

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Saline Sustainability Circle**  
**Tuesday March 18, 2008**  
**Lodi Township Hall**

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Lirones called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Present:

Lodi Township: Bob Crowner, Jack Steeb, Doug Veenstra

Pittsfield Township: Christina Lirones, Feliziana Meyer

Saline Area Chamber of Commerce: Larry Osterling

City of Saline: Todd Campbell, Gretchen Driskell, David Rhoads

Saline Township: Laurie Leinbach

Washtenaw County Planning: Terry Brinkman

York Township: Jane Kartje

State Senator Randy Richardville's office: John Manor

2. Review and Acceptance of Minutes from March 19, 2008

Motion by Steeb, supported by Rhoads, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

3. Introduction of new Saline City Manager

Gretchen Driskell introduced the new City Manager, Todd Campbell. Todd was City Manager for the city of Sturgis, Michigan, for five years prior to coming to Saline.

Todd discussed some of his impressions and philosophy. He is still coming up to speed in the new job. He has met with the city staff and many community members. He is very impressed with the staff and the community.

He feels that the community is larger than just the part contained in the city boundaries; it includes the surrounding townships, the school district, etc.

The city and the surrounding area are facing financial challenges, but he feels that the area should bounce back sooner than a lot of other communities.

4. Discussion of Downtown Saline Plans

Discussion postponed due to the illness of Art Trapp.

5. Future Agenda Items

Saline District Library Update (Leslee Niethammer)

Downtown Saline plans (Art Trapp, Todd Campbell)

Wind Turbines

Review the Regional Planning Guidelines

Develop a strategy for Private Wastewater Treatment Plants within the SSC region

Transfer of Development Rights (Elizabeth Riggs)

6. Announcements and Meeting Notices

The Saline Area Historical Society is having an open meeting Wednesday March 19 at the Senior Center. Volunteer opportunities will be discussed.

The Saline Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday March 22. Start at Carol's Hallmark and visit many Saline businesses to collect prizes.

The Washtenaw County Public Transit Plan will be presented at 7:00 on Monday March 24 at Washtenaw Community College, Morris Lawrence Building.

The Saline Recreation Center will be holding a Food, Fun, and Fitness event noon – 3:00 on Sunday March 30. Drawings and discounted memberships will be available.

The Saline Area Chamber of Commerce will be putting together its annual directory starting April 1. Larry Osterling would like to have a contact from each SSC member to arrange for pictures and a descriptive entry.

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital – Saline and the Evangelical Homes will be holding a Healthy Living event on April 10.

The Toyota Technical Center development is proceeding in York Township. The Bemis/Platt Roads intersection will be totally closed in about two weeks for construction. Construction should be complete by the end of the summer. Further work on the alignment of US-23 ramps at Willis Road will take place this summer.

A Washtenaw County court building will be built on Maple Road north of the Proface facility (across from the Middle School). Groundbreaking is to take place in June.

Approximately 1700 acres of farmland were preserved in Washtenaw County in 2007 due to the efforts of ten land preservation organizations. The federal tax incentive that expired at the end of 2007 was instrumental in the preservation of these lands. Washtenaw County has 5000 acres of farmland preserved, the most of any county in the state. The umbrella organization, Preserve Washtenaw, has a website under development: [www.preservewashtenaw.org](http://www.preservewashtenaw.org).

The Saline River Greenway Alliance is planning a newsletter for residents along the river. The newsletter will have articles about efforts to preserve and improve the river.

George Fulton and Donald Grimes of the University of Michigan Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations have published their annual outlook for Washtenaw County. The report projects that the local economy will start to turn around later this year. The future economy for the area will differ from the past with reduced reliance on manufacturing. Education and health care are the main growth areas in the county. Demographics will change with the over-65 segment of the population growing from

about 10% now to more than 20% by 2035. This report and other projections may be accessed at <http://www.ilir.umich.edu/lmr/index.cfm>. Select “Economic Outlook Reports” on the left side of the page.

7. Public Comment

An informal discussion was held between John Manor of Senator Richardville’s office and SSC members. SSC members expressed their opinions on various topics, including governmental consolidation, potential difficulties with the proposed June 3 primary election, financial issues including revenue sharing, and state government priorities.

8. Next Meeting Dates and Locations

April 15, 2008 – Liberty School, Saline. Leslee Niethammer will present “Saline District Library Construction Update and What’s Happening in May 2008.”

May 20, 2008 – Pittsfield Township Administration Building. Wind turbines, a presentation by John Sarver, State of Michigan, on types of turbines in use in Michigan, siting guidelines, model ordinances, energy generation capacity, etc.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Kartje, supported by Leinbach, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Veenstra  
Secretary

*Visit the Saline Sustainability Circle website at [www.salinesustainability.org](http://www.salinesustainability.org).*