

# Charter Township of Orion

## Oakland County, Michigan

Environmental Resources Committee Meeting Minutes  
 Regular Meeting, per OTERC Bylaws section 8, C.  
 Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 7pm  
 Orion Center – Multi Purpose Room

**1. Call to order by the Chair – 7:01pm**

**2. Roll call**

	Present	Absent
<b>Voting Members</b>		
George Hanley	X	
Mike Flood (Board Rep)	X	
Tom Fisher	x	
Corinna Womack	X	
Denise Burns	On phone	
Samantha Bell		X
Pat Belanger	X	
<b>Non-Voting Members</b>		
Avery Casey	X	
<b>Alternates</b>		
Linda Crane	X	

Heather Muzzy – on phone

**3. Determination of a quorum - yes**

**4. Public comments – NA**

**5. Election of New Officers** – George nominates Corinna for Secretary, Mike Flood closes vote and all in favor, motion carried. George nominates Denise as the vice-chair. Mike Flood closes the vote and all in favor, motion carried. Mike Flood opens the nominations for Chair. Corinna makes the motion for George to be the chair, Mike Flood closes the vote and all vote in favor, motion carried. As a result of nominations and voting, the new OTERC officers for the next term are Corinna Womack – Secretary, Denise Burns – Vice Chair, and George Hanley – Chair.

**6. Regular order of business**

- a. **Approval of minutes from December 2022 meeting** – Mike moves to approve the meeting minutes, Tom seconds, all in favor, motion passes. Corinna will forward meeting minutes to Julianne Savard.
- b. **Approval of agenda for May 2023 regular meeting.** *\*The Committee’s first regular meeting scheduled in February was cancelled and therefore the first scheduled meeting for this year is May 3, 2023 per by laws. Link to bylaws is here:*

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<https://www.oriontownship.org/Boards%20&%20Commissions/Environment%20Resources%20Committee/Environmental%20Resources%20Committee%20Bylaws.pdf>

Mike moves to approve agenda, Pat seconds and motion passes, agenda approved.

### c. Pending business

- i. **Reusable Bag design contest** – Julia Kozik from Lake Orion High School won the contest. Avery will work with the high school to have all the designs displayed in the lobby. George will work to get the designs displayed at the library.
- ii. **Quarterly Green Up Award (Tom’s status)** – Tom suggests moving this to semi-annual award and engaging the high school Go Green club at LOHS. Avery suggested that we (OTERC) work with Mr. Tighe (Science Advisor) to collaborate with the HS. Pat suggested that we work with Orion TV for an environmental podcast and Avery mentioned that the HS has podcasts in their Broadcast class, which we could possibly collaborate with the Go Green and science clubs for these podcasts. Tom to continue to work with the HS people on the Green Up nominees.
- iii. **OTERC Article (Tom Fisher)** – Discussion included possibly having various informational articles on various environmental topics, perhaps work with the high school students (Go Green club?) for this and/or podcasts.
- iv. **OTERC Website Updates (Tom/Denise status)** – Denise will continue to monitor the site for any necessary updates.
- v. **Pollinator (includes Monarch Butterflies) projects update (Pat B.)** – burn permit needed to continue with the process but the burn permit wasn’t received in time, so in the meantime, soy plants will be planted. Soy beans will be planted for nitrogen to be added to the soil. They will be burned afterwards. This garden will be for butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. The mix of seeds from the grant will be specific for Midwest plantings. It typically takes 3 years for a sustainable garden. Heater Muzzy is part of the subcommittee and will be involved in helping establish the garden along with Pat.
- vi. **Composting Informational Guide (Sam Bell)** - NA
- vii. **Recycle Education Opportunities (Avery)** – Science NHS got all the bins with money from the Recyclebank points. The school had a program during lunch encouraging and educating recycling. LOHS was just awarded the Green School award. Avery will provide a writeup of these accomplishments and we can put it in Orion Living, on ONTV. Also recommended that the HS students do the podcasts for OTERC. Avery mentioned that the Go Green club would like to introduce composting at the HS because of all of the food waste.
- viii. **Green Up Project Status (George)** – George provided a summary sheet (see Attachment 1a and 1b).

### d. New Business:

- i. **2023 NoHaz** - Participation/Township Board approved 2023 budget/costs/co-pay.  
*No Haz Link: Provided by Mike Flood via email*
  1. <https://www.oakgov.com/home/showpublisheddocument/16172/638149176641670000>  
Costs to recycle and disposal are increasing and so this will impact the Fee charged to residents. Mike Flood is working on a presentation

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explaining the reason for a copay (in previous years, there was no cost to residents)

- ii. **PA 115 Solid Waste Law Update, effective Dec. 2022 (Mike Flood)** – The state law changed on solid waste. Sam Timco will be the rep attending the Solid Waste committee for the township. They want people to go to a Single Hauler and composting is of interest too. The question is where will the compost area be located though for the county? Orion would not like to be part of this because we do not have a location (we already have the landfills). Sustainability, composting. Bob Hoffman is managing the Solid Waste committee making these determinations. Concerned public should reach out to Bob Hoffman.
  - iii. **Styrofoam disposal (Linda Crane)** – Linda provided a summary (see Attachment 2) – SOCRRA is the only area around that will accept Styrofoam and Orion township is not a participating member of that. Waste Management negotiated a contract to recycle the Styrofoam, but had issues with that. Mike Flood mentioned establishing NOCRRA (North Oakland County RRA) for the northern counties. Heather mentioned that she had talked to Kathy Klein about this previously and this is a very complicated long process to recycle Styrofoam and then you'd need a "buyer" to take the finished end product and the transportation/logistics costs are expensive (lightweight but takes up volume) so that's why there isn't a big market for this. To resolve this would be to stop consuming Styrofoam because of difficulty recycling. Mike will contact SOCRRA to see how they handle it.
- e. Reports
- i. **2023 Waste Management Free Disposal Day(s)** – Mike Flood provided the 2023 dates: June 10<sup>th</sup> and September 16<sup>th</sup> (Saturdays)
  - ii. **Phragmite updates** – George said that many people dropped out of the phragmite treatment and do not continue to do follow-on treatments. Treatments take several applications for it to be effective in eradicating phragmites and people need to understand this. Previously untreated seed heads are viable for up to a decade and will potentially regrow under favorable weather conditions. This topic needs to be inserted in the seasonal communications to site owners needing to retreat their property. George plans to properly educate people that it takes multiple treatments and to continue to treat until phragmite source is gone. George recommends that the Township changes the way they communicate with people, not only by letters, but by in-person discussion. Avery mentioned that there is an issue with phragmites behind the high school (that some teachers personally take on to treat themselves) which borders on Bald Mountain property but Bald Mountain does not have the funds to treat it. Linda suggests that George provide an informational sheet to Orion Review or a podcast on phragmites.

7. Committee comments - NA

8. Adjournment - meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm

*Next meeting June 1<sup>st</sup>*

*Remaining 2023 meetings: August 3, Sept 7, Oct 5, Dec 7*