

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

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 – 6:00 PM
Van Buren Township Hall Denton Room
46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Chairman DeBuck	_____	Commissioner Yob	_____
Commissioner Ross	_____	Board Representative Boyton	_____
Commissioner Gibson	_____	Director Lockett	_____
Commissioner Merritt	_____	Director Akers	_____
Commissioner Creal	_____	Recording Secretary Zantop	_____

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. December 21, 2022 Minutes

COMMUNICATIONS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation on Microplastics by Al Hodge
2. Various Environmental Update

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
Environmental Commission
Wednesday, December 21, 2022
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at **7:10 p.m.** in the Denton Room by **Chairman DeBuck**

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chairman DeBuck, Commissioner Ross, Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Creal, Commissioner Yob

Absent/Excused: Trustee Boynton, Commissioner Merritt

Staff: Director Akers, Secretary Zantop

Audience: One (1)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion Commissioner **Gibson**, Second Commissioner **Creal**, to approve the agenda of December 21, 2022, as presented.

(4) AYES – DeBuck, Ross, Gibson, Creal, Yob

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion Commissioner **Ross**, Second Commissioner **Gibson**, to approve the minutes of November 16, 2022, as presented.

(4) AYES – DeBuck, Ross, Gibson, Creal, Yob

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Commissioner Gibson stated he got a mailing from US Ecology regarding a master cell change. The master cell change is the liner change at US Ecology. Gibson inquired about getting on US Ecology's and EGLE's mailing lists. There is an email list and updates posted on EGLE's website.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Commissioner Ross stated he went to both launches and did not see any PFAS signs. Director Akers looked for don't eat the fish and foam signage at both DNR launches. The only launch with both signs is the DNR launch on the east side of the lake. The launch on the west side has the don't eat the fish sign but it is broken. Director Akers will reach out to the Huron River Watershed Council to get information to put up signs at the parks and launches.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Microplastics Presentation Update

Commissioner Yob attended the meeting at the library and made changes to reduce plastic use. Some changes were bringing her own bags to the grocery store and using beeswax paper instead of plastic wrap. Director Akers reached out to the presenter at the Library, Al Hodge. He will be at the next meeting to give a presentation to the Commission.

2. Lily Pads on Belleville Lake Update

Director Akers is waiting to hear back from the Washtenaw County Public Works Director and Erick Elgin at MUS Extension for ideas and information on removal.

3. Drain Commission Maintenance

There is a drain petition project in the Greenbriar Sub. The County is waiting on financing to start the project. Director Akers is still working on getting information on ditch/drain maintenance schedules from the County.

4. Signage at Public Areas Around the Lake

This item was discussed under unfinished business.

5. Meeting Schedule

Motion Commissioner **Creal**, Second Commissioner **Ross**, to change the scheduled meeting time from 7 pm to 6 pm.

(4) AYES – DeBuck, Ross, Gibson, Creal, Yob

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried.

6. Various Update Items:

a. Deicing Fluid at Willow Run Airport

The Township reached out to the Airport Authority. The deicing fluid goes into the storm drain system but there is a treatment process before it is released. Director Akers will request to see the stormwater plans for the airport to see how the treatment system works.

b. Willow Run Creek Data

Director Akers put in a request to the Huron River Watershed Council for the data they collect.

c. RACER Trust Remediation

The Township had a meeting with RACER Trust regarding the property on the west side of the parts plant on Ecorse north of the Airport. This site used to be an old city of Detroit landfill in the 50s. RACER Trust got clearance from the EPA to being remediation activities. The remediation recommended by the EPA is to add 6 inches of topsoil to the property. In the future, the EPA will request that the Township works with the County to do a well prohibition

ordinance for the area. The ordinance would not allow any new wells. There have not been any active wells located in the area by the County.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS:

Commissioner Gibson announced the Friends of the Rouge are having a Winter Stonefly Search event Saturday, January 21st.

Directors Akers stated there is a survey out on the Township's website about solid waste disposal services.

Commissioner Ross asked if there were any updates on the Denton Road Bridge. Directors Akers and Supervisor McNamara met with Wayne County to discuss the status of the bridge. The County stated the bridge needs to be fully reconstructed. The estimated cost of the project is \$4-6.5 million. Due to the required environmental permits to build over the lake and other County projects the construction is not expected to start until 2025 or 2026. One environmental challenge is there is an endangered freshwater mussel species in the Huron River water system. A survey is required before the permitting process to see if the endangered mussels are in the area of the construction. If there are any found it is a two-year relocation process. Commissioner Gibson asked how this will affect the Iron Belle Trail. The bridge that the County is looking at building has at least a 6ft pathway on one side. The Township requested a strong preference that the height of the bridge be increased and potentially do something decorative/attractive with the design. Commissioner Creal asked if it would be safe to pass under the bridge in the summer. The issue with the bridge is underneath the water the concern is if you drive over it and the bridge can't handle the load or cause further deterioration. Director Akers will get clarification from the County before boating season.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn **Gibson**, Second **Creal**, Meeting adjourned at **7:59 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kendyl Zantop
Recording Secretary