



**AGENDA**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – WORK SESSION  
April 3, 2019 7:00 pm

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1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM
2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
3. PUBLIC REMARKS
4. WORK SESSION
  - A. Wetland Ordinance: Discuss Changes
  - B. Wetland Banking and Collaboration with Land Preservation Board
5. REPORTS (critical time sensitive updates only)
6. PUBLIC REMARKS
7. ADJOURNMENT

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All comments limited to 3 minutes, unless prior approval for additional time for good cause is obtained from the Supervisor.  
Appointment of Supervisor Pro Tem and/ or Temporary Clerk if necessary.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Board by contacting:  
Township Manager Frank L. Walsh, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4258 - Ten Day Notice is Required.  
Meeting Location: 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 Township Hall



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
Administrative Conference Room  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6 2019 7:00 PM

PRESENT: Chair, Bill McConnell; Vice Chair, Ned Jackson; Commissioner, Aparna Krishnamurthi; Commissioner, Jim Kielbaso; Commissioner, Linda Burghardt; Commissioner, John Sarver; Commissioner Kirk Lapham  
ABSENT: Commissioner, Commissioner Susan  
STAFF: LeRoy Harvey, Environmental Program Coordinator; Peter Menser, Principal Planner; Mackenzie Dean, Assistant Planner; HOMTV Interns and Staff.  
CITIZENS: Susan Andrews, Bryana Guevers, Gary Laundrude, Martha Stanbury

GREEN THEMES PRESENTATION: Mike Pennington, Wetland Mitigation Specialist, described MDEQ's wetland banking process and information about a grant and loan program that provides municipal funding for bank establishment. Mr. Pennington is actively involved with wetland banks and provided some helpful information about how Meridian might develop a wetland bank. View his presentation here: <http://meridianmi.swagit.com/play/03062019-894>. His slides are also available.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Minutes approved with edits.

PUBLIC REMARKS: Susan Andrews provided an overview of her PFAS research which included participation in two webinars. She also notified us about two upcoming webinars that relate to our interests: [https://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3308\\_3333---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3308_3333---,00.html)

#### NEW BUSINESS

- a. We briefly discussed a joint meeting with the Land Preservation Advisory Board to continue discussing pros, cons, and next steps related to a wetland bank. Our April meeting is a work session on the Wetland Ordinance. *(Because we have two members on the both groups, it might make sense for interested EC members to join Land Pres. At 6:30 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday)*
- b. New Commissioner Linda Burghardt was welcomed.
- c. The La Fontaine Automotive Group Wetland Permit, consultant recommendations, and Planning Staff Review was shared by Peter Menser. Questions were answered by the La Fontaine owner and consultant. The motion, prepared by staff was offered by Mr. Kielbaso:

MOTION to recommend approval of Wetland Use Permit #19-01 to fill a 0.007 acre regulated wetland at 1448 Grand River Avenue subject to the conditions proposed by the Township's wetland consultant in the report dated February 11, 2019.

Chair McConnell offered an Additional condition:

10. Include a description and discussion of site alternatives and why they were rejected.

Motion and additional condition: PASSED

#### OLD BUSINESS

Wetland Ordinance will be discussed at the E.C. Work Session in April.

Environmental Stewardship Awards: An overview of former Award Winners was reviewed. Applicants are encouraged

#### STAFF REPORT

Mr. Harvey shared information about a regional rain barrel and compost bin sale as well as information about upcoming recycling events. See [midmichigancompostersale.ecwid.com](http://midmichigancompostersale.ecwid.com)

#### COMMISSION/LIASON/WORKGROUP REPORTS

- A. Planning: Mr. Premoe is on his way back from Panama. Chair McConnell mentions the helpfulness of the Township's new e-notification system. <http://www.meridian.mi.us/be-in-the-know/here-s-what-s-happening/sign-up-enotifications> Because of this, he is aware of a joint Township Board/Planning Meeting on Monday.
- B. Energy: presentation on the Carbon Fee and Dividend will be held on April 9 at 7pm in the Okemos Library. The Energy Team continues to work on the 100% renewable plan. There is a meeting being planned with the East Lansing Meridian Water and Sewer Authority to discuss a community solar project.
- C. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority: Mr. Jackson is looking for a volunteer to fill in for him at 8am next Thursday (3/14). The meeting will include a discussion of the development of downtown Okemos.
- D. Green Team: Ms. Krishnamurthi share information about her outreach and education efforts in local schools. She also mentioned a willingness to help recruit folks for both Recycle Rama, Meridian Recycling Event and other activities. Friends of the Parks was recommended as a source for possibilities.
- E. Transportation: Chair McConnell mentions the Redi-Ride proposal is under consideration.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:46pm

## Note from Kirk about Essentiality

In looking at this statute again, I think the township is required to do the essentiality determination and cannot establish a presumption:

Upon application for a wetland use permit in a wetland that is less than 2 acres in size, the local unit of government shall approve the permit unless the **local unit of government determines that the wetland is essential** to the preservation of the natural resources of the local unit of government **and provides these findings, in writing, to the permit applicant stating the reasons for this determination.** In making this determination, the local unit of government must find that 1 or more of the following exist at the particular site:...

So I think that issue is probably off the table as a possibly.

## Note from Brixie's Office/Bill's Research

We apologize for the delay on this research. Attached, please find a memo outlining Public Act 631 of 2018 (SB 1211), which amended the state wetland definition and added conditions to an existing exempted activity, as it relates to Meridian Township's ordinance.

The DEQ does not believe the changes made by Public Act 631 of 2018 are substantive enough to require updates of Meridian Township's ordinance. Further, the DEQ does not think the changes to the general wetland definition affects what would be considered a wetland in Michigan. The only change to what is considered a regulated wetland that might be relevant to local ordinances is the addition of the language regarding waters of the United States.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions.

## Note from Mike Pennington

Thanks for having me. Let me know if you have any follow-up questions. One thing I didn't mention is that while a bank site needs to be 10 acres total that acreage could come from a couple of different sites in the same watershed. If you had a couple of smaller parcels that could be restored and the total is over 10 acres that would qualify also. Also, depending on the size of impacts that the township permits wetland banking may not be the best option. You could potentially use restoration sites, preservation sites, or wetland enhancement projects to meet your mitigation in cases where impacts are less than 1/3 acre and mitigation is not required by DEQ.

Michael Pennington  
Wetland Mitigation Specialist  
Wetlands, Lakes and Streams Unit  
Water Resources Division, DEQ  
517-282-5768

## **MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** February 21, 2019  
**To:** The Honorable Julie Brixie, State Representative  
**Attn:** Nick Voelkner  
**From:** Michael Campana, Division Director  
**Re:** **Local Wetland Ordinances (Request #19-00353)**

In response to your request, the Research Services Division is providing information regarding local wetland regulations. Specifically, you wanted to know if recently enacted changes may impact Meridian Township's local ordinance. Based on a review of the recent changes, Meridian Township ordinance, materials from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and a discussion with Amy Berry with the DEQ, I am providing a brief summary of the requirements related to local wetland ordinances and recently enacted changes. I am not an attorney, and this memo should not be construed as a legal opinion.

In short, local governments may regulate wetlands within their jurisdiction as long as they meet the conditions outlined in state statute. Among other conditions that must be met, the ordinance's wetland definition must be consistent with state statute, and the ordinance cannot require a permit for an activity exempted under state statute. Public Act 631 of 2018 (SB 1211) amended the state wetland definition and added conditions to an existing exempted activity. Ms. Berry did not believe these changes would likely require any action by local units of government.

### **Local Wetland Ordinances**

Local governments may regulate activities in wetlands but must be consistent with state requirements. Part 303, Wetland Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (1994 PA 451) states:

A local unit of government may regulate wetland within its boundaries, by ordinance, only as provided under this part. This subsection is supplemental to the existing authority of a local unit of government.

(MCL 324.30307)

Among other requirements, the ordinance must:

- Use the same definition as provided in Part 303, although it may regulate wetlands less than 5 acres in size.
- Limit regulation of wetlands less than 2 acres in size to wetlands "essential to the preservation of the natural resources of the local unit of government" as determined using a specific set of criteria.
- Not require a permit for an activity that would be exempted under state statute.

A local wetland ordinance may not become effective until a local wetland inventory has been completed, showing where wetlands are generally located within the community. The DEQ must be notified when an ordinance is adopted. In regulating wetlands, local governments must use the federal technical standards for

identifying a wetland and its exact boundaries, referred to as a delineation (MCL 324.30101). I have attached a copy of Part 303 as it reads at this time. More information on local wetland regulations can be found at the following website:

[https://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3313\\_3687-24312--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3313_3687-24312--,00.html)

**Recent Changes**

The Legislature has amended Part 303 in areas related to the wetland definition and exempted activities (2018 PA 631). The old wetland definition provided a general definition of what constitutes a wetland and then limited which areas would be regulated by size, vicinity to a lake or river, and importance. Public Act 631 added a condition to the general definition that an area would need to have hydric soils under normal circumstances to be considered a wetland. Hydric soils have specific characteristics and form in areas where water is present near the surface on a regular basis. (Hydric soils are already part of the federal technical standards used by the state and local governments to delineate wetlands.) In addition, the Legislature specified what would make a smaller wetland essential and added that, regardless of the limiting conditions, any wetland considered to be a "water of the United States" would be a regulated wetland. Only wetlands that are waters of the United States are regulated under federal law.

The Legislature also amended the language related to an exemption for construction and maintenance of roads related to farming, mining, or forestry. The exemption requires the minimization of impacts on a wetland. The basic exemption was not changed, but the Legislature specified what the DEQ must consider in determining if enough was done to minimize impacts. In addition, the Legislature specified where material should be taken to meet the exemption requirements.

These changes and others made by Public Act 631 of 2018 go into effect on March 29, 2019. I have attached a copy of SB 1211, as concurred by both the House and Senate, that shows where the changes were made to Part 303.

**Impact on Local Ordinances**

As mentioned earlier, I have contacted DEQ regarding this matter, and the DEQ indicated that it did not believe the changes made by Public Act 631 of 2018 are substantive enough to require updates of the local ordinance. The DEQ does not think the changes to the general wetland definition affects what would be considered a wetland in Michigan, and the only change to what is considered a regulated wetland that might be relevant to local ordinances is the addition of the language regarding waters of the United States. Local governments may wish to consult with an attorney or the DEQ directly to determine if, and to what extent, they may need to change their local wetland ordinances based on Public Act 631 of 2018.

The following compares how the statute will read in the amended sections related to local ordinances and how similar language reads in Meridian Township ordinance.

*Wetland Definition*

<b>Part 303, effective March 29, 2019 (MCL 324.30301)</b>	<b>Charter Township of Meridian (§22-116)</b>
Land or water feature, commonly referred to as a bog, swamp, or marsh, inundated or saturated by water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances does support, hydric soils and a predominance of wetland vegetation or aquatic life.	Land characterized by the presence of water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances does support, wetland vegetation or aquatic life and commonly referred to as a bog, swamp, or marsh.

*Regulated Wetlands*

<b>Part 303, effective March 29, 2019 (MCL 324.30301)</b>	<b>Charter Township of Meridian (§22-116)</b>
<p>A land or water feature is not a wetland unless it meets any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Is a water of the United States as that term is used in section 502(7) of the federal water pollution control act, 33 USC 1362.</li> <li>(ii) Is contiguous to the Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair, an inland lake or pond, or a stream. As used in this subparagraph, “pond” does not include a farm or stock pond constructed consistent with the exemption under section 30305(2)(g).</li> <li>(iii) Is more than 5 acres in size.</li> <li>(iv) Has the documented presence of an endangered or threatened species under part 365 or the endangered species act of 1973, Public Law 93-205.</li> <li>(v) Is a rare and imperiled wetland.</li> </ul>	<p>Wetlands, regardless of size, which are contiguous to any inland lake stream, river, or pond, whether partially or entirely within the project site.</p> <p>Wetlands, regardless of size, which are partially or entirely within 500 feet of the ordinary high water mark of any inland lake, stream, river or pond, unless it is determined by the state department of environmental quality that there is no surface or groundwater connection between the wetland and the water body.</p> <p>Wetlands which are larger than two acres, whether partially or entirely contained within a lot, and which are not contiguous to any inland lake, stream, river or pond.</p> <p>Wetlands, regardless of size, which are not contiguous to any inland lake, stream, river or pond, if the state department of environmental quality determines the protection of the wetland is essential to the preservation of the natural resources of the state from pollution, impairment or destruction.</p> <p>Wetlands, equal to or greater than one-quarter acre and equal to or less than two acres in size, which are not contiguous to any inland lake, stream, river or pond and are determined to be essential to the preservation of the natural resources of the Township as provided in § 22-156.</p>

*Farm, Mining, and Logging Road Exemption*

<b>Part 303, effective March 29, 2019 (MCL 324.30305)</b>	<b>Charter Township of Meridian (§22-152)</b>
<p>Construction or maintenance of farm roads, forest roads, or temporary roads for moving mining or forestry equipment, if the roads are constructed and maintained in a manner to ensure that any adverse effect on the wetland will be minimized. Borrow material for road construction or maintenance shall be taken from upland sources if feasible. In determining whether an alternative will minimize any adverse effect on the wetland, the department shall consider cost, existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project purposes.</p>	<p>Construction or maintenance of farm roads, forest roads, or temporary roads for moving mining or forestry equipment, if the roads are constructed and maintained in a manner to ensure that adverse effect on the wetland will be otherwise minimized.</p>

\* \* \* \* \*

If you would like clarification or have any further questions regarding wetlands, other water resource issues, or another issue, please contact the Research Services Division at 3-5200.

Attachments

The following Code does not display images or complicated formatting. Codes should be viewed online. This tool is only meant for editing.

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## ARTICLEARTICLE IV Wetland Protection

### DIVISION 1 Generally

§ 22-116 **Definitions.**  
[Code 1974, § 105-3; Ord. No. 2002-02, 3-19-2002; Ord. No. 2003-11, 7-6-2003; Ord. No. 2011-04, 3-15-2011]

Commented [1]: State law references: Wetland protection, MCL 324.30301 et seq.; local wetland protection ordinances, MCL 324.30307(4), 324.30308.

Commented [LH2R1]: OK

Commented [PM3R1]: There is a state law reference on the website so an additional reference is unnecessary

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

#### AQUATIC LIFE

Vertebrates or invertebrates that are dependent on wetlands for some vital portion of their life cycle, including any of the following: breeding, spawning, nesting, rearing of young, feeding, and resting or protection.

#### CONTIGUOUS

Any of the following:

- (1) A permanent surface water connection or other direct contact with an inland lake, pond, river or stream.
- (2) A seasonal or intermittent direct surface water connection to an inland lake, pond, river or stream.
- (3) A wetland which is partially or entirely located within 500 feet of the ordinary high water mark of an inland lake, pond, river or stream, unless it is demonstrated by the property owner by clear and convincing evidence that there is no relation whatever between the wetland and the inland lake, pond, river or stream taking into the purposes of this article, as set forth in § 22-118.
- (4) Two or more areas of wetland separated only by barriers, such as dikes, roads, berms or other similar features, but only with any of the wetland areas contiguous under the criteria described in subsection (1), (2) or (3) of this definition.

#### DEPOSIT

To fill, place or dump.

#### DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Director of Community Planning and Development for the Township or his designee.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

The body created pursuant to Chapter 2, Article VI, Division 3, and designated by the Township Board to advise the Township on wetland issues.

#### FILL MATERIAL

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Soil, rocks, sand, or waste of any kind, or any other material which displaces soil or water, or reduces water retention potential.

**INLAND LAKE, STREAM, RIVER OR POND**

Any of the following:

- (1) A river or stream that has definite banks, a bed, and visible evidence of a continued flow or continued occurrence of water.
- (2) A natural or permanent artificial inland lake or impoundment that has definite banks, a bed, a visible evidence of a continued occurrence of water, and a surface area of water that is more than five acres, not including lakes constructed by excavating or diking dry land and maintained for the sole purpose of cooling or storing water and not including lagoons for treating polluted water.
- (3) A natural or permanent artificial pond that has permanent open water with a surface area that is more than one acre but less than five acres, not including ponds constructed by excavating or diking dry land and maintained for the sole purpose of cooling or storing water and not including lagoons used for treating polluted water.

**INTERESTED PERSON**

Either:

- (1) A resident of the Township who will suffer an identifiable injury, loss, or potential loss as a result of a wetland use permit decision; or
- (2) An owner of property within 500 feet of the wetland that is the subject of a wetland use permit decision.

**LOT**

Land occupied or to be occupied by a building, structure, land use, or group of buildings, together with such open space or yards as are required under the code of ordinances and having its principal frontage upon a street.

**MINOR DRAINAGE**

Includes ditching and tiling for the removal of excess soil moisture incidental to the planting, cultivating, protecting, or harvesting of crops or improving the productivity of land in established use for agriculture, horticulture, silviculture, or lumbering.

**Commented [AE4]:** Minor drainage does not include drainage associated with the immediate or gradual conversion of a wetland to a nonwetland, or conversion from one wetland use to another. Minor drainage does not include the construction of a canal, ditch, dike, or other waterway or structure that drains or otherwise significantly modifies a stream, lake, or wetland.

**Commented [LH5R4]:** E.C. unsure about this one. Seeks input from Planning

**Commented [PM6R5]:** Meets with consultant recommendation

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**MITIGATION OF WETLANDS**

- (1) Methods for eliminating or reducing potential impact to regulated wetlands; or
- (2) Creation of new wetlands of the same or similar function to offset unavoidable loss of existing wetlands to meet the Township goal of no net loss of wetlands.

**PERSON**

An individual, sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, association, municipality, of the state; an instrumentality or agency of this state; the federal government, or an instrumentality or agency of the federal government, or other legal entity.

**PROTECTED WETLANDS**

Any of the following:

- (1) Wetlands, regardless of size, which are contiguous to any inland lake stream, river, or pond, whether partially or entirely within the project site.
- (2) Wetlands, regardless of size, which are partially or entirely within 500 feet of the ordinary high water mark of any inland lake, stream, river or pond, unless it is determined by the state department of environmental quality that there is no surface or groundwater connection between the wetland and the water body.
- (3) Wetlands which are larger than two acres, whether partially or entirely contained within a lot, and which are not contiguous to any inland lake, stream, river or pond.
- (4) Wetlands, regardless of size, which are not contiguous to any inland lake, stream, river or pond, if the state department of environmental quality determines the protection of the wetland is essential to the preservation of the natural resources of the state from pollution, impairment or destruction.
- (5) Wetlands, equal to or greater than one-quarter acre and equal to or less than two acres in size, which are not contiguous to any inland lake, stream, river or pond and are determined to be essential to the preservation of the natural resources of the Township as provided in § 22-156.

**REMOVE**

To dig, dredge, suck, pump, bulldoze, drag line, or blast.

**RESTORATION**

To return from a disturbed or totally altered condition to a previously existing natural or altered condition by some action of man.

**STRUCTURE**

Any assembly of materials above or below the surface of the land or water, including, but not limited to, buildings, bulkheads, piers, docks, landings, dams, waterway obstructions, paving and roadways, poles, towers, cables, pipelines, drainage tiles, and other underground installations.

**TOWNSHIP BOARD**

The legislative body of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan.

**TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT**

A person professionally knowledgeable in wetland delineation and resource value assessment, wetland protection, wetland restoration and wetland mitigation, appointed pursuant to § 3.4 of the Township personnel policy to carry out certain duties hereunder. Any firm or individual appointed on a contract basis shall be selected competitively under the Township purchasing policy.

**TOWNSHIP WETLAND INVENTORY MAP**

The Meridian Township Wetland Inventory Map created to comply with § 30308 (1), of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (MCL § 324.30308). The Township wetland inventory map is based on the National Wetland Inventory Map of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Michigan Resource Information System Mapping (MIRIS) of the state department of natural resources, the soils maps of the soil conservation service, aerial photography and on-site inspections.

**WETLAND**

Land characterized by the presence of water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances does support, wetland vegetation or aquatic life and commonly referred to as a bog, swamp, or marsh.

#### **WETLAND VEGETATION**

Plants that exhibit adaptations to allow germination and growth with at least their root systems in the water or saturated soils under normal conditions.

**Cross reference:** Definitions generally, § 1-2.

#### **§ 22-117 Findings.**

**[Code 1974, § 105-1; Ord. No. 2002-02, 3-19-2002]**

- (a) The Township Board finds that wetlands are indispensable and fragile natural resources that provide many public benefits, including maintenance of water quality through nutrient cycling and sediment trapping as well as flood and stormwater runoff control through temporary water storage, slow release, and groundwater recharge. In addition, wetlands provide open space; passive outdoor recreation opportunities; fish and wildlife habitat for many forms of wildlife, including migratory waterfowl, and rare, threatened or endangered wildlife and plant species; and pollution treatment by serving as biological and chemical oxidation basins.
- (b) Preservation of the remaining Township wetlands in a natural condition shall be and is necessary to maintain hydrological, economic, recreational, and aesthetic natural resource values for existing and future residents of the Township, and, therefore, the Township Board declares a policy of no net loss of wetlands. Furthermore, the Township Board declares a long-term goal of net gain of wetlands to be accomplished through review of degraded or destroyed wetlands in the Township and, through cooperative work with landowners, using incentives and voluntary agreements to restore wetlands.
- (c) Pursuant to Article 4, § 52 of the Constitution of the State of Michigan, the conservation and development of natural resources of the state is a matter of paramount public concern in the interest of the health, safety, and general welfare of the people. Therefore, with authority from § 30307(4) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (MCL § 324.30307 et seq.), the Township Board finds that this article is essential to the long-term health, safety, economic, and general welfare of the people of the Township and to the furtherance of the policies set forth in Part 17 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (MCL § 324.101 et seq.).

#### **§ 22-118 Purpose.**

**[Code 1974, § 105-2; Ord. No. 2002-07, 3-19-2002; Ord. No. 2011-04, 3-15-2011]**

The purposes of this article are to provide for:

- (1) The protection, preservation, replacement, proper maintenance, restoration, and use in accordance with the character, adaptability, and stability of the Township's wetlands in order to prevent their pollution or contamination; minimize their disturbance and disturbance to the natural habitat therein; and prevent damage from erosion, siltation, and flooding.
- (2) The encouragement of proper and reasonable economic use of wetlands, the discouragement and limitation of improper use, the reduction of financial burdens improper uses impose on the community, the maintenance of harmonious and compatible land use balance within the Township, and the prevention of nuisance conditions that arise with the indiscriminate development of wetlands.
- (3) The coordination with, and support for, the enforcement of applicable federal, state, and county

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statutes, ordinances, and regulations, including, but not limited to:

- a. Part 303, Wetland Protection of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (MCL § 324.30301 et seq.), enforced by the State Department of Environmental Quality; and
  - b. Part 91 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (MCL § 324.9101 et seq.), enforced by the Township.
- (4) Compliance with Part 17 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (MCL § 324.1701 et seq.), which imposes a duty on government agencies and private individuals and organizations to prevent or minimize the pollution, impairment or destruction of the natural resources that is likely to be caused by their activities.
  - (5) The establishment of standards and procedures for the review and regulation of the use of wetlands.
  - (6) The issuance of wetland use permits for approved activities.
  - (7) A procedure for amending wetland use permits.
  - (8) A procedure for appealing decisions.
  - (9) The establishment of enforcement procedures and penalties for the violation of this article.
  - (10) Assurance that the right to reasonable use of private property is maintained.

**§ 22-119 Penalties and enforcement.**

**[Code 1974, § 105-19; Ord. No. 2002-07, 8-20-2002; Ord. No. 2011-04, 3-15-2011]**

- (a) In the event of a violation of this article, the Township may commence a civil action for appropriate relief, including injunctive relief. An action under this article may be brought in the circuit court for the county. The court has jurisdiction to restrain the violation and to require compliance with this article. In addition to any other relief granted under this article, the court may impose a civil fine of not more than \$10,000 per day of violation. A person who violates an order of the court is subject to a civil fine not to exceed \$10,000 for each day of violation.
- (b) A person who violates this article is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than \$2,500.
- (c) A person who willfully or recklessly violates a condition or limitation in a permit issued by the Township under this article, or a corporate officer who has knowledge of or is responsible for a violation, is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than \$2,500 nor more than \$25,000 per day of violation, or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both. A person who violates this article a second or subsequent time is guilty of a felony, punishable by a fine of not more than \$50,000 for each day of violation, or by imprisonment for not more than two years, or both.
- (d) In addition to the penalties provided under subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section, the court may order a person who violates this article to restore as nearly as possible the wetland that was affected by the violation to its original condition immediately before the violation. The restoration may include the removal of fill material deposited in the wetland or the replacement of soil, sand, or minerals.
- (e) Whenever any work is performed contrary to the provision of this article or of a condition set forth in a wetland use permit, the Township Manager or his agent shall order the work to cease by notice

in writing served on any persons engaged in the doing or causing such work to be performed, and any such persons shall, upon receipt of the order, forthwith stop such work until authorized by the Township Manager or his agent to proceed. In addition, if a person acts in violation of this article the Township may refuse a certificate of occupancy or other construction permits related to the project whenever there is failure to comply with the provisions of this article.

- (f) The Director of Community Planning and Development or his agent shall have authority under this article to enter upon privately owned land for the purpose of performing the Township's duties under this article and may take or cause to be made such examinations, surveys or samplings as are deemed necessary.
- (g) Law enforcement officials or other officials having the police power shall have authority to assist the Department of Community Planning and Development in the enforcement of this article.
- (h) In the event of a violation of this article, the Township Board shall have the power to order wetland restoration for the damaged or destroyed wetland area by the owner of the property affected or the person or agent responsible for the violation. If the owner or person responsible does not complete the restoration measures within the ordered period of time, the Township Board may order the affected wetland restored to its prior condition and/or create or restore other wetlands for the purpose of offsetting losses sustained as a result of this violation. The owner or other person responsible for the original violation shall be responsible to the Township for the full cost of all such remedial activity.

**§ 22-120 Existing nonconforming lots, uses and structures.**  
**[Code 1974, § 105-9; Ord. No. 2002-07, 8-20-2002; Ord. No. 2011-04, 3-15-2011]**

Building sites or lots, uses and structures lawfully existing on September 2, 1991, shall be subject to the requirements of this article, except as follows:

- (1) Any activity, structure, or use lawfully existing prior to September 2, 1991, but not in conformity with the provisions of this article, may be continued, maintained and operated. No nonconforming activity, structure or use shall be enlarged or increased or extended to occupy a greater area of land than was occupied at the effective date of Ordinance No. 2011-04, from which this article is derived without first obtaining a wetland use permit.
- (2) Any structure lawfully existing prior to September 2, 1991, if destroyed by any means to an extent of more than 50% of its replacement costs, exclusive of the foundation, may be reconstructed only in conformity with the provisions of this article. The estimated cost of reconstruction shall be determined by the Township Chief Building Inspector. Persons aggrieved by the determination of estimated replacement cost by the Chief Building Inspector may appeal such determination to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**§ 22-121 Township wetland inventory map.**  
**[Code 1974, § 105-5, Ord. No. 2002-07, 8-20-2002; Ord. No. 2011-04, 3-15-2011]**

The Township wetland inventory map is a guide to the location of wetlands in the Township. The map shall be used in the administration of this article and Chapter 86, Article V.

- (1) The Township wetland inventory map, together with all explanatory matter thereon and attached thereto, as may be amended through the wetland verification and delineation process, is hereby adopted by reference and declared to be part of this article. The Township wetland inventory map shall be on file in the Department of Community Planning and Development.
- (2) The Township wetland inventory map shall serve as a general guide for the location of protected

wetlands.

- (3) The Township wetland inventory map does not create any legally enforceable presumptions regarding whether property that is or is not included on the inventory map is or is not in fact a wetland.
- (4) Map amendment process:
  - a. Any change to the Township wetland inventory map, approved by the Director of Community Planning and Development through verification or delineation, shall be added to the Township wetland inventory map on an annual basis.
  - b. The Township shall ensure that each recorded owner of property on the property tax roll shall be notified of any amendment to the Township wetland inventory map on an annual basis. The notice shall include the following information:
    1. The maps have been amended.
    2. The location to review the maps shall be indicated.
    3. The owner's property may be designated as a wetland on the inventory map.
    4. The Township has an ordinance regulating wetlands.
    5. The inventory map does not necessarily include all of the wetlands within the Township that may be subject to this article.

**§ 22-122 Wetland delineation and verification.**  
**[Code 1974, § 105-6; Ord. No. 2002-07, 8-20-2002; Ord. No. 2011-04, 3-15-2011]**

The Township wetland inventory map shall be validated through the wetland delineation process or the wetland verification process. The wetland delineation process shall be used to establish the actual boundaries of wetlands by the Township environmental consultant. The wetland verification process shall be used to verify the boundaries of wetlands through the review by the Township environmental consultant of a wetland delineation prepared by a qualified professional or wetland consultant.

Prior to issuance of a building permit or land development approval, the Director of Community Planning and Development shall determine the necessity for establishing the boundary of wetlands based on the proximity and relationship of the project to wetlands shown on the Township wetland map.

- (1) Wetland delineation process.
  - a. A property owner or an applicant with the property owner's written permission shall submit a wetland delineation application and fee authorized by the Township Board to the Department of Community Planning and Development with the following material:
    1. A survey, site plan, or plot plan drawn to an appropriate scale. The survey, site plan, or plot plan shall include the following:
      - i. Property lines and dimensions.
      - ii. North arrow and scale.
      - iii. Existing topography contours depicted at two-foot intervals.

- iv. Adjacent and on-site roads; railroads; and streams, lakes, and ponds.
  - v. Footprints of existing buildings, parking lots, accessory structures, and other structures.
  - vi. Any notable man-made or natural features along the suspected wetlands.
- b. The property boundaries shall be clearly flagged or staked prior to the field investigation.
- c. Upon receiving a complete application, the Department of Community Planning and Development shall transmit the request to the Township environmental consultant for a field investigation. In the event that weather conditions prohibit the Township environmental consultant from conducting a thorough field investigation including the evaluation of vegetation, soil, and hydrology, the application and fee will be held until such time that the review can be conducted.
  - d. Identification, flagging, or staking of the wetland boundaries in the field shall be completed by the Township environmental consultant during a field investigation. An arc-map compatible digital copy of the delineated wetland boundary shall be provided to the Director of Community Planning and Development.
  - e. Wetland delineations completed by the Township environmental consultant shall be valid for a period of three years from the date of the delineation report.
  - f. In delineating wetland boundaries, all delineations shall apply the technical wetland delineation standards set forth in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, January 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual, technical report y-87-1, and appropriate regional U.S. Army Corps of Engineers supplements.
  - g. Wetlands under the jurisdiction of the department of environmental quality may need to have the delineation reviewed and approved by representatives of the state.
- (2) Wetland verification process.
    - a. A property owner or an applicant with the property owner's written permission shall submit a wetland verification application and fee authorized by the Township Board to the Department of Community Planning and Development with the following material:
      - 1. A survey, site plan, or plot plan that includes the following information:
        - i. Property lines and dimensions.
        - ii. North arrow and scale.
        - iii. Existing topography contours depicted at two-foot intervals.
        - iv. The boundary of all wetlands identified on the site.
        - v. Adjacent and on-site roads; railroads; and streams, lakes, and ponds.
        - vi. Footprints of existing buildings, parking lots, accessory structures, and other structures.
        - vii. Surveyed points of reference.
        - viii. Any notable man-made or natural features along the wetland boundaries.
      - 2. A wetland delineation report that is no more than three years old. The report shall at a minimum

include the following information:

- i. Dominant vegetation in the tree, sapling, shrub, and herb layers.
- ii. Data that confirms the presence of or lack of accepted wetland hydrology indicators.
- iii. Analysis of soil including a description of the soil profile to at least 20 inches.
- iv. Comparison of county soil survey to the wetland shown in a manner that allows comparison to the Township wetland inventory map.
- v. A notation in the report whether potential off-site wetlands (within 40 feet of the property line) can be observed from the subject site.
- b. Upon receiving a complete application, the Department of Community Planning and Development shall transmit the request to the Township environmental consultant for a field investigation. In the event that weather conditions prohibit the Township environmental consultant from conducting a thorough field investigation including the evaluation of vegetation, soil, and hydrology, the application and fee will be held until such time that the review can be conducted.

**Commented [AE7]:** Presence of or lack of accepted wetland hydrology *indicators*.

**Commented [LH8R7]:** OK to change.

**Commented [PM9R8]:** Meets with consultant recommendations

**Commented [EHT10R7]:** See my edit.

**§ 22-123 Duties of the environmental commission.  
[Code 1974, § 105-16; Ord. No. 2002-07, 8-20-2002; Ord. No. 2011-04, 3-15-2011]**

The environmental commission created pursuant to Chapter 2, Article VI, Division 3, shall perform the following duties with regard to this article:

- (1) Advise the Township Board, Planning Commission, and Director of Community Planning and Development, as necessary, on wetland use permits, appeals of wetland use permits, and mitigation plans.
- (2) Serve in an advisory role in setting policy guidelines on wetland issues in the Township.
- (3) Identify conflicts and propose solutions to resolve conflicts regarding wetland protection by present Township ordinances, Township operating procedures, and Township activities.
- (4) Identify and propose solutions to problems associated with wetland management.
- (5) Provide recommendations to the Director of Community Planning and Development on map administration.
- (6) Assist landowners who are interested in the voluntary protection of wetlands.
- (7) Promote wetland education at all levels. Develop education programs for the public and for Township schools. The program should promote the values of wetlands and awareness of the hazards and threats to wetlands. The program should be particularly targeted to landowners with wetlands and emphasize how best to protect wetland values on their property.
- (8) Coordinate a voluntary wetland stewardship program. Develop an adopt-a-wetland program for interested citizens to participate more directly in preservation of specific wetlands.

§ 22-124 through § 22-150. (Reserved)

## DIVISION 2 Permit

§ 22-151 **Activities requiring a wetland use permit.**  
[Code 1974, § 105-8; Ord. No. 2002-07, 8-20-2002; Ord. No. 2011-04, 3-15-2011]

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to conduct any activity listed below within a protected wetland without first obtaining a wetland use permit in accordance with the requirements of this division. Activities governed by this section include, but are not limited to, the following:
- (1) Depositing, permitting the placement of fill material or maintaining fill material in a protected wetland.
  - (2) Grading in a protected wetland.
  - (3) Dredging, removing, or permitting the removal of soil or minerals from a protected wetland.
  - (4) Draining, or causing to be drained, any water into or from a protected wetland.
  - (5) Constructing, operating, or maintaining any use or development in a protected wetland.
  - (6) Diverting, obstructing or impeding the flow of water into a protected wetland.

§ 22-152 **Activities not requiring a permit.**  
[Code 1974, § 105-7; Ord. No. 2002-07, 8-20-2002; Ord. No. 2011-04, 3-15-2011]

- (a) The following uses shall be allowed in a wetland without a permit subject to other laws of this state and the owner's regulation:
- (1) Fishing, trapping or hunting.
  - (2) Swimming or boating.
  - (3) Hiking.
  - (4) Grazing of animals.
  - (5) Farming, horticulture, silviculture, lumbering, and ranching activities, including plowing, irrigation, irrigation ditching, seeding, cultivating, minor drainage, harvesting for the production of food, fiber, and forest products, or upland soil and water conservation practices. A wetland altered under this article shall not be used for a purpose other than a purpose described in this subsection without a permit from the Township.
  - (6) An activity in a wetland that was effectively drained for farming before October 1, 1980, and that on and after October 1, 1980, has continued to be effectively drained as part of an ongoing farming operation.
  - (7) Maintenance or operation of serviceable structures in existence on October 1, 1980, or constructed pursuant to part 303, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (MCL § 324.30301 et seq.).
  - (8) Construction or maintenance of farm or stock ponds.

**Commented [11]:** State law reference: Wetland permits, MCL 324.30306 et seq.

**Commented [LH12R11]:** OK to change

**Commented [PM13R12]:** State law reference is already on website

**Commented [AE14]:** Placement of biological residuals from activities, including the cutting of woody vegetation or the in-place grinding of tree stumps, performed under this section within a wetland, if all the biological residuals originate within that wetland.

**Commented [LH15R14]:** OK to change

**Commented [PM16R15]:** Meets consultant recommendations

**Commented [LH17]:** This is a potential concern if it becomes an issue in the future. E.C. would like to know the number of Poultry applications/notices have been received.

**Commented [MW18R17]:** Seek information from Planning

**Commented [PM19R18]:** No concerns related to 4 chickens, actual poultry farm covered by GAAMP.

**Commented [AE20]:** Established ongoing farming, ranching, horticultural, or silvicultural operation. Farming and silvicultural activities on areas lying fallow as part of a conventional rotational cycle are part of an established ongoing operation, unless modifications to the hydrological regime or mechanized land clearing are necessary to resume operation. Activities that bring into farming, ranching, horticultural, or silvicultural use an area not in any of these uses, or that convert an area from a forested or silvicultural use to a farming, ranching, or horticultural use, are not part of an established ongoing operation.

**Commented [LH21R20]:** OK to change

**Commented [MW22R20]:** Consult State definition

**Commented [PM23R22]:** Meets consultant recommendations

**Commented [LH24R20]:** (a) "Farm" means the land, plants, animals, buildings, structures, including ponds used for agricultural or aquacultural activities, machinery, equipment, and other appurtenances used in the commercial production of farm products. ... (ix) The conversion from a farm operation activity to other farm operation activities. Jan 4, 2019

Michigan Legislature - Section 286.472

- (9) Maintenance, operation, or improvement which includes the straightening, widening or deepening of the following which is necessary for the production or harvesting of agricultural products:
  - a. An existing private agricultural drain.
  - b. That portion of a drain legally established pursuant to the drain code of 1956 (MCL § 282.1 et seq.) which has been constructed or improved for drainage purposes.
  - c. A drain constructed pursuant to other provisions of part 303 of the Natural Resources and Wetland Protection Act (MCL § 324.30301 et seq.).
- (10) Construction or maintenance of farm roads, forest roads, or temporary roads for moving mining or forestry equipment, if the roads are constructed and maintained in a manner to ensure that adverse effect on the wetland will be otherwise minimized.
- (11) Drainage necessary for the production and harvesting of agricultural products if the wetland is owned by a person who is engaged in commercial farming and the land is to be used for the production and harvesting of agricultural products. Except as otherwise provided in part 303 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (MCL § 324.30301 et seq.), a wetland improved under this subsection after October 1, 1980, shall not be used for nonfarming purposes without a permit from the state department of environmental quality. This subsection shall not apply to a wetland which is contiguous to a lake or stream, or to a tributary of a lake or stream, or to a wetland which the state department of environmental quality has determined by clear and convincing evidence to be a wetland which is necessary to be preserved for the public interest, in which case a permit shall be required.
- (12) Maintenance or improvement of public streets, highways or roads, within the right-of-way and in such a manner as to ensure that any adverse effect on the wetland will be otherwise minimized. Maintenance or improvement does not include adding extra lanes; or deviating from the existing location of the street, highway, or road.
- (13) Maintenance, repair, or operation of gas or oil pipelines and construction of gas or oil pipelines having a diameter of six inches or less, if the pipelines are constructed, maintained, or repaired in a manner to ensure that any adverse effect on the wetland will be otherwise minimized.
- (14) Maintenance, repair, or operation of electric transmission and distribution power lines and construction of distribution power lines, if the distribution power lines are constructed, maintained, or repaired in a manner to ensure that any adverse effect on the wetland will be otherwise minimized.
- (15) Operation or maintenance, including reconstruction of recently damaged parts, of serviceable dikes and levees in existence on October 1, 1980, or constructed pursuant to part 303 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (MCL § 324.30301 et seq.).
- (16) Construction of iron and copper mining tailings basins and water storage areas.
- (17) A wetland that is incidentally created as a result of one or more of the following activities:
  - a. Excavation for mineral or sand mining, if the area was not a wetland before excavation. This exemption does not include a wetland on or adjacent to a water body of one acre or more in size.
  - b. Construction and operation of a water treatment pond or lagoon in compliance with the requirements of state or federal water pollution control regulations.

- Commented [AE25]:** Delete Section 22-152(a)(16). It is not relevant to the Township.
- Commented [LH26R25]:** OK to delete (comment – Township is reducing regulation! ☺)
- Commented [MW27R25]:** Seek information from Planning
- Commented [PM28R25]:** Keep for future considerations, it doesn't hurt to remain
- Commented [AE29]:** or storm water facility
- Commented [LH30R29]:** Do NOT change. (do not add storm water facility) This opens it up to uncertainty
- Commented [PM31R30]:** Change per consultant recommendation

- c. A diked area associated with a landfill if the landfill complies with the terms of the landfill construction permit and if the diked area was not a wetland before diking.

(18) Cranberry beds.

- a. The construction of cranberry beds, including associated dikes and water control structures associated with dikes, such as headgates, weirs, and drop inlet structures shall be considered a water-dependent activity.
- b. The following activities associated with cranberry operations are not considered to be water dependent:
  - 1. The construction of roads, ditches, reservoirs, and pump houses that are used during cultivation of cranberries.
  - 2. The construction of secondary support facilities for shipping, storage, packaging, parking, and similar purposes.
- c. The demonstration by an applicant that there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the construction of cranberry beds, including dikes, is not subject to either of the following presumptions:
  - 1. That the feasible and prudent alternatives that do not involve a wetland are available.
  - 2. That a feasible and prudent alternative that does not affect a wetland will have less adverse effects on the aquatic ecosystem.

**§ 22-153 Relationship to state and federal permits.**  
**[Ord. No. 2002-07, 8-20-2002]**

Whenever persons requesting a wetland use permit are also subject to state and/or federal permit requirements, the following shall apply:

- (1) The Township shall have jurisdiction for the regulation of wetlands under this article concurrent with the jurisdiction of the state department of environmental quality.
- (2) Approvals under this division shall not relieve a person of the need to obtain a permit from the state department of environmental quality and/or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, if required.
- (3) Issuance of a permit by the state department of environmental quality and/or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers shall not relieve a person of the need to obtain approval under this division, if applicable.

**§ 22-154 Application requirements for wetland use permits.**  
**[Code 1974, § 105-10; Ord. No. 2002-07, 8-20-2002; Ord. No. 2011-04, 3-15-2011]**

- (a) Application for approval, appeal, and issuance of wetland use permits shall be concurrent with the application for approval, appeal, and issuance of other necessary Township approvals. The applicant for a wetland use permit shall submit the following to the Director of Community Planning and Development.
  - (1) An application completed in full, on a form supplied by the state department of environmental quality and made available by the Township with such other information as required by the Director of Community Planning and Development.

**Commented [AE32]:** (d) Construction of drains in upland for the sole purpose of removing excess soil moisture from upland areas that are primarily in agricultural use. (e) Construction of roadside ditches in upland for the sole purpose of removing excess soil moisture from upland. (f) An agricultural soil and water conservation practice designed, constructed, and maintained for the purpose of enhancing water quality.

Part 303 clarifies the regulatory status of wetlands in the vicinity of sand and gravel mining operations as these operations expand. The Township should decide if it would accept this exemption. It may wish to require a Wetland Use Permit for mining within 300 feet of regulated wetlands, but outside a 40 foot or 20 foot buffer.

**Commented [LH33R32]:** We would like Elise Tripp and Planning to help us understand what this means – ramifications –and whether it makes sense to make this change. The 20 or 40 ft. buffer is confusing.

**Commented [PM34R33]:** Change per consultant recommendation

**Commented [EHT35R32]:** Please disregard my previous input regarding the above, per our phone call discussion.

- (2) Wetland delineation documentation prepared by the Township environmental consultant pursuant to § 22-122(1) or wetland delineation documentation prepared by a qualified wetland professional or wetland consultant in accordance with the requirements listed in § 22-122(2), including verification by the Township environmental consultant.
- (3) Soil erosion and stormwater management plans with runoff calculations. The plans shall be prepared and sealed by a professional engineer licensed by the State of Michigan.
- (4) A mitigation plan, which complies with all federal, state and local laws, if the proposed activity will result in the loss of wetland resources.
- (b) The applicant may elect to have the application processed under the following procedure:
  - (1) The wetland application shall be reviewed immediately, either prior to or concurrent with the review of the proposed land use review, with the understanding that the land use review may not be completed at the time a decision is rendered on the wetland application. Election of this alternative may require a reopening of the wetland application if the land use approval is inconsistent with the wetland approval.

**§ 22-155 Method of review of wetland use permit application.**

**[Code 1974, § 105-11; Ord. No. 2002-07, 8-20-2002; Ord. No. 2003-11, 7-6-2003; Ord. No. 2006-04, 9-25-2006; Ord. No. 2011-04, 3-15-2011]**

- (a) The Director of Community Planning and Development shall ensure that all required information including a wetland delineation and payment of a fee has been submitted. If an application is not complete, it shall not be processed until the applicant provides all of the required information to the Department of Community Planning and Development. The receipt of a complete application shall constitute permission from the owner to conduct an on-site investigation.
- (b) Upon receipt of a complete application, the Director of Community Planning and Development shall:
  - (1) Transmit one copy of the application to the state department of environmental quality.
  - (2) Cause to be published a notice of the application and the date and time for submission of written public comments.
  - (3) Transmit one copy of the application and supporting materials to the Township environmental consultant to confirm the boundaries of the wetland and to review the proposal in light of the purpose and review standards of § 22-157 of this article and other applicable sections of this article.
- (c) The Township environmental consultant shall prepare and transmit a report and recommendation to the Director of Community Planning and Development documenting the review required by subsection (b)(3) of this section.
- (d) The following process shall apply to wetland use permit decisions by the Director of Community Planning and Development:
  - (1) For wetland use permit applications submitted in conjunction with activities that do not require approval by the Planning Commission and/or Township Board, the Director of Community Planning and Development shall approve, approve with conditions or deny the application within 90 days after receipt of a complete application.
  - (2) The Director of Community Planning and Development shall transmit application materials and the

report and recommendation prepared by the Township environmental consultant to the environmental commission. The environmental commission may review the materials and transmit comments for consideration to the Director of Community Planning and Development.

- (3) The applicant shall post a notice of the wetland use permit application on a form provided by the Township, on the subject property within five days of submittal of a complete application.
- (4) Persons wishing to comment on the application must submit their comments in writing to the Director of Community Planning and Development prior to the date and time set in the notice. Persons wishing to receive notice of the Director of Community Planning and Development's decision must submit a written request to the Director of Community Planning and Development.
- (5) The Director of Community Planning and Development's decision shall be made only after reviewing the report and recommendation from the Township environmental consultant, written public comments, and any comments submitted by the environmental commission.
- (6) When a wetland use permit is approved, approved with conditions, or denied by the Director of Community Planning and Development, written notice shall be sent to the applicant and to all persons who have requested notice of the Director of Community Planning and Development's decision. The denial of a permit shall be accompanied by a written reason of denial.
- (7) A permit approved by the Director of Community Planning and Development shall not be issued or effective until 10 calendar days following the date of the approval and compliance with § 22-159(c).
- (e) The following process shall apply to appeals of decisions made by the Director of Community Planning and Development or Planning Commission:
  - (1) Any interested person may appeal a decision by the Director of Community Planning and Development or Planning Commission, as applicable, to approve, approve with conditions, or deny a wetland use permit to the Township Board by filing a written statement containing the specific reasons for the appeal and setting forth the facts establishing status as an interested person. This written statement must be filed with the Township Clerk within 10 calendar days following the date of decision. The timely filing of a statement satisfying the requirements of this provision shall have the effect of staying the permit pending the Township Board's decision on appeal.
  - (2) The Township Board shall determine whether an individual pursuing an appeal is an interested person as defined by this article before addressing the merits of that appeal.
  - (3) The Township Board shall hold a hearing on the appeal, which shall be open to public comment, and shall include opportunity for the appealing party to present their appeal.
  - (4) Notice of the time and place for consideration of an appeal shall be placed in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township not less than five days prior to the date of the hearing. A notice shall also be sent by mail or personal delivery to the owners of the property considered in the appeal and to all owners listed on the most recent tax roll of real property within 500 feet of the boundary of the property in question. Such notice shall be sent not less than five days prior to the hearing.
  - (5) The Township Board shall affirm, affirm with conditions, or reverse the decision of the Planning Commission or Director of Community Planning and Development. The board's decision shall be based on written findings.
  - (f) The following process shall apply to wetland use permit decisions by the Township Board and Planning Commission:

- (1) Wetland use permit applications submitted in conjunction with a related land development activity shall be decided by the same entity that decides the related land development activity consistent with part 303 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (MCL § 324.30301 et seq.). The Director of Community Planning and Development shall transmit application materials and the report and recommendation prepared by the Township environmental consultant to the Township Board, Planning Commission, and the environmental commission. The environmental commission may review the materials and provide comments for consideration by the Township Board or Planning Commission, as applicable.
- (2) After review and study of the application materials, the Township environmental consultant's report and recommendation, and comments from the environmental commission, the Township Board or Planning Commission, as applicable, shall hold one public hearing after publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township not less than 15 days prior to the date of the hearing. Such notice shall indicate the place, time and subject of the hearing and the place and time the proposed wetland use permit may be examined. The wetland use permit hearing may be held in conjunction with a review of the related land use request.
- (3) The notice shall be sent by mail or personal delivery to the owners of property for which approval is being considered and to all owners of property, as listed on the most recent tax roll, within 500 feet of the boundary of the property in question. Notification need not be given to more than one occupant of a structure, except that if a structure contains more than one dwelling unit or spatial area owned or leased by different persons, one occupant of each unit shall receive notice. In the case of a single structure containing more than four dwelling units, notice may be given to the manager or owner of the structure, who shall be requested to post the notice at the primary entrance to the structure. A notice containing the time, date, place and purpose of the hearing shall be posted by the applicant on a form provided by the Township, on the subject property at least 15 days prior to the hearing.
- (4) After completing the review and holding one public hearing, if so required, the Township Board or Planning Commission shall approve, approve with conditions or deny the application within 90 days after receipt of an application, in accordance with this division.
- (5) Written notice shall be sent to the applicant upon approval, approval with conditions or denial of a wetland use permit by the Township Board or Planning Commission. The denial of a permit shall be accompanied by a written reason for denial.
- (6) A permit approved by the Township Board or Planning Commission shall not be issued or effective until 10 calendar days following the date of the approval and compliance with § 22-159(c).

§ 22-156 **Criteria for wetlands under two acres in size.**  
 [Code 1974, § 105-12; Ord. No. 2002-07, 8-20-2002; Ord. No. 2011-04, 3-15-2011]

(a) ~~(a)~~—Where an applicant proposes to perform a regulated activity in a protected wetland less than two acres in size, the Director of Community Planning and Development shall be so advised in writing. The Director of Community Planning and Development shall forward the location and other information concerning the wetland to the Township environmental consultant, who shall issue a preliminary finding as to whether one or more of the following criteria are likely to apply to the wetland: \_

- (1) The wetland supports state or federal endangered or threatened plants, fish, or wildlife appearing on a list specified in part 365 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (MCL § 324.36501 et seq.).
- (2) The wetland represents what is identified as a locally rare or unique ecosystem.

**Commented [AE36]:** Kirk Lapham suggests that determining "essentiality" may constitute an unnecessary procedure that hampers the process of permit review.

**Commented [LH37R36]:** The Environmental Commission feels the vast majority of projects will be deemed essential. LeRoy mentioned a discussion with Mark K. that this it is required of Meridian to do an essentiality determination. Mark does not feel like he is qualified to do this. The E.C. feels that the staff can assume that 1 or more of these criteria would be met. Lapham suggests that we presume the project is essential and leave it up to the applicant to accept or challenge the essentiality determination.

This puts the burden on the applicant. If they challenge essentiality, then we can proceed with delineation.

Planning are asked to come up language.

If staff are interested in further streamlining of permits for "minor projects" with little potential impact, they are invited to craft language for this. The state has administrative rules for this: [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/wrd-minor-project-categories\\_555829\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/wrd-minor-project-categories_555829_7.pdf) which we might mirror on a local level. EC would then review.

**Commented [PM38R37]:** It appears this essentiality process is still in state law therefore we need to keep it

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- (3) The wetland supports plants or animals of an identified local importance.
  - (4) The wetland provides groundwater recharge documented by a public agency.
  - (5) The wetland provides flood and storm control by the hydrologic absorption and storage capacity of the wetland.
  - (6) The wetland provides wildlife habitat by providing breeding, nesting, or feeding grounds or cover for forms of wildlife or waterfowl, including migratory waterfowl and rare, threatened, or endangered wildlife species.
  - (7) The wetland provides protection of subsurface water resources and provision of valuable watersheds and recharging groundwater supplies.
  - (8) The wetland provides pollution treatment by serving as a biological and chemical oxidation basin.
  - (9) The wetland provides erosion control by serving as a sedimentation area and filtering basin, absorbing silt and organic matter.
  - (10) The wetland provides sources of nutrients in water food cycles and nursery grounds and sanctuaries for fish.
- (b) The Township environmental consultant's report shall be forwarded to the Township Board, which shall determine whether a wetland use permit application meeting the requirements of § 22-154 shall be required, based on a finding that the wetland is essential to the preservation of the natural resources of the Township. Such determination shall be based on a finding that one or more of the criteria set forth in subsection (a) of this section are met.
  - (c) If the Township Board determines that the wetland is not essential to the preservation of the natural resources of the Township, the Township Board's decision shall be so noted on the Township wetland inventory map at the time it is amended. The requested activity shall be approved subject to all other applicable laws and regulations.
  - (d) When a wetland under two acres in size has been determined to be essential to the natural resources of the Township and the Township has found that one or more of the criteria set forth in subsection (a) of this section exist at the site, the Township shall notify the applicant in writing, stating the reasons for determining the wetland to be essential to the preservation of the natural resources.
  - (e) After determining that a wetland less than two acres in size is essential to the preservation of the natural resources of the Township, the wetland use permit application shall be reviewed according to the standards in § 22-157.

**§ 22-157 Review standards for wetland use permits.  
[Code 1974, § 105-13; Ord. No. 2002-07, 8-20-2002; Ord. No. 2011-04, 3-15-2011]**

The criteria to evaluate wetland use permits under this division and to determine whether a permit is granted are as follows:

- (1) A permit for any activity listed in § 22-151 shall not be approved unless the proposed activity is in the public interest, the permit is necessary to realize the benefits derived from the activity, and the proposed activity is otherwise lawful in all respects. Public input shall be evaluated in approving, approving with conditions, or denying the application. The reasonable use of the property involved in accordance with applicable local ordinances and state law shall also be considered.

(2) In determining whether the proposed activity is in the public interest, the benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposed activity shall be balanced against the reasonably foreseeable detriments of the activity. The decision shall reflect the national, state, and local concern for the protection of natural resources from pollution, impairment, and destruction. The following general criteria shall be considered:

- a. The ~~anticipated relative extent of the public and private need~~benefit for the proposed activity.
  - b. The availability of feasible and prudent alternative locations and methods to accomplish the expected benefits from the activity.
  - c. The extent and permanence of the beneficial or detrimental effects which the proposed activity may have on the public and private uses to which the area is suited, including the benefits the wetlands provide.
  - d. The probable impact of each proposal in relation to the cumulative effect created by other existing and anticipated activities in the watershed.
  - e. The probable impact on recognized historic, cultural, scenic, ecological, or recreational values and on the public health or safety, or fish or wildlife.
  - f. Economic value, both public and private, of the proposed land change to the general Township area.
  - g. The size and quality of the wetland being considered.
  - h. The findings of necessity for the proposed activity which have been made by other agencies.
  - i. Amount of wetland remaining in the general area and proximity to a waterway.
  - j. Proximity to any water body.
  - k. Extent to which upland soil erosion adjacent to the protected wetland is controlled.
- (3) A wetland use permit shall not be issued unless it is shown that an unacceptable disruption will not result to the aquatic resources. In determining whether a disruption to the aquatic resources is unacceptable, the benefits outlined in § 22-117 and the criteria set forth in subsection (2) of this section shall be considered. A permit shall not be issued unless the applicant also shows either of the following:
- a. The proposed activity is primarily dependent upon being located in the wetland; or
  - b. Documentation and demonstration that ~~a~~A feasible and prudent alternative does not exist.
- (4) Failure to submit a complete application may be reason for denial of a wetland use permit.
- (5) While determining the expected benefits of a proposed wetland use permit and its alternatives, an area not presently owned by the applicant which could reasonably be obtained, utilized, expanded, or managed in order to fulfill the basic purpose of the proposed activity may be considered as a feasible and prudent alternative for permitted activities.
- (6) An alternative that entails higher costs, as described in R281.922a(11) of the Michigan Administrative Code is not feasible and prudent if those higher costs are unreasonable. In determining whether such costs are unreasonable, the Director of Community Planning and Development, Planning Commission, or Township Board whichever is applicable shall consider

**Commented [AE39]:** Bill McConnell states: "We have had cases in which applicants specified the private need in terms of the financial benefits they expect from the project. This bears examination, as no applicant is likely to request a permit in the absence of such a benefit."

**Commented [LH40R39]:** The Committee suggests striking "private" need in "a"

**Commented [PM41R40]:** This looks like it is still in the state law and therefore needs to remain

**Commented [LH42]:** Documentation and demonstration that....

both of the following:

- a. The relation of the increased cost to the overall scope and cost of the project.
  - b. Whether the projected cost is substantially greater than the costs normally associated with the particular type of project.
- (7) Following approval of the application, a wetland use permit shall be issued upon determination that all other requirements of the ordinance and law have been met, including site plan, plat or land use approval, as applicable, and including issuance of a permit by the state department of environmental quality if required under MCL § 324.30301 et seq. In cases where a state department of environmental quality permit allows activities not permitted by the wetland use permit approval granted under this section, the restrictions of the approval granted under this section shall govern.

**§ 22-158 Consideration of wetland mitigation proposals.  
[Code 1974, § 105-14; Ord. No. 2002-07, 8-20-2002; Ord. No. 2011-04, 3-15-2011]**

To ensure no net loss of wetlands in the Township, mitigation shall be required in instances where there are losses of wetland resources. The Township environmental consultant shall review an applicant's mitigation plan and transmit a recommendation to the Director of Community Planning and Development. The Director of Community Planning and Development, Planning Commission, or Township Board, as applicable shall review the applicant's mitigation plan and consider the Township environmental consultant's recommendation as part of the wetland use permit review process. A mitigation plan, if required, shall be approved as part of the wetland use permit decision. Mitigation shall not be considered a substitute for making all prudent attempts to avoid wetland impacts.

- (1) Prior to considering a proposal for wetland mitigation, it must be shown that it is practical to replace the wetland resource values which will be impacted, including flood prevention, wildlife habitat, groundwater resource protection and recharge, pollution treatment, erosion control, nutrient sources, aesthetics, recreation, open space and any other values identified.
- (2) If determined by the Township environmental consultant that the requirements of subsection (1) of this section are met, the following criteria shall be considered when reviewing an applicant's mitigation proposal:
  - a. Mitigation shall be provided on site where practical and beneficial to the wetland resources. If on-site mitigation is not practical and beneficial, then mitigation in the immediate vicinity, within the same watershed of the permitted activity may be considered. Only if all of these options are impractical shall mitigation be considered elsewhere.
  - b. Any proposal shall ensure that there will be no net loss to the wetland resource values.
  - c. The mitigation plan must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws.
  - d. A plan to monitor preserved and replacement wetlands.
- (3) Wetland mitigation and monitoring plans shall become conditions to the wetland use permit and shall be the responsibility of the applicant or its successors.
- (4) Financial assurances that mitigation is accomplished as specified by the permit condition may be required by the Director of Community Planning and Development, Planning Commission, or Township Board, as applicable.
- (5) Any mitigation activity shall be completed before initiation of other permitted activities, unless a

phased concurrent schedule can be agreed upon between the Director of Community Planning and Development, Planning Commission, or Township Board, as applicable, and the applicant.

- (6) Wetland mitigation plans that create less than two acre wetlands shall meet one of the conditions listed in Subsection **22-156(a)**.

**§ 22-159 Wetland use permit conditions of issuance.**

**[Code 1974, § 105-15; Ord. No. 2002-07, 8-20-2002; Ord. No. 2011-04, 3-15-2011]**

- (a) The Director of Community Planning and Development, Planning Commission, or Township Board, as applicable, shall attach any reasonable conditions considered necessary to ensure that the intent of this article will be fulfilled, to minimize or mitigate damage or impairment to, encroachment in, or interference with natural resources and processes within the protected wetland, or to otherwise improve or maintain the water quality.
- (b) The Director of Community Planning and Development, Planning Commission, or Township Board shall fix a reasonable time for the undertaking and completion of all activities and structures, as applicable.
- (c) Following the approval of the wetland use permit application, a permit shall be issued upon determination that all other requirements of the ordinance and law have been met, including site plan, plat or land use approvals, as applicable, and including issuance of required permits by the county or the state department of environmental quality under part 303 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (MCL § 324.30301 et seq.).
- (d) The Director of Community Planning and Development, Planning Commission, or Township Board, as applicable, upon issuance of a wetland use permit, may require the applicant to file with the Township Treasurer cash, certified check, or an irrevocable bank letter of credit in an amount the Director of Community Planning and Development, Planning Commission or Township Board, as applicable, determines is necessary to ensure compliance with the wetland use permit approval conditions and this article.
- (e) At no time shall the Director of Community Planning and Development, Planning Commission, or Township Board, as applicable, issue a wetland use permit that allows a more extensive alteration of the wetland than permitted by state or federal law.
- (f) Wetland use permits for seasonal operations need not be renewed annually unless otherwise stated in the permit.
- (g) Any change that increases the size or scope of the operation and that affects the criteria considered in approving the permit, as determined by the Director of Community Planning and Development, Planning Commission, or Township Board, as applicable, shall require the filing of a new wetland use permit application.
- (h) Any temporary, seasonal, or permanent operation that is discontinued for two years or two seasons shall be presumed to have been abandoned and the wetland use permit automatically voided.
- (i) Any permit granted under this division may be revoked or suspended by the Township Board, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, for any of the following causes:
  - (1) A violation of a condition of the permit.
  - (2) Misrepresentation or failure to fully disclose relevant facts in the application.

- (3) A change in a condition that requires a temporary or permanent change in the activity.
- (j) An applicant who has received a wetland use permit under this division shall comply with the following in connection with any construction or other activity on the property for which the wetland use permit has been issued:
  - (1) Maintain all soil erosion control structures and measures, including, but not limited to, silt fences, straw bale berms, and sediment traps. The permittee shall provide for periodic inspections throughout the duration of the project.
  - (2) Maintain clear delineation of the protected wetlands, so marked by the Township environmental consultant during the on-site inspection, so that such locations are visible to all construction workers.
  - (3) Post on the site, prior to commencement of work on the site and continuing throughout the duration of the project, a copy of the approved wetland use permit containing the conditions of issuance, in a conspicuous manner such that the wording of such permit is available for public inspection.
  - (4) Provide to the Township written notice of commencement prior to work beginning on the site.
  - (k) The wetland use permit shall remain effective for a time period coincidental with any other land use permit reviewed and approved concurrent with the wetland use permit. If applied for prior to the expiration date and concurrent with the expiring land use permit, the applicant may be granted an extension that corresponds to additional time granted for the underlying land use permit. Extensions shall be approved by the same person or body that made the original decision. The maximum number of extensions shall coincide with the maximum number allowed for the underlying land use permit.
  - (l) Where there is no other activity or permit involved, the wetland use permit shall remain effective for two years. One extension may be granted for a period not to exceed 12 months from the expiration date of the wetland use permit if requested in writing prior to the expiration date. An extension shall be reviewed and approved or denied in writing by the same person or body that made the original decision.

**§ 22-160 Amendments.**

**[Code 1974, § 105-17; Ord. No. 2002-07, 8-20-2002; Ord. No. 2011-04, 3-15-2011]**

- (a) Any applicant who has been granted a wetland use permit may apply for an amendment in writing to the Director of Community Planning and Development.
- (b) Amendments to an approved wetland use permit shall be granted by the same entity that decided the original wetland use permit in accordance with the procedures and criteria set forth in this section.
  - (1) Application. An application for an amended wetland use permit shall be submitted to the Director of Community Planning and Development prior to the expiration date of the existing wetland use permit.
  - (2) Public hearing. The application for an amended wetland use permit shall be subject to the same notices and hearings and all other procedures required for the initial application.
  - (3) Decision. Prior to deciding the application, the Township Board, Planning Commission, or Director of Community Planning and Development shall refer the application to the Township environmental consultant for a recommendation and to the environmental commission for comments.
  - (4) Appeals. Appeals of a decision on an amendment by the Director of Community Planning and

Development and the Planning Commission shall follow the criteria established in Subsection **22-155(e)**.

**§ 22-161 Request for revaluation of affected property.**  
**[Code 1974, § 105-18; Ord. No. 2002-07, 8-20-2002; Ord. No. 2011-04, 3-15-2011]**

The owner of any property for which a wetland use permit was applied for under this division and was denied, upon appeal, by the Township Board, may request a revaluation of the affected property by the Township Board of review for assessment purposes to determine its fair market value under the use restriction. A landowner who is aggrieved by a determination, action, or inaction under this article may protest and appeal that determination, action or inaction pursuant to the General Property Tax Act (MCL § 211.1 et seq.).

**§ 22-162 through § 22-170. (Reserved)**

## Staff Update

<b>Recycling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Several hundred residents viewed our recycling booth at the Home &amp; Landscape Expo at MSU Pavilion. 100+ rain barrels and compost bins were sold.</li><li>• Volunteers still needed for April 27 Event: Visit <a href="http://signup.com/go/cfDjQnP">http://signup.com/go/cfDjQnP</a></li><li>• More info on the event at <a href="http://www.meridian.mi.us/visitors/prime-events/meridian-recycling-event">http://www.meridian.mi.us/visitors/prime-events/meridian-recycling-event</a></li><li>• The road to the Recycling Center will soon get graded.</li></ul>
<b>Energy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Carbon Fee &amp; Dividend Talk at Okemos Library on April 9,</li><li>• A meeting was held at ELMWSA to discuss a solar project.</li><li>• Energy Team is discussing a presentation at <a href="#">Fate of the Earth Symposium</a> on Apr 13.</li></ul>
<b>Outreach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion is underway for an info campaign in Water Utility Bills. This month's relates to the recycling event.</li></ul>
<b>Green Gazette</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Current and past issues can be found <a href="#">here</a>. <a href="#">Subscribe here</a>. Please send ideas to <a href="mailto:Harvey@meridian.mi.us">Harvey@meridian.mi.us</a></li></ul>
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>

## Green Theme Presentations

Jan 9	<b>Garry Rowe</b>	"An Update on the Ingham County Groundwater Survey and Important Issues for Well Head Protection Management."
Feb 6	<b>Karim Chatti</b>	Pavement Preservation – economic and environmental considerations
Mar 6	<b>Mike Pennington</b> Wetland Mitigation Specialist Water Resources Division, DEQ	Wetland
Apr 3		Lois could possibly present on this date.
May 1	<b>Tom Frazier</b> MI Township Association	Green Communities Ideas for Meridian
Jun 5	<b>Jeremy Orr</b> Greater Lansing Clean Cities	Green Transportation visions
Jul 10	<b>Lois Wolfson</b> Dept of Fisheries and Wildlife Institute of Water Research	Invasive Species, Harmful Algal Blooms, PFAS, Climate Change impact on water resources, Networked Neighbors On-line
Aug 7	Meeting?	Allen Bryant - Green Businesses Martha Stanbury - Composting John Anderson - Conservation
Sep 4	<b>Aparna Krishnamurthy</b> Okemos Action, Green Team	Student Environmental Initiatives
Oct 2	<b>Wanda Bloomquist</b> Williamstown Supervisor	Green Initiatives in Williamstown Twp. (Green Zone District, Red Cedar Clean-Up, Green Burial)
Nov 6	<b>Susan Masten</b> (any time in fall) MSU College of Engineering	Waste Water Treatment and what <u>not</u> to put down the drain
Dec 4		