

ROBINSON TOWNSHIP WATER BOARD
November 21, 2023

The regular meeting of the Robinson Township Water Board was called to order at 6:03 PM at the Robinson Township Hall.

Present

Bill Maschewske
Milt Reeths
Kurt Koella
Nate Adamczyk

Absent

Bonnie Hayward

Also present was County Commissioner Roger Belknap.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Bill Maschewske and seconded by Kurt Koella to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2023 Water Board meeting as amended by correcting the spelling of Reeths.

The motion carried unanimously with one member absent.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Kurt Koella and seconded by Bill Maschewske to approve the agenda as amended by correcting Item No. 2 under Business, "Recommendation for Committees", to "Communication of Recommendations for Committees".

The motion carried unanimously with one member absent.

Business

1. Ottawa County Commissioner Roger Belknap

County Commissioner Roger Belknap reported on recent Ottawa County Water Board activities and noted he was voted Chairperson of the Ottawa County Water Board at the first meeting of 2023. The County Water Board consists of 16 members plus Water Resources Commissioner Joe Bush. They have already approved by-laws and the Water Board is currently looking for locations on public land to install monitoring wells in areas of the County where the deep aquifer is the primary source of water. They are working with Michigan State University, the Conservation District, and others to coordinate their activities. Commissioner Belknap noted he was previously a public works director.

- One focus is to slow the rate of discharge from the deep aquifer. It was noted that Fairlife in Coopersville is a large user and the water is discharged to Muskegon. This issue is being discussed with EGLE.

- Commissioner Belknap noted that the Ottawa County staff is critical of the EGLE Water Assessment Tool. There was an extensive discussion on this subject, in particular, the inequity of permitted water withdrawal approvals.
- Commissioner Belknap noted that the County is engaged in an informational campaign to educate residents regarding water usage and conservation.
- Ottawa County has engaged their lobbyist to work with EGLE staff instead of the Legislature as the Commissioners felt this currently offered more opportunities.
- The Ottawa County Water Board currently meets four times per year. However, starting in February, the Board will meet every two months.
- One emphasis of County Commissioners is to promote low water usage vegetation for landscaping. The County Complex is currently undergoing landscaping change.

Milt Reeths inquired if there is a map available of where the monitoring wells would be located. It was noted there currently is none as the locations have not yet been determined. Milt Reeths suggested road right-of-ways. Kurt Koella noted this may not work as there is electronic monitoring equipment associated with each well.

At this time, discussions with Commissioner Belknap were concluded and he left the meeting.

2. Communication of Recommendations to Committees.

The following motion was approved at the August 23, 2023 Water Board meeting: 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.

Bill Maschewske will communicate the above motion to the Planning Commission.

3. Well Driller Survey.

Interest was expressed in identifying non-residential deep well users in Robinson Township. Following lengthy discussion, the consensus of the Water Board was to request permission from the Township Board to submit a Freedom of Information Request to the State for a list of non-residential users in the deep aquifer in Robinson Township, along with approved withdrawal rates. Chairperson Adamczyk will make the request of the Township Board and Kurt Koella will make the Freedom of Information Request if approved by the Township Board.

There was also interest in having a licensed local well driller attend a Water Board meeting to answer questions. All members were requested to bring a list of questions to the next Water Board meeting.

The next Water Board meeting was tentatively scheduled for February 9, 2024.

4. Any and all other business that may come before the board -- None

Adjournment

A motion was made by Kurt Koella and seconded by Nate Adamczyk to adjourn the Water Board meeting at 8:40 PM.

The motion carried unanimously with one member absent.

Bill Maschewske, Secretary
Robinson Township Water Board

Attachment: Agenda for November 21, 2023 Water Board Meeting



ROBINSON TOWNSHIP
12010 – 120TH AVENUE, GRAND HAVEN, MI 49417
616-846-2210

A meeting of the Robinson Township Water Board will be held on **Tuesday November 21, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the Robinson Township Hall.**

AGENDA

- **Call to Order**
- **Approval of Minutes**
- **Approval of Agenda**

- **Business:**
 1. Ottawa County Commissioner Roger Belknap
 2. Recommendations for committees
 3. Well Driller survey
 4. Any and all other business that may come before the Board

- **Adjournment**

The Township will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services at this meeting, such as signers for hearing impaired persons and audiotapes of printed materials for visually impaired person, upon receipt of seven days prior notice. Disabled persons requiring such auxiliary aids or services should so notify the Township by contacting the Township Clerk. This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of the Michigan Open Meeting Act, Act 267, and Public Act of 1976

Christine Saddler
Robinson Township Clerk
November 15, 2023