

Charter Township of Van Buren
Environmental Commission Work Study

October 17, 2012

Chairperson Brownlee called the work study meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Present: Brownlee, DeBuck, Gibson, Wilson, Jahr, Merritt and Tomaino. Staff present: Director Terry Carroll. There were several people in the audience.

Trustee Jahr moved, supported by Commissioner Gibson to approve the agenda as amended to include election of officers. Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Gibson moved, supported by Commissioner DeBuck to approve the minutes of the Work Study meeting of September 19, 2012 as presented. Unanimously approved.

Chairman Brownlee summarized the presentation on Milfoil Weevils given to the Commission at the last meeting by EnviroScience. There was discussion involving the cost of the proposal received for the treatment of Belleville Lake and the point was made that the Township may want to go with one of the higher cost ranges in order to get more weevils into the lake to allow for them to succeed. Commissioner Wilson stated that he had researched the references supplied by EnviroScience and that all had come back extremely positive. He also mentioned that he sits on the equivalent commission in Ypsilanti Township and he has brought up the possibility of partnering since they have a much more serious problem and they are in favor of it. The Commission asked Commissioner Wilson and Director Carroll to get with the Chairperson of the Ypsilanti Township Commission and try to get a formal relationship started regarding partnering on the weevils and to report back to the Environmental Commission at the next meeting. Commissioner Wilson was also asked to look into the lakes where the weevil solution has failed and to report back to the Environmental Commission.

Commissioner Wilson gave a slide show presentation on the research that he performed at the request of the Environmental Commission on the Quirk Drain and its impact on the sedimentation deposits on the west side of Ryznar Drive. This was a result of several residents attending the last meetings of the Environmental Commission to complain about the lack of water in the drain.

Commissioner Wilson determined that the problem has resulted from a drain with a steep gradient and a lot of impervious surfaces at the head of the stream. This creates a situation of water with high velocity during rain events that is sharply eroding the

stream banks and depositing the sediment to the west of Ryznar Drive where the gradient evens out.

Since this essentially a Wayne County drain problem, residents were asked to meet with Director Carroll to get the Wayne County Drain Commission involved.

Under the General Discussion portion of the agenda the president of the Bayshore Homeowners' Association asked about their letter requesting Township approval to build 55 docks adjacent to their property. Director Carroll explained that this was removed from this meeting's agenda because of the urgency of the next item on the agenda, but that the Bayshore item would be on the Commission's November meeting agenda. The questioner was asked to return at that time.

An election of officers was held.

Motion by Commissioner Gibson, supported by Trustee Jahr that Commissioner Brownlee be elected as Chairperson for the next year. Unanimously adopted.

Motion by Commissioner Tomaino, supported by Trustee Jahr that Commissioner DeBuck be elected as Vice Chairperson for the next year. Unanimously adopted.

A presentation concerning a leak detection system anomaly was given by Mike Takacs of the Environmental Quality Company. He was assisted by Kerry Durnen who is the manager of the Van Buren facility. Mr. Takacs explained how a cell is constructed and he went into detail on the liners. He explained their leak detection system of which they have 14 in use, the oldest having been built in the mid 1980's.

They had an anomalous field measurement at the end of June 2012 and they presented a work plan to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) in October and contacted the Township to provide full disclosure. There is no threat to groundwater as a result of this reading.

It is anticipated that the MDEQ should approve their work plan by October 19, 2012 and they should have a report on their dye testing in 60 days. They will continue to keep the Township informed.

Motion by Trustee Jahr, supported by Commissioner Gibson, to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Department of Development Services