



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING: **Minutes**  
FEBRUARY 6, 2019 7:00 PM

**The meeting and green theme presentation can be viewed at:**  
<http://meridianmi.swagit.com/play/02062019-1020>

PRESENT: Chair, Bill McConnell; Vice Chair, Ned Jackson; Commissioner, John Sarver;  
Commissioner Bill Kielbaso, Commissioner Kirk Lapham  
ABSENT: Commissioner Aparna Krishnamurthy; Commissioner Linda Burghardt;  
Commissioner Susan Masten  
LIAISON: Planning Commissioner David Premoe  
STAFF: LeRoy Harvey, Environmental Programs Coordinator  
OTHER: Elizabeth Stepnowski, Media Intern; Tom Cary, Resident; Susan Andrews, resident;  
MSU Student Reporter.

1. **GREEN THEME: PRESENTATION** by **Karim Chatti Ph.D.**  
MSU Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, UTC Center for Highway  
Pavement Preservation <http://www.chpp.egr.msu.edu>

Dr. Chatti provided an overview of pavement preservation and how a sound approach will lead to a more economically-, environmentally-, and user-friendly roads.

Pavement Preservation is "a program employing a network level, long-term strategy that enhances pavement performance by using an integrated, cost-effective set of practices that extend pavement life, improve safety and meet motorist expectations." A key idea to keep in mind: *"Every \$1 spent in keeping a good road good precludes spending \$6-\$14 to rebuild one that has deteriorated."*

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES several changes were suggested. minutes can be found at <http://www.meridian.mi.us/government/boards-and-commissions/environmental-commission>

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

Tom Cary shared his interest in amending the chicken/small animal ordinance along with some research on experiences and codes in Lansing, East Lansing, and Ingham County. His handout can be found in our shared folder: <http://www.meridian.mi.us/Home/ShowDocument?id=17211>. McConnell suggested that Cary work with staff to draft a memo with exact proposed language.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Environmental Stewardship Awards: Commissioner Jackson recommends promoting the Awards. It was suggested that we review past nominations at the next meeting.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. **Wetland Ordinance**

Planning staff recommended adopting our Consultant's (Elise Tripp) recommendations. See Planning Staff and Consultant comments [here](#).

Amy Berry, DEQ Wetland Specialist, provided some insights about minor permits (see <http://www.meridian.mi.us/Home/ShowDocument?id=16895>

Chair McConnell has also reached out to a Legislative Expert at the State of MI for advice on determining value and essentiality.

Further discussion will occur at the next meeting once people have a chance to review comments and talk with experts.

b. **Wetland Bank Discussion**

LeRoy shared some information about a prior wetland bank project implemented on the Rysberg Land Preserve.

Mike Pennington has offered to speak to the E.C. as part of the Green Theme Series and discuss the banking process and their grant and loan program for bank establishment.

LeRoy will share more about Mr. Pennington's presentation with the E.C. and the Land Preservation Board. Mr. Pennington will focus his presentation on the banking process and the DEQ's grant and loan program that provides municipal funding for bank establishment.

c. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair McConnell presented at the [Joint Commission Meeting](#) last month (Chair McConnell's presentation starts at the 1:12:20 mark under item 6. He presented on behalf of the E.C., the Green Team, and the Energy Team

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7. COMMISSION/LIASON/WORKGROUP REPORTS

- A. Planning : Medical Marijuana is currently a key issue with the Planning Commission.
- B. Land Preservation: Commissioner Kielbaso encourages people to contact the police department if they are aware of car-deer accidents. 59 deer were harvested. Two properties are being appraised for potential acquisition.
- C. Energy Team: Commissioner Sarver reports that the Energy Team continues discussion about how to achieve 100% solar. The Service Center is a likely location for panel installation. A power purchase agreement is being discussed as an attractive option. The Solarize Meridian Program will continue in June with open houses.
- D. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority: Commissioner Jackson reports that he will have a conflict in making the 8am Thurs meetings. He suggests finding a proxy. Harvey was asked to poll the Commission Members.
- E. Green Team – Staff shared an update of Commissioner Krishnamurthy’s effort to provide educational material in local schools.
- F. Staff Report – Harvey shared the Green Theme schedule. He also mentioned the recent national citizen survey. The environment ranked very highly among citizens. <http://www.meridian.mi.us/home/showdocument?id=16881>

A large regional compost bin and rain barrel sale will occur this and next month. Please share <https://midmichigancompostersale.ecwid.com/>

The Climate Sustainability Plan Report draft can be found on our web page. Please make comments and suggestions for distribution by Feb 15.

8. PUBLIC REMARKS: None.

9. ADJOURNMENT: 8:36 PM

**NEXT MEETING:**

March 6 in the Town Hall Meeting Room. (tentatively at 7pm).