

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Saline Sustainability Circle**  
**Tuesday June 16, 2009**  
**York Township Hall**

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Vice Chairperson Rhoads called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Present:

Lodi Township: Jack Steeb, Doug Veenstra

Pittsfield Township: Barbara Fuller

Saline Area Schools: Tom Wall

City of Saline: Todd Campbell, David Rhoads

Saline Chamber of Commerce: Larry Osterling

Saline Township: Laurie Leinbach

Washtenaw County Office of Strategic Planning: Brett Lenart

York Township: Gary Zajac, Joe Zurawski

Office of State Senator Randy Richardville: John Manor

LIAA: Heather Seyfarth

2. Review and Acceptance of Minutes from May 19, 2009

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

3. LIAA Partnerships for Change

Brett Lenart introduced Heather Seyfarth of LIAA, which was formerly known as the Land Institute Access Association. The group discussed the history of the Saline Sustainability Circle and its predecessor organizations, starting with a regional planning group in the 1970's. Ms. Seyfarth then led the group in an exercise to help establish groundwork for a new regional plan. The group identified community-related items in several categories:

What we are proud about

- School system
- Pastoral beauty
- City of Saline rated one of top small towns in USA by CNN/Money magazine
- Farm Council Grounds
- Agricultural Community
- Athletic teams
- Historic buildings and homes
- Saline Community Hospital (now St. Joseph Mercy Hospital – Saline)
- Volunteer base
- Library
- Celebrations, parades
- Community spirit
- Artist community

- Good industry
- Ann Arbor airport
- Saline Fiddlers

What to tell visitors to go to

- Shopping, dining, winery
- Richardson Park
- Rentschler Farm Museum, Depot Museum
- Farmers' Market
- Farm Council Grounds (attracts 500,000 people to area each year)
- High School sports
- Regional events at the High School
- Library (including the Bixby marionette exhibit)
- Churches

What we like to do

- Walk/bike around town and the area
- "Friday Night Lights" – High School sports
- Proximity to Ann Arbor attractions
- Golf
- Enjoy the quality of life

What would we be sad to lose – need to preserve

- Library
- Rural atmosphere
- Friendliness of the community
- Farm Council Grounds
- Historic structures
- Newspaper
- Honesty of people in government
- Closeness – people know each other

Issues confronting us

- Holes in the ground – Michigan Avenue and Monroe Street
- Reduced state funding
- State tax structure
- Developers trying to take over available farmland
- Courts that do not give proper weight to Master Plans
- Judges that do not consider community desires
- Keeping and building employment base
- Road maintenance
- Non-motorized transportation infrastructure
- Saline River Greenway

## Solutions

- Master Plans linked to the Saline Sustainability Circle Regional Plan
- Continuing to meet monthly between communities to discuss issues
- Reworking Zoning Ordinances
- Regional Fire Department – Saline Area Fire Department

Ms. Seyfarth will call individual SSC participant for more information. She will also develop a matrix of the information gathered so far. Information gathering will be continued at the July meeting.

### 4. Next Meeting

- The July 21, 2009, meeting will be held at the Historic Union School, Saline. Development of a new regional plan will continue.

### 5. Future Agenda Items

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

### 6. Meeting Notices and Announcements

Meeting notices and announcements were omitted due to time constraints.

### 7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Veenstra  
Secretary

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