

BRYAN BOARD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT SPECIAL MEETING

JULY 16, 2018

Bryan Board of Public Affairs Chairman Richard Long and Bryan City Council President Judith Yahraus presided over the Joint Special Meeting held on July 16, 2018, with the following Board members present: James Salsbury, Karen Ford, Tom Sprow and Bob Eyre. Also present were: Bryan City Council members Richard Hupe, Mary Leatherman, F. John Betts, and Lynn Wieland as well as Mayor Carrie Schlade, Director of Utilities Kevin Maynard, City Attorney Rhonda Fisher, Police Chief Mike Willis, Executive Secretary Natasha Baldwin, Operations Manager Dawn Fitzcharles, Water Superintendent Norm Echler, Human Resource Director Jacqueline Perry, and City Clerk-Treasurer Laura Rode.

Bryan City Council President Yahraus and Board of Public Affairs Chairman Long called the Joint Special Meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. in the Bryan City Council chambers. Council President Yahraus welcomed the guests in attendance and advised of the procedural process for the evening noting that questions and comments may be made at various times.

Gary Crider of Pioneer stated that the 1984-86 aquifer study should be updated for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Ohio Department of Natural Resources. He continued to note that the aquifer is only one-fifteenth the size of Lake Erie.

Former Board of Public Affairs member Al Horn reminded the public that the Board of Public Affairs spent over \$83,000 on the various phases of the proposed Sole Source Aquifer designation. He added that in 2007 a group of Michigan politicians spoke out against the Sole Source Aquifer designation.

Citizen Delores Whitman read and passed around the aquifer petition for the Williams County Alliance as well as a signup sheet for volunteers.

Glen Newcomer spoke with regard to the draw down rate for farming/irrigation as opposed to the continuous draw of providing to municipalities outside the aquifer region. He added that farmers are trying to be good stewards of the resources.

Scott Lirot, candidate for Williams County Commissioner, stated his concern regarding a 40 year contract to supply water.

John Reichle of Montpelier questioned who is deciding the fate of our water and who will be affected. He added that the time to act is now.

Matthew Michael of Edgerton noted that the City of Toledo which has Lake Erie as its water source is hampered by Environmental Protection Agency issues. However, they and surrounding cities who draw on the City of Toledo's water system could be contracted for 40 years on our aquifer. When our aquifer is dry, they still have a viable backup water source through Toledo via Lake Erie.

Lou Pendleton of Williams County thanked the leaders for being proactive and taking action. She added that Toledo has potable water. Once ours is depleted, we have no economically feasible source for our area. She continued by suggesting this is a political problem over rates and added that privatizing water is wrong as it is in the public domain.

Kim Gearhart of Edon cited the depletion of the Colorado River as a recent water disaster due to similar action. Why make the precedent of distributing our water?

Alexandra Dorothy, a new resident to the area, stated that property values will suffer and ghost towns result if we run out of water and stifle economic development.

Monica Kolovich added that civilizations have collapsed over depleted resources.

Citizen Don Calvin announced that he had recently moved back to the area and that water was a shared commodity. He encouraged people to keep up the momentum and work on the issue collectively.

Bryan resident Emily Ebaugh cited a National Geographic article entitled, "What Happens to the U.S. Midwest When the Water's Gone?" The article referred to an aquifer in the Kansas area that is severely depleted.

Stewart Rosendaul added that we need to be vigilant and not sell out.

Ms. Lautzenheiser of Hamilton encouraged the public to read *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes* by Dan Egen. She continued by adding that this is an assault to our water supply.

Bryan Citizen Art Speltzer questioned what we would even gain by distributing the water as Toledo would get the jobs in the long run and it would be devastating to our local employment.

Board Chairman Long added that water is our greatest natural resource and we should protect it.

Bob Vassco educated the public on how tanks have to be filled at public distribution points for Metamora as there are no wells.

Dan Moore shared a memory from Nebraska that due to a situation similar to ours, wells kept going dry. Farmers sold out and towns became ghost towns.

Stewart Rosendaul approached the podium again stating that our water was under attack to which Al Horn added that we need to fight for our water.

Council President Yahraus added that she was concerned for future generations.

Mayor Schlade stated that we will battle for the water by clarifying false statements made regarding the replenishment rate and size of the aquifer. In addition, a resolution is proposed including a section requesting that we be notified of permits being sought. She continued to add that a presentation on the MICHINDOH aquifer will be on the Bryan Municipal Utilities website.

Jeanne Shankster added that over the years, the free flowing fountains that Bryan was widely known for have dried up indicating that our water tables have already dropped from our usage.

Resolution No. 18, 2018, titled,

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND PROMOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GROUNDWATER AQUIFER AND OPPOSITION TO DRILLING FOR, OR PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION OF, THE GROUNDWATER FROM THE MICHINDOH GLACIAL OUTWASH AQUIFER, TO LOCATIONS OUTSIDE OF THE DESIGNATED AQUIFER.

was presented and read by title only. Several Board members indicated support of the resolution protecting the aquifer and added that we are heading in the right direction. Mayor Schlade read the resolution in its entirety.

Mr. Salsbury moved, Mr. Sprow seconded, to pass Resolution No. 18, 2018. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

City Councilman Betts stated that he had received many complaints and that he was elected to do his best for the City of Bryan. He continued that as the project to extract the water is not motivated by a lack of water for those outside the area served by the MICHINDOH aquifer, but primarily motivated by the desire to have control over their water rates and private business financial gain; he would move to accept the resolution. He added that the resolution should be sent to other towns, cities, and villages, served by the MICHINDOH aquifer to alert them of this project and determine if they should follow suit. He further requested that legislation of non-support be sent to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and their State representatives.

Bryan City Council also passed a resolution supporting the same.

Ms. Ford moved, Mr. Sprow seconded, to adjourn the Joint Special Meeting. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried. Eyre absent.

Chairman of the Board

Clerk-Treasurer