

Charter Township of Orion

Oakland County, Michigan

Environmental Resources Committee Minutes

Regular Meeting, Monday, October 6, 2014

Orion Center – 10:00 AM

1. Call to order by George Hanley, Acting Chair: 10:05 am
2. Roll call present Chris Modovsky, Heather Muzzy, George Hanley, Mike Flood, Joe Laveque, and Beth Sheridan. Also attending part of the meeting as guests Chris Barnett, Orion Township Supervisor; Jeff Stout, Orion Township Operations Manager; Bill Parkus, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG); Kathy Klein, Waste Management; and Emily Duthinh, Oakland Phragmites and Invasive Species Task Force.
3. Determination of a quorum: Yes, 5 voting members.
4. Regular order of business
 - Approval of agenda: Mike Flood moved to modify the agenda item June Minutes to August Minutes. Beth Sheridan seconded; agenda approved as amended.
 - Approval of minutes for August, 2014 meeting: Heather Muzzy moved to approve the August 2014 minutes, Joe Laveque seconded; motion passed.
5. Public Comments: None
6. Chris Barnett introduced Bill Parkus and the SEMCOG organization, noting that he has become a member and is very much looking to leverage the relationship to bring a focus and resources to bear on a number of issues, including treating invasive plant species. Bill gave a presentation about SEMCOG's role in coordinating the efforts of local agencies and governments in eradicating phragmites in the Southwest Michigan area. He noted that SEMCOG can help with communications and setting up CMA's that are independent, yet can work together. After much discussion, it was decided that the next step the township and committee need to take is to set up a CMA. Chris Barnett is going to set up a meeting at the township offices between neighboring townships and other interested organizations such as OPIS, Clinton River Watershed, and Oakland County. Chris Barnett and Jeff Stout may meet with their counterparts in Clay Township who have been very successful in their fight to eradicate phragmites in their township. Chris also assured the committee that we are making great progress with all our efforts in Orion Township towards eradicating phragmites. Chris and Bill reported that the state has just decided to set aside grant money for treating phragmites. Details about the grants will be forthcoming. Chris Barnett also mentioned that the township is putting together a flyer to give companies and landowners about phragmites. He requested that before and after treatment pictures be sent to environment@oriontownship.org.

7. Pending business

Phragmites attack strategy. George noted that work on addressing the phragmites infestation was ongoing, with a modified strategy presentation scheduled for presentation to the Township Board on October 20.

-Treatment status to date. George commented:

- That Sue Donovan had worked with NCS and Six Rivers Conservancy to treat approximately 10 acres between the Keatington subdivision and Lochmore Condominiums;
- That Jeff Stout has developed a map targeting various township properties and safety path locations for treatment by Township employees. Final information about treatment will be provided.
- That PLM Lake & Land Management had provided no-obligation cost estimates to treat a number of properties under the Township permit. Work originally scheduled for October 6 will be conducted on October 9. Areas will include 4 Lake Orion schools, the school bus depot, infestations on Camp Agawam property along Clarkston Road and a private lake front home at the corner of Newman and Joslyn Roads. It is hoped that phragmites at the entrance of the DNR launch area on Lake Orion and well as catch basins on Powers Distributing property will also be treated. Before photos will be taken as requested.
- George also noted that a project to modify Ordinance 79 Noxious Weeds was an ongoing project with an intended delivery in winter 2015. Mike Flood and Mark Thurber are involved along with Lucy Koscierzynski. Two meetings have been held to review the situation and suggest an approach involving building permits and sale of property with infestations. More severe ordinances with required treatment along the lines of a special assessment district are in place in a number of townships across the state. Emily noted she is interested in participating along with individuals from a number of neighboring townships.

-Ordinance # 73 (Solid Waste & Recyclable Materials Collection Regulation): Chris Barnett stated that there will be a meeting about Ordinance #73 on October 20, at 6:00pm, preceding the regular board meeting. He has been receiving feedback from the public, which is approximately 80/20 in favor of a single hauler initiative. The initiative would not be introduced as a ballot item but would be voted on by the Township Board which is how most townships handle the issue. If it passes, the process would be to amend the ordinance, and then send out Requests for Proposals to contractors. Chris will recommend that the Board adopt an ordinance to have a single waste hauler.

Recycling issues/NoHaz Event: Pat Belanger and George Hanley volunteered at the September 27th NOHAZ event at Friendship Park in Orion Township. Mike Flood commented that NOHAZ is on the October 6th board meeting agenda. Kathy Klein gave statistics for 2014 Free Disposal Days at Eagle Valley.

June 2014	180 vehicles
Sept 2014	120 vehicles

8. New business

OTERC Board Presentation-Oct. 20, 7:00: Mike Flood recommended that the presentation be postponed until the board meeting on November 17th, and the committee agreed. Sue Donovan will do the presentation.

9. Committee comments: Chris Modovsky asked about a business, Ajax Pavement, which she believes is emitting noxious fumes. She was told by the committee to contact the Orion Township building department with her complaints and that they would handle code enforcements.

10. Adjournment: George Hanley requested a motion to adjourn. Heather moved and Joe Laveque seconded; motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm.

The next meeting is November 3, 2014, 10:00, OT Community Center