan County Board of Commissioners, Development Office, Morgan County Engineer, Village of Chesterhill, Village of Malta, Village of Stockport, Morgan/Meigsville Rural Water District, Tri-County Rural Water District, Ohio RCAP and IBI Group

- The Commissioners received funding from the Local Government Innovation Fund in 2016 to assist water utilities in developing a plan for providing an uninterrupted supply of safe drinking water to Morgan County residents. The project creates a model for sharing services related to providing emergency drinking water supplies.
- Access to public in Morgan County is primarily supplied by five participating partners in the study:
1)Village of Chesterhill, 2)Village of Malta, 3) Village of Stockport 4)Morgan/Meigsville Water District
5)Tri-County Rural Water buys from Malta; The other three utilities have wells.

- All utilities' source waters are classified by Ohio EPA as being "highly" susceptible to contamination. Over 20 years ago, the Village of Malta experienced a water contamination event that required the development of a new source.
- Chesterhill and Stockport are interconnected; the Village of Malta and Tri-County have no back-up interconnection. Currently Malta sells water to Morgan/Meigsville and the Village of McConnelsville.
- The study will analyze the best routes, lowest cost options of connecting Tri-County, Morgan/Meigsville, Malta, Stockport and Chesterhill along with identifying options for ownership, financing and maintenance.

Following is a summary of the utilities' demographics. Data sources include the Census and ACS. Estimates for Morgan/Meigsville and Tri-County Districts were estimated from corresponding County data and data from respective utility.

UTILITY	POPULATION (Census)	CONNECTIONS (Utility)	HHS (Census)	MHI (ACS 2016)	LMI (Census)
Malta	671	315	278	\$26,481	65.90%
Chesterhill	289	306	121	\$37,250	61.00%
Stockport	503	249	195	\$26,406	58.82%
McConnelsville	1,784	787	765	\$30,000	58.82%
Morgan/Meigsville*	1,523	645 (96% R)	619	\$38,941	46.21%
Tri-County	3,066	1,365 (96% R)	1,310	\$44,763	38.51%
Totals	7,836	3,667	3,288		
*Used data for Morgan County (Average HHS Size 2.46 for population estimates, MHI, LMI).					
**Used Data for Washington County (Average HHS Size 2.34 for population estimates, MHI, LMI).					
Note that the number of connections for M/M differs from Feasibility Study, i.e. they are adding new customers.					

- IBI completed a feasibility study using Bentley Water CAD for the hydraulic modeling. The model phased in each system losing their water supply, first Chesterhill, then Chesterhill and Stockport, Malta then Tri-County. Note if Malta loses their supply, so do Morgan/Meigsville and McConnelsville. Total project cost to have all utilities connected was estimated at \$2,226,400.00. The study then estimated the additional OMR costs associated with operating larger pumps, valves and other related appurtenances that would result in an increase in the operating budget. Total additional OMR was estimated to be around \$52,460.00 annually.
- Project Partners then presented the interconnection project to the Small Community Environmental Infrastructure (SCEIG) Finance Committee. This Committee is made up of representatives from State and Federal agencies that provide grants/loans to construct water/sewer infrastructure. The Committee meets bio-monthly to provide advice on eligibility for financing through their programs. None of the potential funders thought this project would be eligible for grants or loan subsidies, i.e. since there is currently not a problem, it wouldn't be an eligible, very competitive project presented as an interconnection project. Rather they advised to segment or phase the project scope and define as a water line extension project to serve new customers, not an interconnection one. This is problematic as some phases would not serve new customers.

- The Project Partners then reviewed funding the entire project with a market rate loan (3.28%) from OWDA for 30 years. The resulting annual debt service payment plus the increased OMR equaled around \$208,653.00. That divided by the estimated number of connections (3,667) would result in an increased monthly user fee of around \$4.74 per connection. This was deemed unaffordable and not feasible to implement.
- Next the Partners requested IBI to segment or phase the project based on the SCEIG's recommendations. See the phases below. This also includes estimates of financing through a market rate OWDA loan and the number of connections with each phase. Note that Chesterhill does not have the water capacity to serve Tri-County, so only Chesterhill's connections are included. These Phases were also considered unaffordable with the exception of the Chesterhill/Tri-County connection.

	Interconnect Chesterhill And M/M	Interconnect Chesterhill And Tri-County	Interconnect Tri- County and Malta through M/M
Total Estimate Project Cost	\$1,201,900.00	\$36,100.00	\$1,728,000.00
Annual DS	\$63,259.00	\$1,900.00	\$90,949.00
Annual OMR	\$27.00	\$147.00	\$41,212.00
Additional Annual Charges	\$63,286.00	\$2,047.00	\$132,161.00
# of New Connections	45	0	0
# of Existing Connections	645-M/M Only	306	3112 (Tri-County, Malta, M/M & McConnelsville)
Total Estimated Monthly Cost Per Connection	\$7.64	\$0.56	\$3.54

- Finally, the Partners reviewed the potential to get grant funds for some of the phases: 1) Interconnect between Chesterhill and Tri-County due to lower cost, and 2) Interconnection between Morgan/Meigsville due to impacting a larger customer base and being able to pick up new users.
- If Chesterhill qualifies for CDBG funds with the new survey, this project might be eligible for the county's Allocation Program. There would be negligible additional OMR expenses.
- To make the project affordable for the M/M and Chesterhill Connection, grant subsidy (ARC, CDBG, OWCA) would need to be around 60% along with 0% and other low interest loans (OPWC, OWDA). Would need to include interconnection with Tri-County to get more points. The total project costs would be around \$1,238,000.00 (or \$1,038,000.00 if installed without booster station) and estimated additional monthly user charge for M/M would be around \$2.30 to \$0.71.

*Shannon Wells reported on the Development Office-

-Mrs. Wells is creating a Community Housing Improvement repair policy where individuals will not receive assistance if their home is for sale.

-Housing Inspector has visited seven homes and currently working on specs.

-Chesterhill meeting with EPA to discuss sewer last week. The meeting went well. Moving forward with designs.

-Mrs. Wells followed up with Community Bank concerning the Blue Bell deed. She found out the deed has been recorded.

*Commissioners joined Mrs. Wells along with John Sampson (transit) regarding a presentation for the new tablets
Transit is now using.

Becky Thompson, Dog Warden

-Submitted report-filed

Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator

Over the past week, several computers on the County's network failed due to hardware issues. The computers needed new hard drives installed and had to be rebuilt from scratch. At the same time, there were several computers that needed to be cleaned and rebuilt so that they could be reused for another function within the County. The IT Director rebuilt all the computers and started placing them online in their various offices.

TRANSFERS, THEN & NOWS, & SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

-NONE

18-099- Motion by Mr. Vanhorn and seconded by Mr. Shriver to approve payment of bills. *See attached*
Mr. Reed absent, Mr. Shriver yea Mr. Vanhorn yea, Motion Carried

18-100- Motion by Mr. Vanhorn and seconded by Mr. Shriver to adjourn the commissioners meeting at 4:00pm.
Mr. Reed absent Mr. Shriver yea Mr. Vanhorn yea Motion Carried

Mike Reed, President

Adam Shriver, Vice-President

Tim Vanhorn , Member

Sheila Welch, Clerk
