

**Minutes of Saline Sustainability Circle meeting held Tuesday,
Jan. 16, 2007, Saline City Municipal Bldg., 100 N. Harris St., Saline MI 48176**

I. Call To Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lirones at 7:08 pm.
Present: Christina Lirones, Pat Little, Jane Kartje, Keith Girbach,
Mandy Grewal, Doug Veenstra, Jessica Ping Mills, Karen Lovejoy Roe,
Jack Steeb, David Rhoads, Judith Walter, James Walter, Josh Long,
Larry Osterling, Laurie Leinbach, Larry Stoever.

II. Review and Acceptance of the Minutes from November 21, 2006.
Motion by Walter, supported by Rhoads, to approve the minutes.
Motion carried.

**III. Question and Answer Session with Washtenaw County
Commissioners in the SSC area.** The three County Commissioners
for the SSC area attended the meeting: Jessica Ping Mills, District 3;
Karen Lovejoy Roe, District 4; and Mandy Grewal, District 7. The
following questions were presented by members of SSC, and each
Commissioner offered comment and discussion with the group:

- 1) Some of the member communities are affected by the issues related to the Sheriff's Department Road Patrol (particularly Lodi, York, and Saline Township). Pittsfield and other member communities also receive services from the County Sheriff's Department in the area of major crimes, SWAT, etc. The SSC member communities would appreciate information from the County Commissioners on how the future costs per deputy would be determined, and how services would continue to be offered to the Communities.
- 2) Please provide an update on the Wireless Washtenaw project, especially the pilot project and the services that will eventually be offered in the rural areas.
- 3) What are your individual goals and objectives in your role as County Commissioner?
- 4) The SSC was initially formed as a regional planning group in the Saline area. A regional plan was created by the group, with the intention that it would be incorporated into the County's Comprehensive (Master) Plan. With Lodi Township, Pittsfield Township, Saline Township, and York Township currently involved in litigation to uphold their individual Plans and Zoning (that is, being sued by developers who wish to develop contrary to the communities' planning and zoning), what do you see as the County's role in supporting the local communities in these lawsuits? Do you envision the County as having a role in supporting the County's Comprehensive (Master) Plan, and supporting the local units of government in litigation?

- 5) A number of the local units in SSC are under pressure by developers who wish to place package sewage treatment plants in the communities, sometimes in areas outside of their planned utility districts, and often at densities contrary to their Plans. With the County's new private sewer system ordinance nearly complete, how can the County assist the local units in this area? Would the County oversee the systems, or the local units? How will the County enforce its ordinance?
- 6) What is your position on expanding the Road Commission from 3 to 5? Communities have received WCRC notices regarding funding cuts, which have obligated the WCRC to reduce some services (local bridge programs, matching funds, etc.). If authorized, how would new appointments be funded? Will the Commissioners consult with the communities (primarily the Townships) that would be affected by WCRC appointments and resulting budget adjustments?

IV. Future Agenda Items: Brian Shorkey of the WCRC could not attend the meeting, but had sent an item for the Feb. 20 agenda, on behalf of WCRC Director Steve Puuri: "Washtenaw County Road Commission, presentation of state road funding issues." Pat Little suggested inviting State Legislators for the SSC area to a future meeting, as the group members are facing many State issues.

V. Meeting Notices: Pat Little: Saline Rec Center has re-opened, tour of the new DPW building in Saline. Jane Kartje: York has approved adding a new building on the Toyota site. Larry Osterling: asked for any new roads or information for the new Chamber of Commerce maps; maps would be free to members and member communities; general meeting of the Chamber at Kensington Court on January 30; Citizen of the Year awards coming up. Josh Long: the County would like information on new developments in progress, especially larger developments. Doug Veenstra: local representatives for member communities need to be updated on the SSC website. Jack Steeb: Frederick Farms is applying for a discharge permit from the DEQ in Lodi, for a private sewage plant for 660 units on 110 acres, draining into Rouse Creek. David Rhoads: Saline Area Historical Society would meet at the Washtenaw County Fairgrounds; efforts underway to establish a community garden in cooperation with the Saline Area Schools. Laurie Leinbach: Public hearing for a DEQ discharge permit for private sewage plant on the Saline River for the Biltmore project in Saline Township to be held Thursday Feb. 22 at Saline Township Hall.

VI. Next Meeting Dates and Locations:

- February 20, 2007 – Pittsfield Township Administration Building, 6201 W. Michigan Ave.
- March 20 and April 17: location to be determined

VII. Public Comment: none.

VIII. Adjournment: Motion by Walter, supported by Steeb, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Christina Lirones, in the absence of Secretary Trapp.
Draft minutes prepared on Friday, February 16, 2007.