



Royal Oak  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
ADVISORY BOARD**

**Minutes**  
**Royal Oak Environmental Advisory Board Meeting**  
**City Hall, 203 South Troy Street**  
**Royal Oak, MI 48067**  
**Zoom Webinar**

**Wednesday, February 24, 2021**  
**7:00p.m.**

**Meeting Recording:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pcEzAc6Au3E>

**Present:** J. Acevedo, S. Douglas, W. Gontina, C. Hartwig, A. Herzog, P. Lemme, N. Marcelletti, T. Regan, A. Sarpolis, Paul Vial, J. Lyons-Bricker, A. Filipski

**Absent:** K. Long, A. McMahon

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
  - Item #6: Approval of January 27, 2021 Minutes removed from agenda and moved to the March EAB meeting. Motion to approve agenda, as edited by A. Sarpolis, second by P. Vial.

**AYES:** J. Acevedo, S. Douglas, W. Gontina, C. Hartwig, A. Herzog, N. Marcelletti, T. Regan, A. Sarpolis, Paul Vial

**NAYS:** (0)

4. Convene to the Royal Oak Water System Advisory Council

**AYES:** J. Acevedo, S. Douglas, W. Gontina, C. Hartwig, A. Herzog, P. Lemme, N. Marcelletti, T. Regan, A. Sarpolis, Paul Vial

**NAYS:** (0)

- Required to meet at least once a year.
- The advisory council is mandated to:
  - Develop plans for continuing public awareness about lead in drinking water, even when a lead action level is not exceeded;

- Review public awareness campaign materials provided by the statewide Drinking Water Advisory Council to ensure the needs and interests of the community, with consideration to the economic and cultural diversity of its residents, are addressed;
- Advise and consult with the water supply on the development of appropriate plans for remediation and public education to be implemented if a lead action level is exceeded;
- Advise and consult with the water supply on efforts to replace private lead service lines at locations where the owner declined service line replacement;
- Assist in promoting transparency of all data and documents related to lead in drinking water within the water supply service area; and
- Collaborate with local community groups to ensure that residents have the opportunity to be involved in efforts to educate the community about lead in drinking water.
- Drinking Water Advisory Council: [https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3313\\_3675\\_76638-490466--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3313_3675_76638-490466--,00.html)
- Election of Officers for Royal Oak Water System Advisory Council: (same as the EAB) Amanda Herzog (Chair), Ken Long (Vice Chair), Amanda McMahon (Secretary). Motion to appoint officers by T. Regan, second P. Lemme.

AYES: J. Acevedo, S. Douglas, W. Gontina, C. Hartwig, A. Herzog, P. Lemme, N. Marcelletti, T. Regan, A. Sarpolis, Paul Vial

NAYS: (0)

- Water System Report
  - Lead & Copper Monitoring submitted results to state on January 6, 2021. A. Fillipski calculated 13ppb (90<sup>th</sup> percentile). State has not yet reviewed and provided next step instructions.
  - Service Line Replacement. Total: 140, 111 (2020) and 29 (2021). Goal is to have at least 100 per year. SOCWA contract for 30 quarterly.
  - Inventory of materials in system. Unknown materials went from 16,000 to 6,000 by September 2020. Have not found full neighborhoods but they are seeing trends. Door hangers will be used to help inventory resident homes.
  - Applied for \$1M state grant for asset management software, field equipment and hydro-excavation work. Notification of grant awarded by March 15.
  - Lead Communications Summary
    - Summary language published quarterly in Insight Magazine.
    - Lead Service Line Replacement Program Application online
    - Information slides run on WROK.
    - FAQ listed on city website.
    - If a resident participated in testing program, they get the results and additional lead information.
    - Working on updating website: [www.romi.gov/gettheleadout](http://www.romi.gov/gettheleadout)
- Discussion
  - The inventory is not public or complete. But a resident can call DPS and they will provide information for your residence. Homeowners can also do the test listed on the website.

- DPS does not make decisions on water rates and if service line replacements will increase the rates.
  - DPS is not prioritizing replacements. If you have lead pipes, it gets replaced. Try to group them by geography. Mindful of low-income households getting disproportionate replacement maybe due to access of information. Multiple channels of communication to the public. Also, every house is being reviewed.
  - Select neighborhoods received the Community Development Survey Doorhanger with lead testing information. DPS will take similar approach.
  - Postcard from Michigan Health and Human Services offering free water testing. They did not coordinate with the city, separate service/program.
  - Since the communication on the exceedance, update the community that the lines are actively being replaced through communicating in the Royal Oak Review.
  - Inventory database for every address in Royal Oak. Gaps were in the private side. Records were kept on index cards and then moved into a database. Unknowns went from 16,000 to 6,000 through reviewing building department records. Cutoff for houses built after 1986.
  - Estimated 1,500 lines to be replaced. Cost \$5,000-\$6,000. Comes from the water and sewer fund. Royal Oak has a strong preference for copper replacement lines instead of other materials. SOCWA bids the contractors that do replacement for all local communities.
  - General public awareness information will be added to the updated website. Frequent updates to the number of replacements on the website to be transparent to the public.
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- Public Comment: none
  - Motion to adjourn Royal Oak Water System Advisory Council by C. Hartwig, second by P. Lemme.

AYES: J. Acevedo, S. Douglas, W. Gontina, C. Hartwig, A. Herzog, P. Lemme, N. Marcelletti, T. Regan, A. Sarpolis, Paul Vial

NAYS: (0)

5. Resume Environmental Advisory Board Meeting

6. Public Comment- None

7. Director of Public Services and Recreation Report - Aaron Filipski

- Will start to include the SOCRRA tonnage reports with our future meeting materials.

8. Energy and Sustainability Manager Report - Julie Lyons Bricker

- Monday, City Commission approved the Goals & Objectives. Goal #8: Sustainability-To operate the City of Royal Oak in a sustainable way supporting the community, economy and environment.

- Lean Green Michigan PACE Program commercial and multi-family. Michigan Saves residential and commercial. Both organizations will come present to the EAB (separate meetings) to discuss the program and we will learn more about the markets that they can and cannot serve. Financing gaps for those that have bad credit and don't qualify for private loans. Both organizations will participate in the S-CAP and workgroups.
- SolSmart membership formally signed. Checklist for points, implementation, and certification request.
- ICLEI new resources rolled out.
- Meeting with Oakland County (Friday at 9am) to discuss Royal Oak's sustainability and climate action approach and the resources that we need that the county might be able to help with.

#### 9. City Commissioner Report - Shar Douglas

- City Hall now open with limited hours.
- New police station open
- Royal Oak Civic Foundation-Food Insecurity Campaign ends March 1, 2021. [www.romi.gov/ROCF](http://www.romi.gov/ROCF)
- 37 marijuana applications have been submitted.
- Interviews for hiring a new city attorney will begin mid-March.

#### 10. Community Garden Workgroup - Tom Regan

- 100 people are interested in starting a community garden (mailing list)
- 2 meetings have occurred to discuss RO community garden (approx. 44 people attended). GM could donate raised beds, Eric Brown could possibly donate land, Nick Handy Man Service offering labor services.
- Next steps:
  - A. Filipski requesting some budget money.
  - Site selection
    - City, School, Private
    - Some city funds can be used at school sites.
    - Focus on city property for quick turnaround.
    - A. Filipski will be consulted on site selection.
    - Different models for governance (group run or city assisted) with examples from many local communities. T. Regan will organize people for a self-governed unit but can change if needed.

#### 11. Sustainability Plan Workgroup - Julie Lyons Bricker

- Sustainability and Climate Action Plan also referred to as S-CAP.
- S-CAP Task Force meets every 2 weeks. Scope and development of the plan.
  - Shape open houses
  - Workgroup deliverables
  - Build out Task Force.
  - Develop timeline. Deadline: January 31, 2022.
- P. Vial recruited Paula Mantay (Former Vice President Royal Oak Area Democratic Club, Indivisible Fighting 9) very involved in community organizing and planning of community engagement.

- S-CAP Task Force Mission: To build and lead a team of diverse stakeholders who, through thoughtful discussion and data-based decision making, will develop a sustainability and climate action plan that fosters a healthy, equitable, and sustainable future for our community.

#### 12. Other Updates/Discussion

- Canceling Spring Recycling Event but will have a Fall Recycling Event. June 12<sup>th</sup> SOCRRA Recycling Event at ROHS will need EAB volunteers.
- Oakland County will be funding environmental initiatives. Show support by making public comment at the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. More information to come.

#### 13. Next Meeting March 24, 2021

Motion to adjourn by W. Gontina, second by P. Vial.

AYES: J. Acevedo, S. Douglas, W. Gontina, C. Hartwig, A. Herzog, P. Lemme, N. Marcelletti, T. Regan, A. Sarpolis, Paul Vial

NAYS: (0)