

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISMSION AGENDA**

---

**Wednesday January 16, 2019 – 7:00 PM  
Denton Room**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

Chairman Brownlee	_____	Commissioner Merritt	_____
Commissioner Ross	_____	Commissioner Emekpe	_____
Commissioner Debuck	_____	Board Representative White	_____
Commissioner Gibson	_____	Director Akers	_____
Director Best	_____	Recording Secretary McGuire	_____

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. December 19, 2018 Minutes

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Open Discussion

- a. Lake Drawdown Plan
  - i. Eagle Creek Update
  - ii. Public Meeting – February
  - iii. Partnerships/Volunteers
  - iv. Township Sponsored Activities
  - v. Property Owner Activities
  - vi. Community Q &A
  
- b. Cadillac Ashpalt - Outfall

**NEW BUSINESS**

Open Discussion

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENT**

Lake Workshop – February 28<sup>th</sup> 2019 at 7 pm (TENATIVE DATE TIME)

**ADJOURNMENT**

***\*\* If you are unable to attend, please contact Developmental Services at 699-8913 before noon on January 16, 2019\*\****

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN**  
**Environmental Commission**  
**Wednesday-December 19, 2018 – 7:00 PM**  
**MINUTES**  
**DRAFT**

The meeting was call to order at 7:00 pm in the Denton Room by Chairman Brownlee

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Chairman Brownlee, Commissioner Ross, Commissioner Debuck, Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Merritt, Commissioner Emekpe  
Staff: Director Best, McGuire

Absent Excused: Board Representative White, Director Akers

Audience: 1

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion Commissioner Merritt, seconded Commissioner Debuck as modified. Motion Carried

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Corrections for the October 19 minutes; The following sentences should read as

1. *If it is decided that the Township is going to do something about the Milfoil, it is not something the Township **has** jurisdiction of. The lake is the State's responsibility and it is a natural process **so** there is no requirement to eradicate.*
2. *Noted last meeting that there is a large discharge drainage pipe from Cadillac Asphalt and when there is a heavy rain it floods the **ditch** on the North Service Dr and drains into the Willow Drain*

Motion Commissioner Merritt, seconded Commissioner Gibson as modified. Motion Carried

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- a. Commissioner Gibson heard a news report that a state Representative from Monroe introduced a bill to get rid of Michigan bottle deposit law. Since the enactment the trash on the side of the road has diminished. However; this bill would eliminate fraud when people try to recycle bottles from other states. A member of the audience stated she thought the bill failed
- b. Commissioner Gibson would like to follow up on the landfill flares and the possible change to their system as they are not showing the flares lit. Commissioner Gibson would like to have this issue placed on the January agenda.
- c. Commissioner Merritt apologized for not bringing the information concerning PFAS. He did pass out information concerning Blue Green Algae. Chairmen Brownlee stressed that there are questions concerning PFAS that need to be answered. For example, what does parts per million mean and what is considered a healthy level.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Open Discussion

- a. Eurasian Milfoil
  - i. SEMRF Grant Application - As discussed in the last meeting, the Commission inquired about what could be done to eradicating the Milfoil on the lake. The Township does not have a budget for lake quality, nor jurisdiction of the lake. However; the Township found a grant through South East Michigan Resilient Fund. The grant is focused on improving access to resources such as pathways, bike ways, boat launches etc. Invasive species is a small part of the grant but you must show how these invasive species are affecting the access to recreational and natural resources. With the two public launches, The Township would need to show the impact the Eurasian Milfoil is having on them. Parks and Recreation, Supervisor Office, and Public Services sent in an application. Jennifer Zaenglein is spear heading the pre-application process. This process consists of mapping the lake, developing an eradication plan, and implementation of the first phase of the eradication whatever that may be. The Township requested \$300,000 with a match of \$100,000 in kind services and/or cash. If the South East Michigan Resilient Fund selects this application, an extensive application will be completed and submitted for consideration.
- b. Lake Drawdown Plan
  - i. Eagle Creek Update – Director Best has been in contact with Eagle Creek for a status on their investigation of the lake drawdown so the information provided can be presented to the Board of Trustees. Questions asked were is it possible to do the drawdown, is it safe to do the drawdown, and will it be permitted to do the drawdown from other agencies involved so the Township can plan for the drawdown in 2019. Director Best received an e-mail stating the drawdown is **possible**, but is not a done deal. At the same time, if they receive the required permits, Eagle Creek is trying to schedule their Part 12 Independent Consultant Safety Inspection of the dam, while they lower the water so the inspector can look at more of the dam. Eagle Creek is putting together a plan that would help execute the drawdown. The timeframe and cost are unknown because no one knows what the concerns the agencies have. Eagle Creek has contacted a consultant to help

navigate the drawdown process. The Township should receive more concrete information on when it will happen and how it will happen from the state sometime in April. Chairman Brownlee inquired if there is a point that would make this project a go or no go. Director Best stated this is an issue to be discussed with the Trustees and the Township's engineering firm.

- ii. Public Meeting – A meeting is planned for in February that will be focused on educating residents. Items to be discussed are...
  - i. What you are allow to do without a permit.
  - ii. What are the processes and procedures to apply for a required permit.
  - iii. Contractors and staff will be at the meeting to answer questions about the permit process and lake projects.
- iii. Partnerships/Volunteers – Commissioner Brownlee inquired if the commission could obtain a larger map identifying counters of the lake so the commission knows the areas that the volunteers need to be focused on.
- c. Cadillac Asphalt follow up – Noted at the last meeting that there is a large discharge drain from Cadillac Asphalt and when there is a heavy rain it floods the ditch on North Service Dr and drains into Willow Drain. Commissioner Ross stated that the questions asked were not answered in the previous meeting. For example, where is the water coming from and is the water being discharged safe. Director Best was contacted by Susan from Cadillac Asphalt to discuss how the drain water is handled. She explaining that in accordance with their Air Permit which is about tracking output and dust from the facility and they utilize street sweepers to cleanup track from their facility. They also noted that they have a NPDES Storm Water permit and plan. Cadillac Asphalt has a retention pond and a J-tube which is a filtering system. Susan said that the commission could have a tour and answer any questions that they have concerning these issues.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS:**

Chairman Brownlee inquired if the commission remembered their assignments from the last meeting; everyone is to have a pad of paper with them at every meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion Commissioner Merritt, seconded by Commissioner Debuck to adjourn at 8:10 pm. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Laura McGuire, Recording Secretary