

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Saline Sustainability Circle**  
**Tuesday May 19, 2009**  
**Saline Township Hall**

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Vice Chairperson Rhoads called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Present:

Lodi Township: Jack Steeb

Pittsfield Township: Barb Fuller, Ann Harris

Saline Area Schools: Tom Wall

City of Saline: Gretchen Driskell, David Rhoads

Saline Chamber of Commerce: Larry Osterling

Saline Township: Laurie Leinbach, Frank Stukenborg

Washtenaw County Commissioner – Wes Prater

Washtenaw County Office of Strategic Planning: Brett Lenart

York Township: Jane Kartje

2. Review and Acceptance of Minutes from April 21, 2009

Motion by Harris, supported by Leinbach, to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Saline River Greenway Alliance

Frank Stukenborg discussed the Saline River Greenway Alliance, its history, and where it is headed. His handout may be viewed at

<http://salinesustainability.org/meetings/2009Meetings/051909SRGA.pdf>.

- Started with a park plan on the Saline River in York Township.
- Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation helped organize a group – five members to start.
- “Saline River Greenway Alliance” (“But not a walking trail”).
- Developed six point program – see handout.
- First issue (and only issue to date) – private wastewater treatment plant in Saline Township.

Mr. Stukenborg read the SRGA Mission Statement and recounted some achievements of the SRGA:

- 50 ft. river buffer – SRGA advocated for Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation purchase 80 acres on the Saline River as a Natural Area Preserve.
- Several options of property by Biltmore have been dropped.
- Requested an inventory of riverfront property in Saline Township so owners could be contacted about the possibility of sale for a Natural Area Preserve.
- A newsletter is published.

2009 goal -- Contact riverfront owners in York and Saline Townships about proper filter buffering to curb pollutants.

Discussion:

- Grants are not anticipated.
- Need money for mailings.
- Need to check filter buffering along the river.
- University student interns help.
- Can Laurie Leinbach help check the Saline Township portion of the river?
- Next SRGA meeting Thursday May 21 at Saline Township Hall.

#### 4. LIAA Partnerships for Change Grant

The June 16 SSC meeting will kick off the planning process funded by the LIAA grant.

- Brett Lenart presented “homework” (11 questions – [see attached](#)) to be completed before the June meeting. He suggests that the list of questions be presented to local Planning Commissions for maximum ideas.
- More information will be presented next month.
- Chelsea and Dexter started last month.

#### 5. Next Meetings

- The June 16, 2009, meeting will be held at the York Township Hall; the Lodi Township Hall will be the backup site.

#### 6. Future Agenda Items

- Develop a strategy for Private Wastewater Treatment Plants within the SSC region
- Transfer of Development Rights (Elizabeth Riggs)

#### 7. Meeting Notices and Announcements

Lodi Township

- Lodi Township celebrates its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Preparations are being made for a celebration July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend at the Farm Council Grounds.

Pittsfield Township

- Starting a new Master Plan and Park Plan
- A newsletter was published.
- Held an Open House at the Township Administration Building last weekend.

Saline Area Schools

- Craig Hoeft and Amy Cattell were elected to the School Board.
- Both millage proposals (Sinking Fund and CARES) passed.
- Changes to the Middle School / Library parking lot were funded; bids look OK.
- Liberty School will be in a movie.

City of Saline

- The new budget includes four layoffs
- The Farmers’ Market is now open 8-noon every Saturday through October.
- The city now has a new website.

Saline Township

- Saline Township Planning Commission now meets alternate months.

Washtenaw County

- Working on budget.
- Checking fund balances on 150+ accounts.

- Looking for \$26 million to save 290 jobs.

Washtenaw County Planning

- Ready to start LIAA project.
- Planning a future program – “Heritage Tour of Washtenaw County.”

York Township

- Patriot recognition July 3<sup>rd</sup> at the cemetery.
- Daniel Throup memorial.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jack Steeb for  
Douglas Veenstra  
Secretary

*Visit the Saline Sustainability Circle website at [www.salinesustainability.org](http://www.salinesustainability.org).*