

# Charter Township of Orion

Oakland County, Michigan

## Environmental Resources Committee Minutes

Regular Meeting, Monday, June 2, 2014

Orion Center – 10:00 AM

1. **Call to order by the Chair:** 10:05 by Sue Donovan
2. **Roll call:** Joe Laveque, Harold Flood, Beth Sheridan, George Hanley, Susan Donovan, Christine Modovsky, Heather Muzzy
3. **Determination of a quorum:** yes
4. **Public comments:** none
5. **Regular order of business:**

**Approval of minutes for May 5, 2014 meeting:** Beth Sheridan moved the minutes be approved as written, Joe Laveque seconded; motion approved.

**Approval of agenda:** Harold Flood moved that the agenda be approved as written, Sue Donovan seconded; motion approved.

**Pending business:** Phragmites Eradication Strategy

Status to Date:

- Orion Township treated the Gingell area stand in 2013.
- George Hanley got a homeowner to treat his property behind Eva' in 2013.
- International Transmission Corporation has agreed to treat, and we will provide a sign when treatment is done as a community education strategy.

Sue Donovan proposed that we summarize the detailed plan to attack phragmites which George Hanley created, and divide it into three distinct sections:

- Identify
- Educate
- Treat

These details of George Hanley's plan would fall under these 3 general headings. After much discussion about the details of how our committee should proceed, Sue Donovan asked us if we want phragmites control to be a major part of our committee's mission.

George moved that our committee take the stand that: Phragmites are a significant problem in our community, and one of the biggest priorities for our committee to address. Our Phragmites Eradication Strategy will consist of identifying stands, educating the public about phragmites, and developing and carrying out a treatment plan to rid the Orion Township area of phragmites. The motion was seconded by Harold Flood; motion approved.

We discussed the education and treatment components of our Phragmite Eradication Strategy, and determined we need to contact 3 distinct groups to try and get them to treat phragmites this year, since timing is important because of the permitting process; a permit should be in by the end of June, although George Hanley stated that the June deadline may not be hard and fast.

1. Commercial Entities; George Hanley will continue to contact, targeting Six Rivers Land Conservatory, ITC, DM, and Power Distributing. Need to fill out a form to get PLM, the company we will be contracting with to treat phragmites to give us estimates on these properties
2. School and Government; Sue Donovan has been attempting to contact Jeff Stout to get his approval for township employees to treat the phragmites on school district property, and to give the schools a price quote for the treatments.
3. Homeowners; We are targeting Rolling Meadows and other large stands that are noticeable to the public for for community educational purposes. We identified a need to contact builders of new single family home and apartment/townhouse developments to integrate them into the phragmites eradication strategy, and will discuss further to develop appropriate communication protocol for this, in coordination with the township supervisor.

Sue Donovan passed out the packet that she developed, printed on township letterhead, to give residents to educate them on what phragmites are and the problems they pose.

Chris Modovsky suggested that we try to get home inspectors on board, making checking for invasive species a part of home inspections so that buyers are aware if they are on the property they are purchasing. Beth Sheridan will look for any local organizations of home inspectors to contact.

Presentation to Board:

After discussion, it was decided that Sue Donovan and George Hanley, along with Harold Flood providing the technology, would make the annual committee presentation to the

Orion Township Board at the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, beginning with 1 or 2 sentences mentioning our work in NO HAZ, recycling, and watershed signs; the rest of our presentation would consist of an outline of our Phragmites Eradication Strategy. Forming a sub-committee of the OTRC to specifically focus on phragmites was discussed, and several of our members are meeting next week informally to that end.

Website: Chris Modovsky reported that it is still a work in progress.

Recycling issues/ NO HAZ event: The May 2013 event went well; Harold Flood and citizen Mike Majewski are tentative volunteers from Orion for the June 21<sup>st</sup> event at Oakland University.

**New Business:**

Proposed change in committee procedure; Harold Flood moved and George Hanley seconded, motion approved: If we have complicated or lengthy ideas to discuss we will email a verbal summary to the secretary to be included in the meeting minutes, or added as an attachment.

6. **Committee comments:** none
7. **Adjournment:** Joe Laveque moved that we adjourn, Beth Sheridan seconded: motion approved at 12:00p

Next meeting is August 4, 2014 at 10:00 at Orion Center.