

# **ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW COMMISSION (EPRC) PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW PANEL**

## **MINUTES**

**Wednesday, August 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 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:**

Heather Dawson  
Matt Germane  
Brad Venman - Chair

### **Petitioner:**

Dave Woreth  
Edwin Martel – Representative

### **EGLE Water Resources Division Staff:**

Chris Conn  
Joseph Haas

### **Panel Staff:**

Robert Reichel, Division Chief, OAG  
Meredith Prince, Clerk, EGLE

#### **1. Call to Order and Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Meredith Prince, Clerk. She welcomed the participants and explained the established statute for the permit application review panel.

#### **2. EPRC Panel Roll Call**

Meredith Prince 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:** Matt Germane made a motion to designate Brad Venman as the panel chair; Heather Dawson seconded. The motion was passed by all members present.

## **6. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** Heather Dawson made a motion to approve the agenda as written; Matt Germane seconded. The motion was passed by all members present.

**Motion:** Matt Germane made a motion to limit the presentations of the petitioner and EGLE to 20 minutes each; Heather Dawson seconded. The motion was passed by all members present.

## **7. Petitioner Presents Position**

Edwin Martel, petitioner's representative, provided the panel with an overview of the current condition of the canoe livery and the proposed project, information on the local zoning authority and public notice, and the status of the application.

## **8. EGLE Presents Position**

Chris Conn, Environmental Quality Analyst, presented to the panel a high-level overview of permit application statistics, the current status of the application, and the impacts of the proposed project on resources.

Joseph Haas, District Supervisor, provided the panel with an overview of the Natural Rivers Program, administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in concert with EGLE.

## **9. EPRC Panel Questions to Petitioner and EGLE**

Edwin Martel answered questions from the panel about the current and historical state of the site, the proposed project, the impact on other parts of the river, and the status of the application.

Joseph Haas answered questions from the panel about the public notice, the permitting process, the proposed project, and the status of the application.

## 10. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

## 11. 15-Minute Break

A 15-minute break was taken from 10:25-10:40 a.m.

## 12. EPRC Panel Deliberation

After the break, the panel discussed the file.

**Motion:** Heather Dawson made the motion for the panel's Recommendation to the Director to state:

On behalf of petitioner Dave Woreth, the EPRC recommends to the EGLE director that the normal process for Act 451 permits be followed. Progress is being made between the applicant and EGLE. EPRC recommends that the applicant should continue to work with EGLE to understand how the design and construction of the structure would be agreeable to all parties. An initial zoning permit allowed for rebuild and replacement of the current structure. The most recent conceptual design (Version 3) is being proposed by the applicant, which is not effectively a rebuild or replacement of the structure as it currently stands. EPRC recommends that a complete application be submitted to EGLE for review.

Matt Germane seconded the motion. The motion was passed by all members present.

## 13. Adjournment

**Motion:** Brad Venman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m.; Matt Germane seconded. The motion was passed by all members present.

Prepared by:  
Meredith Prince, Clerk  
EGLE

August 15, 2022

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