

Charter Township of Van Buren
Environmental Commission
April 17, 2013

Vice-Chair Debuck called the meeting to order at 7:24 p.m.

Present: DeBuck, Wilson, Jahr, and Gibson. Staff present: Interim Director Mullen and Trustee Reggie Miller attended.

Audience: Seven

Interim Director Mullen introduced himself to the members of the Commission and the audience.

Approval of Agenda: Wilson moved; seconded by Jahr to approve the agenda. **CARRIED**

Approval of Minutes: Wilson moved; seconded by Gibson to approve January 16, 2013 minutes. **CARRIED**

Correspondence: None presented.

Announcements: Director Mullen announced the upcoming Township event on May 11th which includes: a drive-in dog clinic; sale of rain barrels; a sale of park passes; and availability of yard waste stickers.

Old Business / Updates:

Item #1: Ad Hoc Lake Ordinance Working Committee Update:

Director Mullen stated that the Working Committee has been meeting since January on issues that have been facing the township for many years. To proceed, Mullen stated that the Lake Ordinance would go through a rigorous public review process. Mullen stated that a variety of difficult issues were being addressed at the regular ad hoc committee meetings and it will take several months before the ordinance is ready for public presentations and adoption.

Item #2: Bayshore North Boardwalk and Marina Update:

Director Mullen said a meeting was held on April 11th with MDEQ regarding the replacement of docks for the 2013 boating season, and the replacement option is no longer an option. Director Mullen reported that a permitted project for soil erosion prevention and replacement of the existing boardwalk started last fall. Dock removal was not included prior to the issuance of the letter and permit, and work could not continue regarding removal and replacement of docks, only the permitted soil erosion project would be allowed. Because of the M-DEQ issues, makeshift plans were underway at Bayshore for the upcoming boating season. It is expected that by next year, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license amendment issues would be addressed for the dock work to be completed in 2014.

Mullen stated that back in 2010, the MDEQ met with the Bayshore's contractor. MDEQ told them that the permit would require the removal and replacement of the docks. Mullen commented that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission "FERC" has to give approval for the removal and construction of all structures on the lake that exceeds ten watercraft per each single family residential parcel. If the Township

violates these requirements, the Township and our co-licensee STS Hydropower could face a fine of up to \$10,000 per day. The Township is not able to provide Bayshore the approval letter to allow MDEQ to issue the dock project permit until all the FERC licensing details have been worked out. Mullen said that it will take a six month review by FERC, which is part of a longer process. The president of Bayshore stated that the Township Supervisor and Interim Director Mullen have been very supportive in working through this issue and they are very appreciative.

Item#3: Quirk Drain Clearance Project Update:

The Commission discussed the project around Ryznar Drive and Denton Road on the Quick Drain inlet. Mullen described that he and Wayne County Drain Commission staff met with residents along the inlet of the drain to discuss available options. Wayne County representative Matt Best had indicated to those in attendance that they actually had two projects – one to clear out the drain itself and a separate project to clear out the inlet. The county would be able to accept a petition for the drain maintenance, but the inlet clearing would be a separate project under the direction of the residents. Mullen said that a Special Assessment District could be established to fund the dredging work for the inlet. Some commission discussions occurred regarding the landfills in the area and concerns about what contaminants might be present in the sediment.

General Discussion:

Director Mullen gave a brief presentation that discussions regarding Ypsilanti Township's intent to remove Tyler Dam on Willow Run Creek had returned. Members of the Commission had been involved with early efforts and gave ideas to Director Mullen. The Board also requested that EQ come before them at the next meeting to give an update on the landfill and report on corrections taken to stop a minor leak in one of their caps on a closed area of the landfill.

Motion by Wilson, seconded by Gibson to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. **CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Trustee Reggie Miller – Acting Recording Secretary