

Environmental Board  
January 8, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm

Members Present: Ruth Caputo, Martha Dahlinger, Catherine Niessink, Bill Beck, Christin DeJong, David Mayfield, Jamie McCarthy, Spencer Welling, Tim Winslow, Genevieve Sertic, Judy Graham, City of Portage on behalf of Chris Barnes

Motion to approve December's minutes made by Catherine, seconded by Jamie. Approved.

### **Goals/Objectives for This Year**

More coordinated volunteer effort by the city? Portager, website exist but should there be a more central place to do this. Could be a new goal for the board. We can discuss at the next meeting.

New goals?

We're going to add "City Waste Issues" as a new "goal."

Went through all the board's goals which are added as a appendix to these minutes.

We decided to leave the first goal as the way it is for now although the board discussed whether we needed to continue patrolling Bishop's Bog for invasive species.

Second goal: Controlling Invasive Species

Bill mentioned establishing subgroups for each species and prioritizing which species are the most important to tackle. Train "experts" to lead these groups. There is an app through the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN) for smartphones where you can take a picture of an invasive species and send it in via this app. MISIN will record the location of a reported outbreak and the map containing the locations of all reported outbreaks is online as well.

New goal of setting up an inventory of invasive species in Portage.

David suggests creating pamphlets for each "important" invasive species such as Garlic Mustard, Asian Bittersweet, Phragmites, Purple Loosestrife, etc. This would go under our education goal.

We will remove discussing the pros and cons of spraying of pesticides near waters as we will continue to consider both sides of this issue when determining best actions to control invasive species.

The City of Portage is going to put up a bid for maintaining the native plantings around the water treatment plant. We will keep this as a goal for now until a final plan is set.

Pursue action to control Phragmites in the city.

Third Goal: Educate the public on environmental issues

We're going to eliminate the last two unbolded subgoals for this goal.

Under the education goal, add something about stormwater management as a potential goal.

Fourth Goal: Advise the City Council in areas/subjects under the purview of the Environmental Board

We're going to eliminate the last two unbolded subgoals.

Fifth Goal: Provide updates on goals for FY 2013-2014 (April 2014) and recommend goals for FY 2014-2015 (April 2014)

City Waste Management System's report that was completed by Luis should be on the city's website now. We can eliminate this as a goal and move this under the education goal to possibly consider updating this report on an annual basis.

Bill suggests reorganizing the goals to show that each goal has an education component, what's the endpoint of each goal, how do we get there, etc. Bill will take a crack at doing this for the board.

Possibly widen the goal of city waste management to a countywide goal rather than just for the City of Portage.

## **Other News**

The burn request to burn the Phragmites near the Consolidated Drain has been approved by the City. Chris will go forward on this issue. Ruth will call the Kalamazoo Nature Center – Great Lakes Ecological Management that will do the burn to let them know that the city has approved the request.

A motion to approve allowing Ruth to help Chris move forward with the controlled burn of the Phragmites near the Consolidated Drain by the Kalamazoo Nature Center – Great Lakes Ecological Management group was made and approved by the board.

## **Announcements**

Planning Commission meeting where the Comprehensive Plan draft will be presented is Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm

Wild Ones, Wednesday, Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30pm-7pm. Josh Cohen of the MNFI is giving a talk on “Plant Communities of Michigan.”

The Michigan Botanical Club, Monday, Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>, Professor Donald Dickmann will give a talk on “Michigan Forest Communities: Today and Tomorrow.”

Michigan Audobon, Monday, Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>, 7pm. Mel Visser will give a talk on his recent trip to the Northwest Passage.

Motion to adjourn made by Christin, seconded by Bill. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.

/s/ Tim Winslow