



WASHTENAW COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER

Iron Lake Level Public Meeting Minutes

Location: Manchester Township Hall
275 South Macomb
Manchester, MI 48158

Date: April 10, 2018
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Manchester Township Supervisor Gene DeRossett welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Deputy Water Resources Commissioner Scott Miller from the Washtenaw County Office of the Water Resources Commissioners Office (WCWRC).

Miller introduced Sheryl Siddall from the Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC.).

Miller gave the history of Iron Lake, also known as Iron Mill Pond and the intention of the meeting. The intention was to hear from property owners their thoughts of the proposed winter lake level to possibly help reduce seasonal flooding. Miller gave a description of the current structure that exists on the lake. He mentioned that it is a very low maintenance structure and the foreseen costs if the project would move forward, such as an ongoing maintenance charge to remove or add board to raise and lower the lake level.

Miller then opened the meeting up to public comment.

1. George Biandis, 13580 Sharon Hollow Rd—not in favor of the project because he is concerned with how low the water would come down. He is also concerned if there would be any Michigan Department of Environmental Quality or DNR impact. He also thinks that doing a preliminary investigation would be necessary before he would feel comfortable with anything.
2. Thomas Mawby, 13589 Sharon Hollow Rd--has lived there for 50 years and is not in favor of the project because he believed that the changes to the road and ditch conditions by the WCRC is a large contributing factor to the issues.

3. Tim Kohler, 13612 Sharon Hollow Rd--he stated he was not in favor of the project because he believes the road is the issue. He stated that the WCRC refuses to clean out the ditches and the culverts under Wolff Rd do not have enough volume, and will only hold so much water. Once the culvert is full the only place for the water to go is over the road.
4. Terry Senhewtz, -- made a comment to the WCRC that when they clean out the ditches to not dump the debris on the lawns of homeowners and leave it there.
5. Elizabeth Osiondell, 254 Wolff Rd --is not comfortable with the project because she stated that she is concerned about the wildlife and habitats that are currently in and surrounding Iron Lake. She stated that Iron Lake is a big fishing lake and lowering the level would cause issues with that. She believes that there are more issues with the road that need to be address, and in order to be comfortable with the proposed plan she would need to see more surveys and studies be done.
6. Andy Bobo, 13150 Sharon Hollow Rd --not in favor of the project. He states that there is no weed control on the lake. He believes that there needs to be a study done, also that the Wolff Rd needs to be raised back up and the ditches need to be cleaned out.
7. Belinda Fitzpatrick, --not in favor of the project because she believes that when Wolff Rd was redone insufficient material was used. She is overall concerned about the condition of Wolff Rd. She stated that she thinks the road issues should be focused on because the culvert that is currently there is not sufficient.
8. Frank Duncan, --not in favor of the project. He stated that the ditches are constantly full of water and the ditches need to be cleared of vegetation. He also mentioned that since the water is not able to get through the culvert it will always go over the road because that is the only place it can go.
9. Sybol Kolon, 11677 Noggles --not in favor of the project. She stated that she does not live on the lake, but is on the township planning commission, but does not understand why the WCRC thinks lowering the lake level will help the issues. She stated that she would like the see an analysis of the environment. She also stated that she believes that this is a "money saver" for the WCRC. She stated she was concerned with property protection and believed that the WCRC needed to consider other options.

10. Harry Sabourin, 250 Wolff Rd—not in favor of the project. He stated that he has lived on the road since 1984 and there was a mat under the road that the road scrappers have been ripping up. He mentioned that the level of the road is sufficiently lower. He stated that there is water in the ditches all year round and mentioned that he is concerned about a Lantern Cricket Frog that lives in the wetland in that area. He stated that he believes that the frog is endangered and asked if we would consult other agencies if we proceeded with the project.
11. Bill O'Brien, --not in favor of the project. He stated that the road has worked since 1966. He stated that he believed that the environmental impact of lowering the lake level is greater than putting capital into the road.

Questions were asked about the passing of resolutions by the Township and the Road Commission. Miller responded that the Office of the Water Resources Commissioner will wait to see reactions from the Township and the Road Commission.

Miller went on to mention that there would be involvement from the MDEQ in regards to the protection of the frogs and any other regulations they set.

Question was asked who maintains the culverts under the roads. Miller responded that in this specific case it would be the Road Commission.

Questions were then asked to Sheryl Siddall in regards to scrapping of the roads.

There was mention that there are geese and swans laying eggs in the wetland areas and there is concern about their habitats.

Miller closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their involvement. He was going to report back to Water Resources Commissioner Evan Pratt to discuss any further action if any. Miller concluded with that if the project proceeds another round of notices will go out.

Meeting concluded.