

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW COMMISSION (EPRC) PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW PANEL

MINUTES

Friday, March 25, 2022, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)
Lee Walker Conference Room, Constitution Hall
525 West Allegan Street, Lansing, MI 48933

RE: In the Matter of the EPRC Petition for Permit Application Review of the Stephen Wennerberg Permit Application

EPRC Panel Members:

Tony Anthony - Chair
Imad Salim
Murray Borrello

Petitioner:

Stephen Wennerberg - Petitioner
Edwin Martel – Representative
Ronald Kaufman - Representative

EGLE Water Resources Division (WRD) Staff:

Chris Conn
Robert Primeau

Panel Staff:

Robert Reichel – Office of Attorney General (OAG)
Brad Pagratis – EGLE
Dale Shaw – EGLE
Stephanie Fredline – EGLE
Meredith Prince - EGLE

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Brad Pagratis, EGLE Information Management Division Director. He welcomed the participants and explained the established statute for the permit application review panel.

2. EPRC Panel Roll Call

Dale Shaw, EGLE Regulatory Affairs Officer, called the roll and a quorum was present.

3. Introduction of Panel

The panel members introduced themselves and provided a brief description of their expertise to attendees of the meeting.

4. Process Overview

Robert Reichel, OAG Division Chief, provided a brief overview of the permit application review process and noted that he is assigned to the panel to assist with any procedural/legal questions they may have.

5. Chair Designation

The panel members discussed the selection of the panel chair.

Motion: Imad Salim made a motion for Tony Anthony to be the panel chair; Murray Borrello seconded. The motion was passed by all members present.

6. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Imad Salim made a motion to accept and approve the agenda as it was presented; Murray Borrello seconded. The motion was passed by all members present.

7. Petitioner Presents Position

Edwin Martel, petitioner's representative, provided the panel an overview and brief history of the petitioner's position, proposed project, and permit application concerns.

Stephen Wennerberg, petitioner, gave an overview of the current state of the canal.

8. EGLE Presents Position

Chris Conn, Environmental Quality Specialist, presented to the panel EGLE's position on the permit application and associated statutory requirements.

Robert Primeau, Environmental Quality Analyst, agreed with Chris Conn's comments.

9. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

10. EPRC Panel Questions and Deliberation

After the presentations of both the petitioner and WRD, the panel discussed the file. They were provided time to ask both parties questions relating to the permit application.

The panel narrowed down the scope of the petition's issues to include the permit application, the historic and current size of the canal, and the delivery of the spoils.

Edwin Martel, petitioner's representative, presented to the panel existing use and known history of the canal.

Robert Primeau, Environmental Quality Analyst, presented to the panel the location of associated wetlands.

Stephen Wennerberg, petitioner, presented to the panel the current use of the area.

Chris Conn, Environmental Quality Specialist, presented to the panel EGLE's permit requirement.

The panel discussed their Recommendation to the Director.

Motion: Imad Salim made the motion of the panel's Recommendation to the Director to state:

Panel recommends that EGLE and petitioners review data indicating the historical and dimensional nature of the channel in question. This information may include historical photos and other historical documents. Panel recommends to EGLE director that a compromise be reached that is protective of the environment, assures maintenance of historic channels, and in compliance with applicable state laws.

Murray Borrello seconded the motion. The motion was passed by all members present.

11. Adjournment

Motion: Murray Borrello made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:46 p.m.; Imad Salim seconded the motion. The motion was passed by all members present.

Prepared by:
Meredith Prince, Executive Secretary
EGLE

March 30, 2022

***Meeting minutes were APPROVED at the Environmental Permit Review Meeting
2-6-25***