

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
September 17, 2014**

Chair Brownlee called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair Brownlee, Wilson, Merritt, Jahr and Gibson

Absent Excused: Debuck, and Ahamiojie,

Staff: Secretary Kurtz

Audience: 1

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA: Motion Chair Brownlee, Support Gibson to accept the agenda with change placing Out of State Fracking Waste in Michigan to Item # 1 General Discussion.
Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion Wilson, Support Gibson as presented from May 21, 2014
Motion Carried

Communications: Secretary Kurtz received a call on September 16th from YUCA Director Luther Blackburn about a sewage discharge incident from a sewage collection system at Snow/Grove Roads in Ypsilanti Township. Mr. Blackburn stated evaluation, repairs and precautions were immediately taken. He believed the wastewater may have impacted some storm water catch basins which flow into the Belleville Lake. An incident report would be submitted to Van Buren Township within the 3 day MDEQ requirement. Kurtz stated the information was given to Community Service Director Jen Wright and Water/Sewer Director Jim Taylor.

The Commission Members expressed strong concern they were not notified at the time of the incident. They asked if this impacted Belleville Lake, if the beach was closed and needed to be tested. After further discussion the Commissioners requested answers to several questions; what steps are taken to close the beach, how does notification reach the public and who completes the testing of the lake/beach if needed. The members discussed avenues to use for notifying the public for any incident that may have an environmental impact in the Township and to discuss with the Township Board the notification protocol.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/UPDATES: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Out of State Fracking Waste in Michigan

Chair Brownlee gave an informational overview on the fracking status. Brownlee stated he has had open communication with EQ Representative Kerry Durham and will continue contact to receive updates. At this time the sludge from the deep well injections occurring in Pennsylvania is not being transported to the EQ landfill. The question arose if any landfill sites in Michigan are accepting the sludge. The Commissioners discussed the lack of information defining the radioactive materials that are in the sludge and the content of the hydraulic fluids. The words "proprietary compound" is not sufficient for defining the chemicals. Chair Brownlee stated questions to Kerry Durham, Lansing and the EPA requesting the requirements to receive licenses for fracking and deep well injections. Further to receive operational guidelines for any substances that may apply to any fracking. Concerns of leakage with the landfill liner were discussed. Wilson endorsed a High Priority Research for raising the waste disposal standards for fracking operations. The Committee members unanimously supported member of the Environmental Committee Chair Brownlee to attend meeting with the Township Supervisor in efforts to continue local input and support of the residents' concerns. Also to discuss with other Township Committees and Commissions in regards to a proposed Oil Well Zoning Ordinance near residentially zoned areas.

Visit to the Recycling Center;

The members provided an update on the visit to the Recycling Center in New Boston. Much information was provided on all the items that are accepted for recycling. Plastic bags although recyclable are preferred not to be placed in the recycling bins as they cause the machines to jam. A request to have a Van Buren Township Community Service employee speak at an Environmental meeting on recycling in the Township.

Visit to the French Landing Dam with FERC;

The French Landing Dam visit was a positive trip. FERC representative was very informative on the new 657 lake rim, the operations of the gates for the dam and the 23 miles lake shoreline.

Motion Wilson, Seconded Merritt to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary,
Brenda Kurtz

