

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW COMMISSION (EPRC) PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW PANEL

MINUTES

Thursday, July 7, 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, Michigan 48933

EPRC Panel Members:

Brad Venman - Chair
Imad Salim
Lori Myott

Petitioner:

Nicholas Beldyga
Robert Kaufman – Representative
AJ Holmes – Representative

EGLE Water Resources Division Staff:

Luis Saldivia
Joseph Haas
Erin Emington

Panel Staff:

Robert Reichel, Division Chief, OAG
Dale Shaw, Regulatory Affairs Officer, EGLE
Stephanie Fredline, Department Analyst, EGLE
Meredith Prince, Executive Secretary, EGLE

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Meredith Prince, Information Management Division Executive Secretary and clerk to the EPRC. She 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 the 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 questions they may have.

5. Chair Designation

The panel members discussed the selection of the panel chair.

Motion: Brad Venman made a motion to serve as the panel chair; Lori Myott seconded. The motion was passed by all members present.

6. Approval of Agenda

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

7. Petitioner Presents Position

Robert Kaufman, petitioner's representative, began with a dialogue with the petitioner's contractor AJ Holmes about the proposed project and the effect of wave action.

Nicholas Beldyga, petitioner, gave a brief history of the canal and the home.

8. EGLE Presents Position

Joseph Haas, Gaylord District Supervisor, presented to the panel a high-level overview of permit statistics and EGLE's position on the permit application, including Best Management Practice in the Minor Project category.

9. EPRC Panel Questions to Petitioner and EGLE

Erin Emington, Environmental Quality Analyst, responded to questions about the canal, the seawall, the no-mow zone, toe stone, Best Management Practice, and coir log bioengineering.

Joseph Haas responded to questions about the no-mow zone, the seawall, and the Minor Project category.

Luis Saldivia, Field Operations Manager, responded to questions about the Minor Project category, low-energy systems, and coir log bioengineering.

Break: Robert Kaufman requested a 10-minute break, from 2:00-2:10 p.m.

After the break, discussion continued.

Nicholas Beldyga made comments about the project's effect on mooring his boat.

AJ Holmes made comments about the use of coir logs, the seawall, and the no-mow zone.

10. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

11. EPRC Panel Deliberation

The panel discussed their recommendation.

Motion: Lori Myott made the motion of the panel's Recommendation to the Director to state:

The panel recommends that the department and the applicant continue to discuss and explore compromises that incorporate the toe stone and best management practice (BMP) requirements as required by the law. A few options were discussed during the EPRC meeting, and the panel recommends both the department and the applicant pursue those options as well as others.

Imad Salim seconded the motion. The motion was passed by all members present.

12. Adjournment

Motion: Imad Salim made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:10 p.m.; Lori Myott seconded. The motion was passed by all members present.

Prepared by:
Meredith Prince, Executive Secretary
EGLE

July 13, 2022

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