



ACME TOWNSHIP
YUBA CREEK NATURAL AREA STEERING COMMITTEE
Thursday, April 7, 2005, 7:00 p.m.
Acme Township Hall
6042 Acme Road, Williamsburg MI 49690

Meeting called to Order at 7:10 p.m.

Members present: Dan Morrison (Chair), Bob Carstens, Voss Guntzviller, Jason Hullman
Members excused: John Heiam, Stan Malaski, Ron Reinhold
Staff present: S. Corpe, Recording Secretary
T. Henkel, Parks & Maintenance Supervisor

A. Kiosks: The third and final informational kiosk will be installed next Tuesday, April 12. The bill will be presented after installation. It would be nice to put some information in the kiosks about the eagles and perhaps other birds in the area and their habits. Other information could be included about the unique nature of the environment.

B. Bronze Plaque: This project must be paid out of the coming fiscal year's budget. Henkel was asked to reduce his budget for the balance of the 04-05 fiscal year as much as possible; he halved the numbers of replacement swim buoys and grills he was going to purchase for the parks and is deferring repairs to a walkway at Bayside Park. Stream restoration for the balance of this year was reduced under the understanding that the work might occur after July. Funding for trees has been maintained. Henkel has \$11,000 of the proposed \$17,000 intact to last through June 30. Guntzviller noted that the budget for parks capital improvements has been consistently cut over the past few years, a move he does not agree with when the money would go to support one of the positive things happening in the community.

Morrison recommended adding the name of the Shaw Family to the plaque, since it was their property that has become the park and they discounted the price significantly. A rock on which to mount the plaque still needs to be found.

C. Yuba Creek Restoration Project: Carstens reports that he saw one of the eagle sitting in the nest a week ago Sunday. The restoration project is on hold until after hatching season, perhaps in late July. Steve Largent submitted the permit request in late March, and a response is expected soon.

D. Tree Planting:

1. Type/Quantity: Morrison distributed the brochures from the Grand Traverse Conservation District. The ordering deadline is tomorrow. A mix of heights and colors would also be desirable. Hullman suggested using species that already seem to be present on the site. Serviceberry would be good to have as a food source and attractive feature for wildlife.

There was also discussion about the possibility of transplanting some larger trees than those available through the Conservation District from within the YCNA or from other properties. The larger trees could be placed close to the Yuba Road parking area along with "trees planted" signs to help people notice and avoid them. Morrison will check with Wally Chappel to see what the tree relocation rules are.

Red and White Pines and White Spruces were favored by Guntzviller. Morrison likes Blue Spruce, but they are a non-native species and deer eat them. Some Hemlock

would be welcome, although they are slow-growing. Deer like to use them for rubs and licks. Red Maple, Sugar Maple, Mountain Ash and White Oak are favored for hardwoods.

2. **Location & Spacing:** One key target area for planting is in the area along US 31. There is not much of a view from the road down into the valley right now, so planting more trees should not sacrifice the view. A random pattern would be desirable so that it looks more natural. The trees would be about 75' – 100' back from the road at minimum. Some holes were recently dug and good soils seem to be present. Planting will begin on the south side of the 2-track to the overlook to begin building a buffer between the overlook and the Veliquette parcel, which might be developed as several homes.
 3. **Sod Removal:**
 4. **Wood Chips:** If the plantings are mulched it should be done lightly and moved away from the trees before winter. If mulching is too heavy it will prevent water from reaching roots rather than helping to trap moisture. Use of the Terra Sorb will enhance water retention greatly.
 5. **TerraSorb/Watering/Fertilizer:** Using TerraSorb would be a good idea; it retains water from rain and watering and draws moisture through the soil and keeps it near planting roots. Henkel has also thought about purchasing a plastic water tank he can haul with his tractor to use to water. He believes this would cost about \$300.
 6. **Flag Seedlings:**
 7. **Workers Needed:** Trees can be picked up on Friday, April 22. Planting will occur on Saturday, August 23, early in the day.
- E. **Approve minutes of **January 17, 2005 Meeting:**** One correction was needed to the minutes under the discussion of hunting season to move the last sentence to the end of the previous discussion item.
- F. **Public Comment/Other Business:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.