

Minutes
Park Township Environment/Energy Committee
Drainage Subcommittee
Thursday, April 30, 2009

Environmental Committee Chair Jerry Hunsburger called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present were: Doug Yonker, Julia Johnson, John Barwis, Doug Wehrmeyer, citizens; Bill Chappel and Arne Larsen, Driesenga Associates; Paul Geerlines, Ottawa County Drain Commissioner; Chair Hunsburger and Skip Keeter, Park Township Board; Bill Cole, Park Township Planning Commission

Absent: Mike Toscano, Park Township Board

- 1) Minutes were reviewed and corrections were suggested by Mr. Geerlings. Corrected minutes have been posted on the Park Township Web Site.
- 2) Bill Chappell reviewed his recent actions on all drains in Park Township
 - a) Post and Greenwood Area: Met with Road Commission to explore water diversions in the area of Post and Greenwood.
 - b) Estates Drive/Tall Grass/Quincy:
 - i) Inspected pump on Estate Drive and found an issue with the second pickup hose on the pump. This will be monitored more carefully to avoid burning out the pump engine.
 - ii) Found that James Dykens on Estate Drive has an unencumbered leach pit which enables accurate measurement of water table levels along Estate Drive and has kept records of fluctuations
 - iii) Inspected area of standing water along Quincy Street East of Estate Drive – ordered soil borings along Quincy to ascertain true groundwater levels. Met with the Road Commission to discuss cleaning the ditches on both sides of Quincy. The Road Commission pointed out the difficulty of removing wet materials from the ditches and transporting them long distances. Citizen Doug Yonker volunteered a dump area on his Blueberry Farm property. If further inspection these ditches are the same level as Drain 37, this action will provide only a partial solution.
 - iv) Recommended cleaning of the Blueberry Drain for a distance of 2200 feet North of Quincy Street which includes four driveway culverts. This is a County Drain and Drain Commissioner Geerlings acknowledged that it falls within existing budget guidelines and will be done quickly.
- 3) Riley/Greenley/168th/Leisure/Other Areas:
 - a) Another section of Riley has been added to the study, extending to East to 160th and beyond. Soil borings are being taken on the South side of Riley

- in the 15900 block to get a true picture of groundwater levels. Chappell feels Drain 37 should be lowered three feet at 152nd Avenue.
- b) Culverts need to be cleaned on the Greenly Street section of Drain 37. Any construction improvements along Greenly will necessitate the removal of trees along the bank of the drain. Chappell plans to meet with the blueberry farmers along the drain to discuss plans.
 - c) The 168th Avenue area study has been extended to include an area South of Perry and West of 168th.
 - d) Leisure Acres Estates has asked for a petition to establish a drainage district.
 - e) The study map is being revised to include new areas including Drain 37, the aforementioned section of Riley Street, Northland Estates, Greenly west of 160th Avenue and Harbor Village. These expanded areas will be included in the Driesenga and Associates proposal next week.
 - f) Drain 37 needs to be cleaned, including cleaning out brush.
- 4) Drain Commissioner Paul Geerlings reported that a special project is being launched to clean Pine Creek and the Harlem Drain from Pine Creek Bay up to Quincy. This project will clear the Pine Creek bed enough to accept additional runoff from Drain 37. It is important that the Drain 37 improvements don't overtax Pine Creek and cause flooding in that area. He also reported:
- a) The petition for the establishment of a special drainage district for the Estates Drive/Tall Grass/Quincy area has been given emergency status. The Drain Commissioner is comfortable with moving it to a Board of Determination Hearing by the end of May.
 - b) The Riley Street residents will need a separate petition requesting a special drainage district to connect with Drain 53.
 - c) A Board of Determination is convened to review each petition. During that hearing, all property owners in and around an effected area are given the opportunity to voice their opinions. Based on that input, the Board of Determination makes a decision to proceed or deny the petition.
- 5) Bill Chappell updated timelines for the development of Engineering Designs for presentation to this committee and to the Township Board of Trustees, who are meeting May 14, 2009:
- a) Preliminary Engineering Designs for Drain 37, the Estates Drive Area, Tall Grass and Quincy Street will be completed for the next meeting of this committee, May 7, 2009.
 - b) Preliminary Engineering Designs for the above areas plus Riley Street, the 68th Avenue Corridor and the Post/Greenwood area will be completed for the Township Board meeting of May 14.
 - c) Preliminary Engineering Designs will include timelines and budgets.
- 6) Chair Hunsburger opened the floor to public comments. 16 people spoke, addressing questions to Mr. Chappell and Mr. Geerlings.

7) Chair Hunsburger adjourned the meeting at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Skip Keeter, Park Township Clerk

DRAFT