



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
November 2, 2022 7 pm

Town Hall Meeting Room, 5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. PUBLIC REMARKS
3. CHANGES TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
5. NEW BUSINESS
Master Plan Memo
Phase I of the MSU to Lake Lansing Connector Trail (Memo, Placard, Map)
6. OLD BUSINESS
Climate Sustainability Plan Edits and Next Steps
10/28/22 Drafts available in [Word](#) or [PDF](#)
7. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
(staff update draft at <https://sites.google.com/view/staff-update/nov-2-2022>)
8. PUBLIC REMARKS
9. ADJOURNMENT

Environmental Commission Meeting: October 5, 2022

(draft thanks to Lauren Falzarano)

SUMMARY

The Environmental Commission discussed updates for the Climate Sustainability plan in regards to food and compost and the water sections along with individual staff updates.

AGENDA & MINUTES

Agenda and minutes approved with some changes.

CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Lafferty began with an update on information gathered from EGLE on recycled goods. EGLE said that a three axle hauler would equal 18,000 pounds or 1000 car trips. Currently there are two or three haulers, but there is no control over where the goods go. The recommendation is to use a single company for a hauler. One aspect to consider is the wear and tear these haulers might have on the roads in the township. Fraizer mentioned that a single hauler was considered in past plans, but it was removed due to questions on if the board would take action. It was suggested that including the steps to have a single hauler might add direction and make the goal more achievable. Another suggestion was that more research on practices of similar townships would help in understanding what the next steps could be. More information may be needed in regards to the township's current contract status with the major haulers and where they are operating in the township.

McConnel gave an update on the water section. There has been progress in having aspects of the section reviewed, and they will hopefully have another person's perspective by next meeting. Jackson mentioned there are many objectives in this section and Lake Lansing may be getting diluted as a focus. He also brought up that the document lacks information on invasive species. McConnel recognized that more attention should be given to standing waters in the township.

Harvey mentioned that other communities have been incorporating climate sustainability plans, and many of them have hired consultants to help create the document. He also suggested having a condensed format may be beneficial for public use. Colby agreed that a one or two page summary of the plan would be useful.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarver discussed that a checklist for electric vehicles and charging was suggested for use at an Energy Team meeting. This could be added to next meeting's agenda for further discussion and what the township could be doing. The Solarize Meridian project had what would most likely be its final meeting of the year. They discussed ideas for next year. Sarver also mentioned there has been progress in having energy assessments done on township buildings. Harvey mentioned the MSU Energy Assessment Center was looking to do assessments this winter with improvements being considered for the 2024 budget.

Lafferty expanded on the successes of the recent bike tour and discussed how it could be used for other groups in the future for education. Lafferty also summarized the success of the food collections at the farmers market. There were 26 collection days, 18 vendors, 21 volunteers, and 6 organizations benefited. There was a total of 4,740 pounds collected, Saturday's high was 519 pounds, and Wednesday's high was 140. The program had to end to have space in township coolers for deer, but if additional space could be found, the program could continue longer. The green burial program was also discussed. Partnering with communications would be necessary to spread information about the program and meetings related to it.

McConnel discussed the master plan and how adjustments to ordinances have been considered. Specifically, the Wetland Protection Ordinance has been discussed in regard to if it is needed due to lack of recent permits. The state currently manages most wetland permitting, and Sarver mentions that the township ordinance may be protecting the smaller wetlands by incentivizing developers to not disturb them.

Fraizer provided updates on the Green Team. There was a rain barrel and compost bin distribution. Also, there will be an electronics recycling day that will accept a variety of items including small appliances in partnership with Consumers Energy.

Colby discussed the food and compost work. It was mentioned that the Lansing Food Co-op reopened in the Allen Neighborhood Center acting as a positive step toward prioritizing local foods.

Jackson updated on developments. The Pine Village Construction is underway for building retirement housing. More discussion is being had on what will happen with the remaining parking lot the development is being built on. The Okemos Village project has changed slightly from the original plan. Jackson also brought up confusion on what bars on the energy usage graphs are representing in the sustainability plan. Sarver explained that the categories on the graph are based on federal distinctions in building types, but they are not definitive.

Harvey and Andrechek discussed Earth Club and the possibility of starting a podcast. The podcast could talk about environmental actions from the high school or provide educational information. They are also exploring food and composting options at the high school. Frazier mentioned that Delhi schools use an anaerobic digester that could be a model for other school districts.

Harvey gave several project updates. The solar system on carports at the public safety building will be going up next week. The Lake Lansing Natural Shoreline Demonstration will be approved shortly and construction will begin next year. Updates at Haslett Middle School were also discussed including improvements to their courtyard along with the expansion of youth action teams in coordination with Bridget Booth.



To: Environmental Commission

From: Brian Shorkey, Senior Planner

Date: October 26, 2022

Re: 2022 Master Plan Update

In August, the Planning Commission asked Staff to issue the Notice of Intent to Plan for the 2022 Master Plan Update. This is an update to the 2017 Plan, which was a comprehensive update to the long-range planning in the Township. Prior to that, the plan had not been updated since 2005. The update was formally launched with a public hearing held at the October 24th Planning Commission meeting.

Planning Staff is letting the Environmental Commission know about the 2022 Master Plan update now. Communications Staff has created a website for the Master Plan, which includes a Master Plan Feedback Form and can be found at <https://www.meridian.mi.us/about-us/departments/community-planning-development/master-plan>.

The Planning Commission welcomes the input of the Environmental Commission to help guide the goals and objectives for the next five years.



To: Environmental Commission

From: Brian Shorkey, Senior Planner

Date: October 26, 2022

Re: Special Use Permit #21101 (Meridian Township Engineering Department), to construct Phase I of the MSU to Lake Lansing Connector Trail.

The Township Engineering staff has submitted a Special Use Permit (SUP) application for the construction of Phase I of the MSU to Lake Lansing Connector Trail. This segment of the trail is being constructed along the north side of the Red Cedar River between Hagadorn Road and Grand River Avenue. The SUP is required because sections of the trail are being constructed in floodplains.

Planning Staff is letting the Environmental Commission know about this project so that you know about it when Phase II is applied for. Phase II will require a wetland permit and review and comment from the Environmental Commission. Floodplain and wetland work for Phase I and Phase II of the Connector Trail have already been reviewed and approved by the EGLE. Staff will provide further information to you when we receive it.

Attachment

1. MSU to Lake Lansing Connector Trail Plan
2. EGLE Placard



NOTICE OF AUTHORIZATION

Permit Number: WRP033084 v. 1
Site Name: 33-2900 Northwind Drive-East Lansing

Date Issued: April 15, 2022
Expiration Date: April 15, 2027

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Water Resources Division, P.O. Box 30458, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7958, under provisions of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended; specifically:

- Part 31, Floodplain Regulatory Authority of the Water Resources Protection.
- Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams.
- Part 303, Wetlands Protection.

Authorized activity:

Construct a 14-foot wide by 180-foot-long single span timber pedestrian bridge over the Red Cedar River with a 14-foot wide by 100-foot-long boardwalk on pilings on the eastern approach. Place a total of 316 square yards of heavy riprap along the riverbanks along the new bridge abutments
Construct two sections of boardwalks on pilings through 263 and 422 linear feet of flood plain.
Construct a 1724-foot-long public pathway in flood plain.
Construct a 15-foot wide by 45-foot-long segment of pathway using 13 cubic yards of fill within 0.007 acre of wetland.
Fill 1428.49 cubic yards of floodway along the Red Cedar River for trail project.
Fill 137.94 cubic yards within 100-year floodplain of Red Cedar River for trail project.
Cut 1428.49 cubic yards of floodway along Mud Lake Drain for trail project.
Cut 137.94 cubic yards within 100-year floodplain of Mud Lake Drain for trail project.

To be conducted at property located in: Ingham County, Waterbody: Red Cedar River
Section 20, Town 04N, Range 01W, Meridian Charter Township

Permittee:
Meridian Township
Mr. Younes Ishraidi
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864

Carol Valor
Lansing District Office
Water Resources Division
517-388-3667

This notice must be displayed at the site of work.
Laminating this notice or utilizing sheet protectors is recommended.
Please refer to the above permit number with any questions or concerns.

EGLE-WRD
WRP033084 v1.0
Approved
Issued On:04/15/2022
Expires On:04/15/2027

MSU TO LAKE LANSING CONNECTOR TRAIL, PHASE I

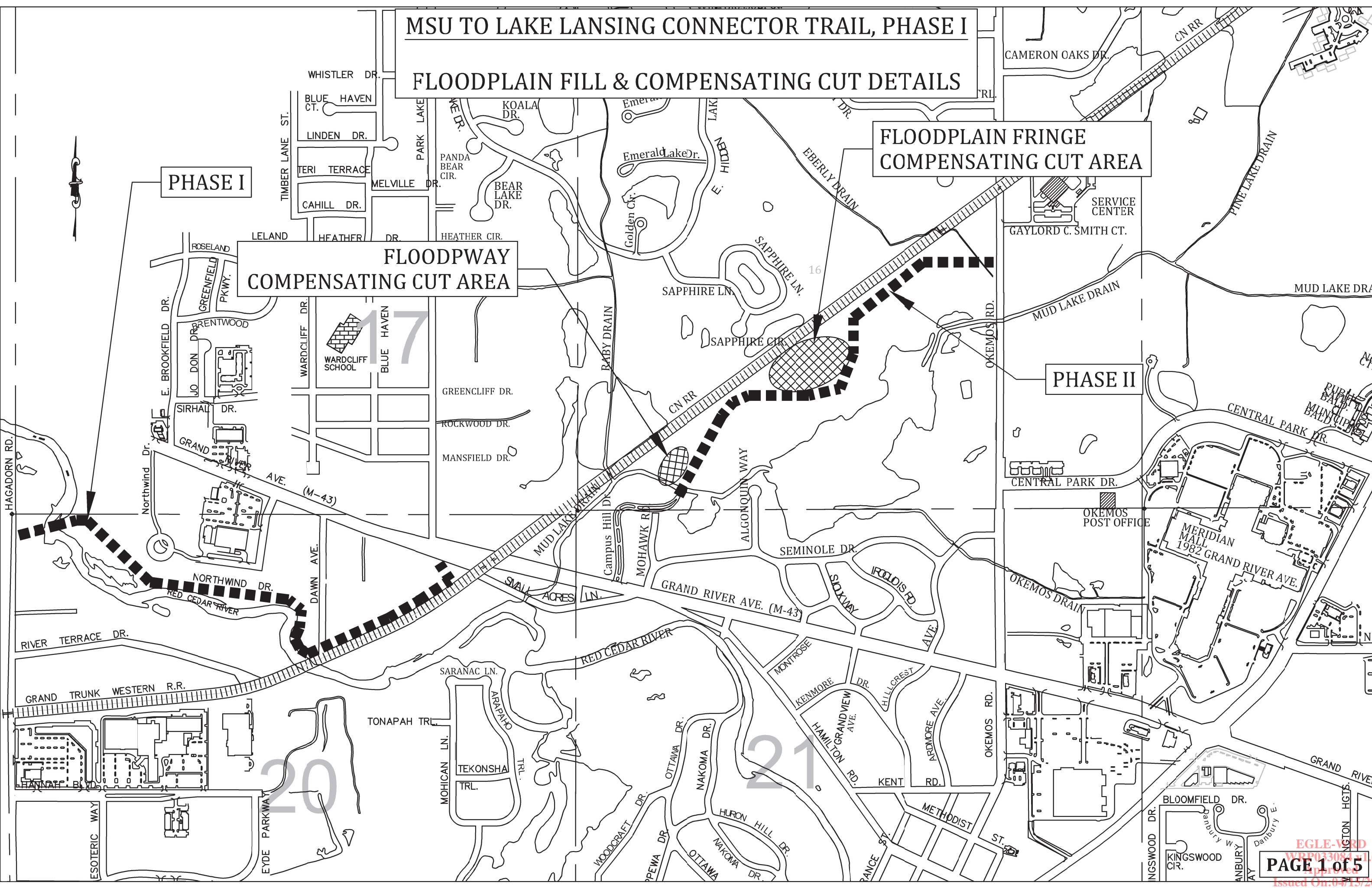
FLOODPLAIN FILL & COMPENSATING CUT DETAILS

FLOODPLAIN FRINGE COMPENSATING CUT AREA

FLOODPWAY COMPENSATING CUT AREA

PHASE I

PHASE II



* 1. I am interested in service on one or more of the following public bodies as checked below:
Environmental Commission

*** 2. Summarize your reasons for applying to do this type of service**

Being able to help my community through the Environmental Commission in ways like education, recycling events, and helping with gleaning, would be amazing. Getting to learn and work with more experienced peers would help me to grow as a person wanting to go into the environmental science field. It would also keep me up to date on sustainability events and plans in the township of which I could share with OHS Earth Club.

*** 3. Describe education, experience or training which will assist you if appointed.**

I am the Okemos High School Earth Club President, which means I have to be good at presenting and talking to my peers. Earth Club has helped with recycling, gardening in the greenhouse, and currently working on a gleaning project in the cafeteria. We are also working with the districts director of nutrition and food service to provide more vegan and vegetarian options within the district. I'm also involved in many other things like Lansing's Climate Reality as the presentations chair.

(Attach resume if available)

[Emma Andrechek Résumé.docx](#)

* Full Name

Emma Andrechek

* **Occupation**

Student

* **Place of Employment**

Okemos High School

* Home Address

4231 Sugar Maple Lane
Okemos 48864

* Phone (Day)

517.512.3146

* Phone (Evening)

517.512.3146

* **Email**

emma.andrechek@gmail.com

* **Please type your name in the box below as a digital signature**

Emma Andrechek

* **Date and Time**

10/18/2022

Other than the Downtown Development Authority Board and the Economic Development Corporation, persons appointed to Meridian Township boards and commissions must be a resident and elector (if of voting age) of the Township during the term of office. Excessive absences may be cause for review of appointment. The policy for appointment of candidates to the various public service positions is based on the following criteria: desire to serve, experience, expertise, availability of time to serve, and maintenance of equitable geographic representation. In most instances it will be desirable to develop further information through a personal interview. This application will be retained in township files for two years.

Emma Andrechek

Passionate about environmental science and photography. Able to work and communicate with others. A good leader and a hard worker. Quick to learn.

EXPERIENCE

President – Earth Club

2022–2023

- Run meetings and make presentations
- Plan events/community service
- Run school's recycling
- Help run school's greenhouse

Mist Net Intern – Michigan State Bird Observatory

2022

- Extract birds from mist nets
- Teach visitors about birds

Finance Manager – Earth Uprising Lansing

2021–2023

- Manage money for Lansing branch
- Help plan local events

Presentations Chair – Lansing Climate Reality

2021–2022

- Work with people in environmental science
- Make informative presentations

EDUCATION & EXTRACURRICULARS

Okemos High School – 12th Grade

Class of 2023

3.88/4.00 GPA

- Earth Club 2020–present
- Oceanography Club 2021–2022
- Wildlife Biology Club 2021–2022

- Action Volunteering Club 2019-2022
- NHS & Volunteering 2021-present
- Amnesty International Club 2020-2021
- Freshman Basketball Team 2019-2020
- JV Soccer Team 2019-2020
- Soccer Referee 2018-present
- Summer School Volunteer 2021-present
- Earth Uprising 2021-2022
- Babysitter and Pet Sitter 2018-present