



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY  
LANSING



LIESL EICHLER CLARK  
DIRECTOR

December 15, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Neil Meterer  
3301 East Mill Road  
Grawn, Michigan 49637

Dear Neil Meterer:

After reviewing the enclosed Environmental Permit Panel's Meeting Summary and Recommendations regarding the Petition for Permit Application Review received on September 13, 2022, I agree with the Panel's recommendations. I have directed Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) Water Resources Division staff to start work on the resolution per the recommendations.

If you have additional questions regarding this matter, please contact Aaron B. Keatley, Chief Deputy Director, at 517-284-6709 or [KeatleyA@Michigan.gov](mailto:KeatleyA@Michigan.gov).

Sincerely,

Liesl Eichler Clark  
Director  
517-284-6700

Enclosure

cc/enc: Emily Cord Du-Thinh, Environmental Permit Review Commission  
Lei Meng, Environmental Permit Review Commission  
Evan Pratt, Environmental Permit Review Commission  
Aaron B. Keatley, Chief Deputy Director, EGLE  
James Clift, Deputy Director, EGLE  
Teresa Seidel, EGLE  
Brad Pagratis, EGLE  
Dale Shaw, EGLE  
Aimee Crouch, EGLE

**ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT PANEL**  
 Petition for Permit Application Review  
 Meeting Summary and Recommendations

*This information is required by Section 1315 of Part 13 (Permits) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended*

<b>1. MEETING DATE</b>	
October 21, 2022	
<b>2. MEETING LOCATION</b>	
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Constitution Hall, Lee Walker Conference Room, Lansing.	
<b>3. PETITIONERS</b>	
Neil Meteer Deb Brown	
<b>4. ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT PANEL MEMBERS</b>	
Emily Cord-DuThinh Lei Meng Evan Pratt	
<b>5. EGLE STAFF</b>	
<u>Water Resources Division</u> Chris Conn Joseph Haas Josh Crane	
<u>Panel Staff:</u> Aimee Crouch Dale Shaw Stephanie Fredline Meredith Prince	
<b>6. DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE PANEL</b>	
Submitter	Description
Petitioner	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Petition</li> <li>Meteer EPRC Statement – response to EGLE’s statement received at the meeting.</li> </ol>
Water Resources Division, EGLE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meteer EPRC Statement</li> </ol>
<b>7. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION</b>	
Sediments are entering the pond via the channels connecting it to the stream. To minimize future sedimentation, the panel supports EGLE’s recommendation that the petitioner fill in the channel	

from the stream to the pond with coir logs, sediments, and vegetation, in consultation with EGLE and the local watershed council. This can be done to preserve wildlife habitat, avoid excessive mosquitos and preserve the stream.

The panel commends the property owners desire to remove invasive species with minimal herbicides, and to maintain wildlife habitat in their pond. Excavators/contractors recommended they excavate sediments in the pond to control invasive plants. However, the roots of invasive plants like phragmites, grow ten feet deep and seed banks and invasive propagules remain in the sediments. Therefore, excavation is not the recommended management practice to remove them. EGLE and the local Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA), may have better recommendations for how the petitioner may control their invasive plants and restore their pond. Excavation and proceeding with their original proposal is unlikely to accomplish the Petitioner's goals.

**8. PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS TO RESOLVE PERMIT APPLICATION CONCERNS**

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.

**9. ADDITIONAL PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS** *(Not required)*