

Minutes of the Saline Sustainability Circle Meeting, held on Tuesday, April 17, 2007
Pittsfield Charter Township Administration Building
6201 W. Michigan Ave., Ann Arbor MI 48108

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairperson Lirones.
Present: Christina Lirones, Jane Kartje, James R. Walter, Judith Walter, Jack Steeb, Joshua Long, Keith Fineberg, David Rhoads, Jan Godek, Keith Girbach.
2. Review and Acceptance of Minutes for March 20, 2007. Motion by Steeb, supported by Walter, to approve the minutes. Motion Carried.
3. Discussion and reports from those who attended the March 28, 2007 MDEQ hearing in Lodi Twp: Jan Godek thought that about 475 people attended, and that the comments were excellent. She noted that another developer has applied for a discharge permit in Section One, near Oak Valley and Scio Church Rd., despite prior assurances that he would seek public sewer and water. Jane Kartje said this is why we must impress upon our State Legislators that they must press the DEQ to require local government approval before issuance of a permit. Josh Long said we would soon see the results of SSC's efforts to provide information at the hearings in both Lodi and Saline Townships; perhaps this would limit the number of discharge permits being applied for. Jan Godek expressed skepticism, and described her experience with lagoon systems in Lodi, where she would report sewage overflow to the DEQ, and then the DEQ would just call the owner. After repeated complaints over several days, someone from the DEQ looked at the situation. Josh Long asked if there was a fine. It seemed there was no fine. In Lima Township, the private sewage system has not been in compliance with discharge limits since it was installed, and the DEQ has allowed it. Keith Girbach noted that in Saline Township, Biltmore has put the discharge permit on hold with the DEQ; it seems that a permit can be on hold indefinitely. James Walter commented on the need for more water, and that it should come from the public supply in Detroit, which is good, not from community wells which deplete the groundwater. Jan Godek had asked YCUA if the authority is interested in a satellite plant, and opined that building a small plant through a Township consortium may be necessary. Josh Long noted that there is now a wealth of information compiled from the hearings, which may assist communities in upholding their planning and zoning. He also asked the group what percentage of developers follow each communities plans, zoning, and rules? The group members agreed that the majority do, and are responsible developers, and that those who do not make it hard for everyone, both for the community and for responsible developers.
4. Discussion and reports from those attending the Farm Bureau forum with State Legislators on April 16 in Lodi: Jan Godek said the farmers had great questions, and expressed her appreciation for the responsiveness and support of our State Legislators who attended: Pam Byrnes, Liz Brater, Kathy Angerer, and Alma Wheeler Smith. Christina Lirones stated that the letter sent by Pam Byrnes and Liz Brater to the Lodi DEQ hearing was very good and offered to get a copy of the letter.

5. Future Agenda Items: On May 15, handout and review David Ivan's "Best Practice Communities" presentation from the MSU Extension Service. Also, prepare questions for the State Legislators' forum on June 19. On June 19, Q & A discussion session with State Legislators representing the SSC area.
6. Meeting Notices: May 2, County Commissioners will have a hearing on the private waste system ordinance. May 16, County Commissioners will have a hearing on whether to expand the Road Commission from 3 to 5 members. Saline School Board candidate forum to be held on April 25 at 7:00 PM at Liberty School. On May 12, the Library will close for the move to Liberty School. May 19, spring opening of the Rentschler Farm. May 20, Community Garden opening in Saline at 1:00 PM; also 4:00 PM, opening celebration at Marsh View Meadows Park in the Pittsfield Preserve. Saline Leadership Institute has openings.
7. Next meeting dates and locations: May 15, City of Saline Municipal Building, Conference Room. June 19, Pittsfield Township Administration Building.
8. Public Comment: none.
9. Motion by Kartje, supported by Walter, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Christina Lirones, in the absence of
Art Trapp, Recording Secretary