

**WETLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL AGENDA
AUGUST 7, 2012**

**Michigan United Conservation Clubs
2101 Wood Street, East Lansing, Michigan**

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

1:00

Minutes from Last Meeting

Status of Wetland Reform Bill

Draft Council Report Discussion

4:00 Adjourn

WETLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
MUCC FACILITY
AUGUST 7, 2012
Meeting Minutes

Council Members Present: Don Uzarski, Dan Coffey, Erin McDonough, Joseph Rivet, Dan Wyant, Sue Elston, Jeff King, Gary Dawson, John Konik, Susan Harley, Stephen Shine, and Andy Such

Council Members Absent: John Niemela, Scott Piggott, and Lee Schwartz

Conference Call Participation: Grenetta Thomassey, Todd Wyett, and Deena Bosworth

Others Present: Kim Fish, Dina Klemans, Amy Lounds, Jason Greer, Mike O'Malley, Dave Forseberg, Maggie Datema (formerly Maggie Cox), and Madhu Anderson

Meeting started at 1:00 p.m.

The minutes from the June 18, 2012, Wetland Advisory Council (Council) meeting were approved.

Status of Wetland Reform Bill

There were several comments received on the draft bill. They are working through all of them, and the bill is moving forward.

Draft Council Report Discussion

Joseph indicated he wanted to stick to the issues that were before the Council, the more focused and shorter, the better. There were a number of changes that were incorporated.

Issues/Changes. A member had a question on Number 3, Page 7. The appropriate means and level of program funding was not very clear under this part and thought that the fee issue should be clearer.

Kim indicated the current fees are an important part of the program. The member said that fees are an important strategy. It was suggested that maybe we want to say something like that over time, the fees will increase with the cost of living or something like that.

A member suggested deleting the word "further" from page three of the recommendations.

A member wanted to know if there was consensus of the fee structure. The intent was to draw out what was in the Public Sector Consultants, Inc. (PSC) report. Right now the current fee structure is substantially below the funding fees of other programs. In the PSC report, some programs were 30 or 80 percent funded. To be consistent with other program funding, the fees would probably have to go up. The member said that we were not clear what that meant; it needs to be clarified.

Third paragraph, third sentence, "were" should be changed to "where" in that sentence.

The Director had to leave. Before he left, he thanked everyone and appreciated all the work and effort the Council put forth to get to where we are today. He wanted to let the Council know that we had some good news from the feds - the United States Environmental Protection Agency awarded the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) \$500,000. He said that we are also going to Washington to testify about 404 funding. The Director also thanked Joseph for his leadership. And he introduced new DEQ staff and thanked everyone again.

Next page – three parameter approach in a contested case. A member thought there should be an additional charge for the additional time.

Two paragraphs later – last sentence. A member thought this should be backed up a little further. Amy indicated that the DEQ does not think it will be lost; that we will end up with the same delineation.

On the next page 8, Item 4. A member asked if they are recommending updates every other year. Why is it not like the federal government of updating every five years? Amy indicated that in the short term we probably will be updating every other year, but it could become an issue after a while. Joseph did not have a problem by changing that language to say something like - Reviewed and updated every five years or when a new issue arises.

A member had some suggested language to add to the mitigation banking section which the Council approved adding most of that language.

Dina indicated that blueberries are not obligate hydrophytes so that sentence needed to be changed.

Before the meeting ended, Kim thanked everyone as well!

Meeting Adjourned: 2:23 p.m.