

**Charter Township of Van Buren
Environmental Commission
January 16, 2013**

Chairperson Brownlee called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Roll call showed the following present: Chairperson Brownlee, Commissioners DeBuck, Ahamiojie, Wilson, Merritt, Gibson and Board Rep. Jahr., Director Terry Carroll and Secretary Kurtz.

Audience: 6

Gibson moved; DeBuck seconded to approve the agenda.

CARRIED

Dubuck moved Wilson seconded to approve the October 17, 2012 minutes

CARRIED

Wilson moved Gibson seconded to approve the December 19, 2012 minutes with one modification to change a word.

CARRIED

Correspondence:

Wilson asked for updates pertaining to the leak in the liner at the EQ Hazardous Waste landfill. Carroll stated he does not have information at this time.

Announcements: None

Agenda:

Old Business/Updates:

Item #1: Appointment to Lake Ordinance Working Committee

Director Carroll stated in the past the Commission had put together a proposed Lake Shore Ordinance however it was never approved by the Township Board. The ordinance review needs to go before the Commissioners to have a Lake Ordinance in effect for the Township to interact with FERC as well as to establish some standards. It has been envisioned that a working group comprised of members of the Environmental Commission, Planning Commission and Township Board, City of Belleville supplemented by stakeholders of the lake such as residents, the Ski Club, the Belleville Yacht Club whom should be able to identify current concerns and recognize ordinance provisions. The Township consultants have received Lake Ordinances from other communities in southeastern Michigan.

Jahr added this will probably become a Zoning Ordinance. This would be an informal committee understanding FERC regulations, including the limit of 10 docks for all condominium sites and single family. Additional factors include concepts, safety, appearance, location of docks and residential verses commercial guidelines. Jahr committed to volunteer. Wilson committed to volunteer on the committee. Joyce Nagy volunteered on behalf of Bayshore North Condominium.

Item # 2: Update on Milfoil Weevil Contract

Mr. Carroll submitted a revised proposal from EnviroScience and a study of Lake St. Helen to show how the weevil worked for them. There are no changes in pricing to this revision are shown. The study appears that a multi-year commitment is necessary to get the Milfoil to a manageable level. Consideration needs to be given regarding executing the contract now if we expect to get on their early summer schedule.

Wilson stated failure does occur and was documented by US Army Corps of Engineering. Chemical use is short term for small areas of water not large area lakes as Van Buren Township and with no guarantee. Area of most concern is downstream from Ford Lake Dam. The Weevil control program is costly and consideration is needed to prioritize the Milfoil verses other lake concerns that may need funding. Wilson recommended deferring expenditure of money on this program.

Further discussion included asking the Township Board and Water Department for funding, would lake residents willing to financial invest in the program, look at numbers in report to determine the severity of the problem and potential of spreading, Van Buren Township currently does not utilize assistance of Ypsilanti Township and company comparison costs.

Mr. Carroll will ask EnviroScience for a report to provide to Township Board.

DeBuck motioned, Merritt second to defer action at this time and monitoring the lake for a period time based on the dialogue with EnviroScience for optimal time for a visual inspection and growth.

MOTION CARRIED

Item # 3: Update on Quirk Drain Clearance Project

Meeting was held with residents on January 8, 2013 to address complaints. Mr. Carroll met with Matt Best from Wayne County Drain Commission to define problem and area, resolution and cost to repair. Recommendation to meet with Drain Commission Engineer to determination next step.

No further business Wilson moved, DeBuck seconded to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Kurtz
Recording Secretary