

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
Environmental Commission
Wednesday, April 19, 2023
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at **6:01 p.m.** in the Denton Room by **Chairman DeBuck**.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent/Excused: Commissioner Gibson, Trustee Boynton

Staff: Director Akers, Director Lockett, Secretary Zantop

Audience: One (1)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion Commissioner **Ross**, Second Commissioner **Creal**, to approve the agenda of April 19, 2023, as presented.

(5) AYES – DeBuck, Ross, Merritt, Creal, Yob

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion Commissioner **Ross**, Second Commissioner **Creal**, to approve the minutes of March 15, 2023, as presented.

(5) AYES – DeBuck, Ross, Merritt, Creal, Yob

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Commissioner Yob shared an article about using sound to filter microplastics from water.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Various Environmental Related Issues Update

Hazardous Waste

Director Akers announced there will be a Town Hall meeting to discuss hazardous waste in southeast Michigan at the WCCC Ted Scott Campus on May 4th at 7 PM, organized by U.S. Representatives Dingell and Tlaib. US Ecology will be there to give a presentation. Township

Officials recently went on a tour of the Wayne Disposal Landfill. There will be an opportunity for the Commission to tour the facility in a few months.

Solid Waste

The Township Board awarded the bid to Waste Management for solid waste services at the April 4th meeting. The Township is in the process of drafting a contract for negotiations and finalizing ordinance revisions.

Denton Road Bridge

The Township completed the RFP process for the engineering design of the Denton Road Bridge. The Township selected Fishbeck, the general services engineering firm for the Township. The Township went through the MDOT procurement procedure to verify there is no conflict of interest with hiring our general firm, they verified that there was no conflict. Currently, staff is working on negotiating pricing and getting a contract in place for service so Fishbeck can get started on the design work. The Township is working with Wayne County to get an intergovernmental agreement established so we can get reimbursed for design fees that are incurred.

MS4

The Township is required to have a NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit for any stormwater that leaves our site into the County's right of way. Along with that, the Township has to have a MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit. The Township has certain responsibilities to make sure our catch basins are inspected/cleaned and that soil is contained on Township property. The Township will adopt a resolution to agree to have Wayne County's post construction standards as our own. It will address how our stormwater systems will be maintained after they have been installed.

RACER Trust

RACER Trust has been working to address GM's vacant 68-acre parcel on Ecorse Rd that was a former City of Detroit landfill in the 1960s. RACER Trust works with the EPA for restoration and mitigation to use old contaminated properties for economically productive purposes. RACER Trust requested the Township adopt a water well restriction ordinance that would prohibit the placement of ground water wells in the area of Ecorse and Denton Road for parcels 83-02-399-0005-000, 83-02-399-0006-701, 83-02-399-0007-000, 83-02-499-0006-702, 83-02-499-0006-703, portion of 83-02-599-0001-000, and portion of 83-02-399-0004-700. There are no existing ground water wells that were found within the boundary. Before the ordinance goes to the Township Board, RACER Trust will have a town hall informational meeting for properties that will be affected to address questions and concerns. There is a water main that runs along Ecorse Rd the land could be developed with stipulations. Chairman DeBuck suggested it would be a good site for a solar farm. Commissioner Ross asked if RACER was planning to sell the properties. RACER tries to find companies to build and develop old contaminated sites. The properties are actively marketed by the Detroit Region Aerotropolis.

Chairman DeBuck asked about the construction on Rawsonville and E Huron River Dr. The two areas are finishing up a portion of the Iron Belle Trail. The next phase will connect the path from Riggs Park to the Metro Park.

Commissioner Yob stated she heard on the news that they were talking about banning brine spray on the roads and that the salt is affecting the ground water. Director Akers stated he has not heard about anything being banned. The Township does chloride application on local dirt roads for dust control. The Township is in active communication with the County about grading the roads.

A member of the audience asked if the Township gets notified by the Railroad when they close crossings. The Township usually gets notified a few days ahead of time and the information is posted on social media pages.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn **Creal**, Second **Merritt**, Meeting adjourned at **6:43 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kendyl Zantop
Recording Secretary