

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW COMMISSION (EPRC) PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW PANEL

MINUTES

Friday, October 21, 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:

Emily Cord-DuThinh
Lei Meng
Evan Pratt - Chair

Petitioner:

Neil Meteer
Deb Brown

EGLE Water Resources Division Staff:

Chris Conn
Joseph Haas
Joshua Crane

Panel Staff:

Aimee Crouch, Legal Specialist, EGLE
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

Aimee Crouch, Legal Specialist, EGLE, provided a brief overview of the permit application review process and noted that she 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: Emily Cord-DuThinh made a motion to designate Evan Pratt as the panel chair; Lei Meng seconded. The motion was passed by all members present.

6. Petitioner Presents Position

Neil Meteer, petitioner, and Deb Brown provided the panel with an overview of the history and current condition of the pond, the aims of the proposed project, and the status of the application.

7. EGLE Presents Position

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

Joseph Haas, District Supervisor, presented to the panel an overview of the resources impacted by the proposed project.

Joshua Crane, Senior Environmental Quality Analyst, added further detail about the status of the pond and the impacts of the proposed project.

8. EPRC Panel Questions to Petitioner and EGLE

Joshua Crane answered questions from the panel about the history of the pond and proposed alternatives.

Neil Meteer and Deb Brown answered questions from the panel about the history and formation of the current pond and the aims of the project.

Joseph Haas answered questions from the panel about the proposed project and possible alternatives.

9. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

10. 15-Minute Break

Motion: Emily Cord-DuThinh made a motion to take a 15-minute break from 10:05 to 10:20 a.m.; Lei Meng seconded. The motion was passed by all members present.

11. EPRC Panel Deliberation

After the break, the panel discussed the file.

Motion: Emily Cord-DuThinh made the motion for the panel's Recommendation to the Director to state:

The panel recommends adoption of EGLE's position. If the petitioner still desires to dredge the pond, this will require disconnection and restoration of the channel entering the pond.

Lei Meng seconded the motion. The motion was passed by all members present.

12. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Emily Cord-DuThinh made a motion to approve the agenda as written; Lei Meng seconded. The motion was passed by all members present.

13. Adjournment

Motion: Emily Cord-DuThinh made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m., Lei Meng seconded. The motion was passed by all members present.

Prepared by:
Meredith Prince, Clerk
EGLE

October 25, 2022

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