

**Minutes
Park Township Environment & Energy Committee
June 25, 2009**

Environmental Chair Jerry Hunsburger called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm Thursday, June 25, 2009.

Present: John Barwis, Doug Wehrmeyer, Doug Yonker, Julia Johnson, Chris Overbeek, citizens, Bill Chappell (Driesenga and Associates), Skip Keeter Township Clerk, Jerry Felix Township Manager, Jerry Hunsburger & Mike Toscano Township Trustees, Paul Geerlings Ottawa County Drain Commissioner

Absent: Bill Cole

The Meeting minutes follow:

1) Chair Hunsburger opened the meeting and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 26th committee meeting.

A motion was made by Keeter to approve the meeting minutes from the May 26th meeting, Geerlings seconded the motion. Motion passed by verbal approval.

2) Review of major flood event on Friday, June 19th

Felix gave the committee information gathered from the flooding event over the weekend. He gave an estimate of losses in dollars for the township.

3) Outcome of June 10th Meeting with MI DEQ

Bill Chappell explained.

- a) MDEQ is "reviewing options that are feasible, cost-effective and permit able".
- b) MDEQ will visit Park Township on July 2nd (tentative) to observe project areas being considered. Chappell will host the representative from the DEQ.
- c) Timeline for process to move forward
Chappell expects to have answers from the DEQ around the end of July.

4) Post/Greenwood area project

Chappell reviewed the progress of the project and options. He will have the documents reviewed and approved by the Ottawa County Road Commission. The project will be advertised and bids brought to the August Board of Trustees meeting. The project is scheduled to be completed this fall.

The Ottawa County Drain Commissioner confirmed there are laws that prevent residents from dumping organic material into the roadside ditches. The committee requested the Manager ask staff to vigorously enforce this, especially on Post Ave.

5) Quincy roadside ditch cleaning project update

Chappell stated due to the recent storms the Ottawa County Road Commission cannot continue the project. Predictions by the OCRC may have the project back underway on Wednesday, July 1st, weather permitting.

6) Study Area (SA) update

Chappell stated the need to expand the 168th St. area.

Chappell gave an update on Estate Drive. The estimate to date for installation and operation of the pumps is \$18,000+ (this includes the cost to remove the pumps when no longer needed). The operation cost is estimated to be \$1200 per week.

7) County Drain Commissioner

a) Update on potential “partnership” with Holland BPW

Geerlings stated many of the plans of the Township tie into this “partnership”. He stated his possible plans for the area.

b) Timeline for Board of Determination appointment, hearings, etc.

. Geerlings is waiting on MDEQ review of the Park West Drain proposal options. This should be determined in early August, at which time the drain commissioner will appoint a Board of Determination.

c) Probable timeline for construction/completion (if recommended)

Geerlings stated the project, if ordered by the Board of Determination, could begin in the spring/summer of 2010.

d) Identify any paperwork, petitions, or other requirements that are lacking

Geerlings and Driesenga agreed the Township is ahead of normal requirements and the drain project is ready to move forward if a Board of Determination finds the need, and once MDEQ approves specific plans.

e) Process forward

The Committee is waiting on the MDEQ for review of the various options. The county drain commissioner will appoint a Board of Determination **IN** the next few weeks and hearings will be held.

Felix stated board members should have “town hall” type meetings in the affected areas to explain the plans while the committee is waiting.

8) Review any feasible short-term solutions to relieve current flooding

Post/Greenwood and Riley

Chappell reviewed possible options for Riley Street west of 160th Avenue including manholes & catch basins, culverts, and roadside ditches with outlets into established drains or basins. He estimated the initial costs at approximately \$28,000+, and the operating cost at about \$1,900 per week. Hunsburger indicated that township funds likely could not be used for the temporary solution because this would be installed to

benefit private land, and not to keep the public road open. Mr. Chappell also said the estimated cost is \$25,000 for a temporary system along Riley east of 160th that includes cross culverts, roadside ditches and a pipe through the rise in the road between the low area to east of 160th and County Drain # 53.

Post has receded and is passable. Both lanes are open for traffic.

9) Communication regarding the process and the solutions being considered

Hunsburger stated the web site is a great source of information regarding the flooding.

Felix handed out a "**Citizen Guide to the Drain Code**" to answer some frequently asked questions.

Mr. Felix will give the format of the guide to Mr. Geerlings for a countywide version of the informational pamphlet available to residents of Ottawa County.

10) Questions & Comments from Committee Members

Chappell stated Felix, Geerlings, Hunsburger and Price will be notified about the meeting with MDEQ.

Keeter reminded the committee of the additional clean up day this Saturday, June 27TH, and Maplewood Church currently ongoing in the City of Holland.

Hunsburger restated the Board's commitment to following through on this project.

11) Public Comment

Hunsburger opened the public comment period.

7 people spoke at the public comment period regarding their flooding issues.

Hunsburger closed the public comment period.

Toscano asked for a joint meeting between members of the Environmental & Energy Committee and the Planning Commission to begin work on ordinances to protect future developments.

12) The committee did not set a date for its next meeting at this time. Mr. Hunsburger will schedule a meeting after the DEQ site visit and reviews of the proposed options are complete.

A motion was made by Keeter to adjourn Geerlings seconded the motion. Motion passed by verbal approval.

Mr. Hunsburger adjourned the session at 9:20 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by:
Daniele Dykens, Park Township Deputy Clerk
June 25, 2009*