

ROBINSON TOWNSHIP WATER BOARD
August 23, 2023

The special meeting of the Robinson Township Water Board was called to order at 6:10 PM at the Robinson Township Hall.

Present

Nathan Adamczyk
Bonnie Hayward (Board Representative)
Kurt Koella
Milt Reeths

Absent

Bill Maschewske

Also present was Supervisor Frank Johnson.

There were no members of the public present.

Election of Officers:

A motion was made by Kurt Koella and seconded by Bonnie Hayward to elect Nathan Adamczyk as Chairperson. There were no other nominations. Nathan Adamczyk was unanimously elected Chairperson with one member absent.

A motion was made by Nathan Adamczyk and seconded by Bonnie Hayward to elect Bill Maschewske as Secretary (tentative on future approval from Bill Maschewske. This was deemed appropriate as Bill accepted the nomination as Secretary in the prior election). Bill Maschewske was unanimously elected Secretary with one member absent.

A motion was made by Bonnie Hayward and seconded by Nathan Adamczyk to elect Kurt Koella as Vice Chairperson. There were no other nominations. Kurt Koella was unanimously elected Vice Chairperson with one member absent.

Chairperson Adamczyk stated the Water Board meeting minutes from the last meeting will be addressed later due to the absence of Bill Maschewske.

The agenda was revised to include an update from Bonnie Hayward regarding the Robinson Township Water Usage. With this update, a motion was made by Milt Reeves and seconded by Kurt Koella to approve the agenda. The motion was carried unanimously with one member absent.

Public Comment – None

Business

Nathan Adamczyk provided an update on 2 county water council meetings that occurred since the previous Robinson Township Water Board meeting. Prior to the specifics of the meetings, it was stated that Roger Belknap has been helpful in communicating with the Chairperson regarding concerns in Robinson Township and provided answers to questions.

Nathan also handed out copies of the Ottawa County Groundwater Sustainability Initiative (Fall 2019).

April 27, 2023, Ottawa County Water Board Meeting

- Roger Belknap was named Chairperson of the Ottawa County Water Board. Adam Elenbaas was named Vice Chair.
- The groundwater study will be adding 10 to 20 new sites with each location measuring water level and specific conductivity.
- John Yellich (Michigan Geologic Survey) is working with well drillers to map the clay layers and aquifers in Ottawa County.
- Septic systems were stated to be the number one cause of contamination to the shallow aquifer.
- While Ottawa County can make recommendations, ultimate responsibility for enforcement and regulations falls on EGLE.
- County is proposing a future land use vision that incorporates safe water use but stated that Townships ultimately have control. The County plans to provide information to influence townships on their decisions.

August 10, 2023, Ottawa County Water Board Meeting

- County removing turfgrass and installing drought tolerant plants and rockscapes to save water. The goal is to reduce irrigation, which is the major problem with water in the County.
- 1.4 million dollars approved (from State) through 2025 for drilling of wells, maintenance, monitoring, and outreach.
- Want to move from drilling to public relations and marketing.
- John Esch (MSU) provided potential solutions, including surface water recharge, artificial recharge to deeper aquifers, eliminate or reduce drainage (let soak in). Certain areas of Ottawa County do not have clay and could be used for recharge.

Update of Robinson Township Municipal Water Use (Bonnie Hayward)

The township needs to exceed 47,000 gallons per day to receive surcharge from Grand Haven Township. We only exceed in 3rd quarter, and even then, Grand Haven Township has not enforced the exceedance (See Handout – Attached). On an annual basis, however, Robinson Township usage is well below the maximum. Robinson Township also overpaid Grand Haven Township in 1999, and as a result they have been relatively amenable to the agreement.

Robinson Township maintains a Capital Water Fund. Contributions are made every year, when feasible.

Nathan Adamczyk inquired if there is pressure to expand the municipal water system from any of our 3 available systems? Based on the data, there is no pressure to expand the municipal water service at this time (Bonnie Hayward).

Robinson Township Water Board General Discussion

1. Can Robinson Township stop rapid drainage to ditches and install recharge basins to promote recharge? Following discussion regarding the practical ability to complete infiltration without flooding, it was decided to further consider the question and discuss it later.
2. What can the Robinson Township Water Board do to promote water conservation? In general, promote or require the use of surface water for irrigation in residential development.

As a result of the discussion, a motion was made by Milt Reeves and seconded by Kurt Koella to:

Recommend to the Planning Commission and Township Board that it be considered for a Planned Unit Development (PUD) that surface water from an existing and/or constructed lake or pond (if present) be utilized for irrigation. Furthermore, the PUD must consider and evaluate alternate means of reducing groundwater use and present this information in its application.

The motion carried with all in favor.

Chairperson Adamczyk adjourned the meeting at 8:00 P.M.

Kurt Koella, Vice Chairperson
Robinson Township Water Board