

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN**  
**Environmental Commission**  
**Wednesday, May 17, 2023**  
**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at **6:02 p.m.** in the Denton Room by **Chairman DeBuck**.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Chairman DeBuck, Commissioner Ross, Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Merritt, Commissioner Yob, Trustee Boynton

**Absent/Excused:** Commissioner Creal

**Staff:** Director Akers, Director Lockett, Secretary Zantop

**Audience:** One (1)

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion Commissioner **Gibson**, Second Commissioner **Ross**, to approve the agenda of May 17, 2023, as presented.

**(6) AYES – DeBuck, Ross, Gibson, Merritt, Yob, Boynton**

**(0) NAYS**

**Motion Carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

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

**(6) AYES – DeBuck, Ross, Gibson, Merritt, Yob, Boynton**

**(0) NAYS**

**Motion Carried.**

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Director Akers announced RACER Trust will be holding a public information session Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> regarding the water well restriction ordinance. If the ordinance passes the prohibition would only be subject to potable water.

Commissioner Ross stated he called in to report a “yucky” smell near the High School. Director Akers and Lockett when by and did not smell anything. There is an odor complaint hotline that notifies the County and State. Director Akers will forward the information to the Commission.

Director Akers shared an email he received from the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) from their aquatic ecologist. There has been growing interest in the last 10 years to deal with

lakeshore erosion through vegetative and soft engineering. Areas on Belleville Lake with erosion concern: Quirk and Denton and the backside of Van Buren Park Beach.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Ross asked about the “don’t eat the fish” signs. Director Akers will follow up with the HRWC to find out where the signs can be purchased.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Various Environmental Related Issues Update

**Hazardous Waste**

Director Akers thanked the Commission members who were able to attend the Hazardous Waste Townhall meeting at WCCC. Representatives from Norfolk Southern, EPA, EGLE, and Republic were at the meeting. The Commission discussed tipping fees.

**Solid Waste**

The Township is working to transition solid waste collection. The Township Board approved the second reading of the ordinance. The Township is working with Waste Management on a draft contract.

**Denton Road Bridge**

The Township awarded the design bid for the Denton Rd Bridge to Fishbeck. The Township will meet with Fishbeck Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> to continue the process.

**RACER Trust**

As a part of the remediation work, RACER asked the Township to adopt a water well restriction ordinance for the area near Ecorse and Michigan Ave. No drinking wells were identified in this area.

**ADW**

There was an alliance of Downriver Watershed meeting they discussed outreach and testing efforts. This information will be forwarded to the commission.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Gibson asked how residents will be billed for trash collection. Trash collection will be split between the summer and winter tax bills.

Commissioner Merritt thanked Director Akers and Lockett for their work with Wayne County on mott/dirt roads.

Commissioner Gibson asked when the summer chloride applications start for the dirt roads. This depends on the weather conditions.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to Adjourn **Ross**, Second **Merritt**, Meeting adjourned at **6:45 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kendyl Zantop  
Recording Secretary