

Minutes of the Muskegon Lake Public Advisory Council
Meeting
Muskegon Alternative and Renewable Energy Center
July 23rd, 2007

Minutes

In attendance were Cynthia Price, Chair; Wayne Groesbeck, Sec.; Kathy Evans, Director; Gary Noble and Terry Stilson, Muskegon River Watershed Assembly; Richard O'Neal, MDNR Fisheries; Richard Rediske and Carl Ruetz, GVSU/AWRI; Carolyn Weng, Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Program; Mark Evans, SAPPI Union & Grand Trunk Restoration Partnership; Gale Nobes, Muskegon River Watershed Assembly; John Steinbech, Anchor Reality; Brian Majka, JF New; and Julie Sims, MDEQ Water Bureau.

The meeting was convened by Price at 6:12 PM.

Weng distributed a list of songbirds and marsh birds known to currently use the Muskegon shoreline within each habitat focus areas. The habitat focus areas are under consideration for development of delisting targets by the PAC.

Two action items were introduced by Price from the 07-12-07 meeting:

- (1) The change of the organization's name from "Muskegon Lake Public Advisory Council" to "Muskegon Lake Watershed Partnership."
Ruetz mm/sm Weng to make this change. Evans explained that many previous and current PAC projects intended to improve Muskegon Lake are not related only to Area of Concern delisting. Groesbeck commented that because the organization is not incorporated, a name change involves no legal issues. Passed.
- (2) The change of the organization's mission statement from "a coalition of community interests dedicated to working cooperatively for the improvement of the Muskegon Lake ecosystem through the remedial action process" to "a coalition of community interests dedicated to working cooperatively for the improvement of the Muskegon Lake ecosystem." Rediske and Groesbeck expressed reservations about eliminating reference to the remedial action process because delisting has not been accomplished. Groesbeck mm/sm Rediske to change the organization's mission statement to "a coalition of community interests dedicated to working cooperatively for the improvement of the Muskegon Lake ecosystem, and for the delisting of Muskegon Lake as an Area of Concern." Passed.

Price informed the group that a Bylaws Committee consisting of herself, Groesbeck, Markowski, and possibly McKee will be formed as per the recommendation of the 07-12-07 meeting. It will work at composing bylaws to replace the organization's current "operating guidelines."

Evans then presented a PPT presentation with photos and maps of the south shore of Muskegon Lake, which the PAC Habitat Committee has divided into four zones, progressing west to east. The group then broke out into 3 groups and discussed what physical habitat improvements could be made in Zone 1 (the channel and Lakeside) and Zone 3 (downtown Muskegon). The groups used input sheets to summarize desired, quantitative improvements to former aquatic habitat areas impacted by fill and hardening of the shoreline, open water and wetlands. Evans will compile and analyze the results.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

-submitted by WJG