



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAKE LANSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Townhall Room
Tuesday, September 12, 2023 5:30 PM

PRESENT: Chair, Curt Armbruster (tier1); Ron Rowe (tier 1); Roger Taylor (tier 1); Susan Andrews (tier1); Larry Wagenknecht (tier2); Steve Culling (tier 2)

STAFF/

TOWNSHIP: Younes Ishraidi

COUNTY: Coe Emens (ICP); Paul Pratt (ICDC), Simar Pawar (BOC)

ABSENT:

OTHERS: Chris Mattson (Spicer Group), Steve Carpenter (LLPOA), Claudia Kerbawy (LLPOA), Kevin Schoen (LLPOA), Stephen Gebes

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Armbruster called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

2. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following agenda items were approved unanimously:

- A. APPROVAL OF AUGUST MEETING MINUTES
- B. PROJECTS UPDATE
- C. DAM PROJECT UPDATE
- D. PARK MAMANGER'S REPORT

3A. Approval of Minutes

The draft August minutes were discussed, and then were unanimously approved with few corrections.

3B. PROJECTS UPDATE

Aquatic Plant Control: The lake consultant completed the late summer sampling & survey, and based on that had recommended no further action regarding aquatic plant control for this year.

Natural shoreline project: Younes informed the committee that the contractor has not yet returned to the project site to replace the plugs on top of the coir logs. However, the contractor was expected to do so later this week. It was noted that he needed to re-plant very soon; otherwise, it could be too late for this year. Upon his return, the contractor will also remove the turbidity curtain and the silt fence.

Educational sign for natural shoreline project: Younes has not yet received the final sign layout from the consultant. To make the sign, Younes will follow up with Park Manager Coe regarding sign vendors that County Parks use for their signs.

3C. DAM PROJECT UPDATE

Deputy Drain Commissioner Paul Pratt noted that he was pleasantly surprised that the county processed the dam consultant contract within just three days, after the County Board of Commissioners (BOC) approved it. The contract with Spicer will be from September 1 to December 31, 2023. He added that Chris Mattson is the project coordinator with Spicer, and he is here tonight to present to the committee.

Chris Mattson then started his presentation by discussing the overall work plan and the deliverables. The initial step will involve a review of the existing information including dam inspections, and understanding the historical maintenance items and activities. Then collecting topographical survey to prepare updated drawings in order to be able to provide alternatives to desired improvements and repairs. The survey will also be used to model alternatives by looking at the hydraulics, and flows under certain storm scenarios.

They will also look at the lake level control structure from an operational, maintenance, and safety standpoints. Paul added that they will share regular updates with this committee and LLPOA, and will be open to suggestions from all stakeholders. Chair Armbruster then stressed that the County and the consultant work closely with LLPOA as they are the most directly impacted stakeholders by the dam project.

Susan pointed out that there is a lot of concern that the consultant will just recommend what the Drain Commissioner had discussed in a recently circulated video, and the plan is already pre-determined. She also expressed concerns about funding of the project, and the need to keep the project costs in check. For example, there is a concern that a fish ladder will be included which will likely increase the project costs, potentially introduce invasive species, and adversely affect lake levels. Paul Pratt responded by stating that nothing has been pre-determined, and added that the scope of this project will be ultimately determined by the County BOC, unlike typical ICDC drain projects.

Chris mentioned that a preliminary report should be ready by mid to late November, and the final report should be completed by the end of December. Paul added that after the final report there would still be opportunities for feedback from stakeholders, in order to reach community consensus as to the best alternative. He thought that the project could start in 2024, and he did not think that it is a concern if the project ended up starting in 2025.

Steve Carpenter mentioned that he would like to get information about the dam from Spicer and asked if he can contact them. In response, Chris provided him his contacts. Claudia Kerbawy asked if she could attend the kickoff meeting for this project. Paul agreed and mentioned that he will contact her about the time.

Stephen Gebes spoke to the need to focus the project on making the necessary repairs and develop a sustainable long-term maintenance plan, as oppose to a project that involves advanced features that would expand the current dam intended functions.

3D. PARK MANAGER’S REPORT

Manager Emens responded to a question from Larry about deer control by stating that the deer control is still planned for this year and it is administered by the Township’s Parks Department.

He also informed Larry and the committee that this year’s geese control has only yielded 70 eggs compared to 90 eggs from last year. However, the result is the same or better and the process is working and effective.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Armbruster adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.