

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of The Miami Conservancy District (MCD) sitting as the Board of Directors of The Aquifer Preservation Subdistrict (APS) was called to order at 11:01 a.m. by Michael H. van Haaren, President, with Beth G. Whelley, Vice President, and Mark G. Rentschler, member, present. The meeting was held at MCD headquarters located at 38 East Monument Avenue in Dayton.

Members of the staff in attendance at the regular meeting: MaryLynn Lodor, General Manager/Board Secretary; James B. Casper, Manager of Operations and Maintenance; Ginger Clark, Manager of the Great Miami Riverway; Michael P. Ekberg, Manager of Monitoring and Analysis; Sarah Hippensteel Hall, Manager of Communications, Outreach, and Stewardship; Donald P. O'Connor, Chief Engineer; Kenneth P. Moyer, Treasurer; Christina M. Pfeiffer, Executive Assistant; Shannon E. Phelps, Manager of Administration; and Barry M. Puskas, Chief of Technical and Engineering Services.

Legal counsel in attendance at the regular meeting: Lee A. Slone, McMahon DeGulis LLP.

Guests in attendance at the regular meeting: Lori Kershner, LMK Advocacy. Scott Milburn of Scott Millburn, LLC arrived at 12:20 p.m.

### **COMPLIANCE WITH SUNSHINE LAW AND BYLAWS**

The meeting was held in compliance with the Sunshine Law and MCD and Subdistrict Bylaws. The meeting information was posted on MCD's website. Miami Valley news media and individuals requesting such notification were notified of the meetings by electronic mail dated March 18, 2026.

### **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Board of Directors regular meeting of December 17, 2025, were provided to members of the Board for review and comment.

#### **M 2026-167**

The Board of Directors, on motion by Ms. Whelley and seconded by Mr. Rentschler, unanimously approved the meeting minutes for December 17, 2025.

First, Mr. Ekberg presented information related to data centers and their use of groundwater for cooling purposes.

### **DATA CENTERS IN THE GREAT MIAMI WATERSHED**

Proposed new data centers are creating concerns over potential impacts on water supply in southwest Ohio. A recent news article in the Dayton Daily News showed 15 existing and 6 proposed data centers in the region. Five of these proposed data centers would be located within the Great Miami River Watershed.

Data centers are physical facilities that house servers, digital storage equipment, and network infrastructure to support large-scale data processing and storage. Data centers often require large volumes of non-potable water for cooling. According to the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI), data centers may require between 300,000 and 5 million gallons of water per day. Ohio ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation for the number of data centers located within the state. Cooling water discharges from the centers should meet water quality criteria. According to the American Water Works Association (AWWA), has recommended that non-potable water for cooling should meet the following criteria:

- Low hardness (100 mg/L as CaCO<sub>3</sub> or less)
- Moderate alkalinity (50-100 mg/L as CaCO<sub>3</sub> or less)
- Slightly elevated pH to reduce corrosivity (7.5-9)
- Chlorides < 50 mg/L
- Phosphates for corrosion control and sequestration

In the Great Miami River Watershed, cooling water demands for new data centers will likely have to be met by groundwater. Provided that water supplies are carefully evaluated and withdrawn from aquifer zones with the appropriate water yield capabilities and if sufficient return flows are maintained, the buried valley aquifer system should be able to meet the volume demands of the proposed facilities.

The Aquifer Preservation Subdistrict (APS) continues to work in a partnership with LimnoTech on a groundwater vulnerability study to determine thresholds for future consumptive water use that may cause regional aquifer systems to be overstressed and cause excessive reductions to baseflow in rivers and streams. The results of this study should help to inform the region of how much future consumptive water use the aquifer system can withstand.

Next, Dr. Hippensteel Hall informed the board of a new exhibit featuring the Stillwater River being constructed at Brukner Nature Center.

### **STILLWATER RIVER EXHIBIT AT BRUKNER NATURE CENTER**

MCD, through the Aquifer Protection Subdistrict, is partnering with Brukner Nature Center on an exhibit focusing on the Stillwater River and the region's water resources. The new hands-on exhibit will include information on the wildlife of the river and water quality preservation, educating school groups and other visitors on an important natural resource.

MCD budgeted \$25,000 in 2026 for this educational opportunity, and the contribution has been sent to Brukner Nature Center with the new exhibit planned for completion later this year.

### **FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS**

At their December 17, 2025 meeting, the Board members set the following dates for future 2026 meetings of the Board of Directors of The Miami Conservancy District:

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

Thursday, December 17, 2026

In addition, the Board of Directors will hold a joint meeting with the Board of Appraisers on Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on motion by Mr. Rentschler and seconded by Ms. Whelley at 1:10 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

  
MaryLynn Lodor  
General Manager/Board Secretary

  
Michael H. van Haaren  
President