

Resolution No. 2014-05

Charter Township of Union  
Isabella County, Michigan

**WELLHEAD PROTECTION  
AND  
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

**PREAMBLE:**

**Statement of Purpose**

The purpose of this resolution is to set forth the policy and administrative procedures that will be used by The Charter Township of Union to protect the municipal water supply.

**Background**

Groundwater is an essential source of fresh water for the public water supply system of The Charter Township of Union

Virtually any activity on the surface of the ground, which involves hazardous substances, may contaminate the groundwater. Once polluted, groundwater is difficult, and sometimes impossible, to clean. The natural microorganisms which help break down some pollutants on the surface of the ground and in the top soil layers are not present (or not present in sufficient quantities) in groundwater. The slow rates of groundwater flow, ranging from one foot per day to one foot in fifty years, limit dilution or dispersal of contaminants. Groundwater contaminated by today's land uses and activities may remain contaminated for hundreds of years.

The State Of Michigan (Department of Environmental Quality) Wellhead Protection Program is encouraging all public water suppliers to develop local Wellhead Protection Programs. A complete program submission includes the following key elements:

- Defining roles and duties of government units, water supply agencies and other key personnel.
- Delineating a Wellhead Protection Area for each water supply source.
- Identifying potential and existing contaminant sources within each Wellhead Protection Area.
- Utilizing management approaches for protection of the groundwater, including but not limited to education and regulatory approaches.
- Creating contingency plans for public water supply sources including the location of alternate drinking water sources.
- Assuring proper siting on new water sources to minimize potential contamination.
- Encouraging public participation.

As defined, the WHPA is "the surface and subsurface area surrounding a water well or well field, supplying a public water system, through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward and reach such water well or well field." In order to develop a Wellhead Protection Plan, each of the above-mentioned elements must be addressed.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality recognizes the importance of local leadership and commitment for effective Wellhead Protection Programs. A wide range of management strategies, including land use planning, zoning, subdivision controls, interagency cooperation and community education may be useful in a Wellhead Protection Program Plan.

It is the intent of the Charter Township of Union to alert persons applying for land use, building, or subdivision approvals about state requirements for environmental protection. Any land uses or activities which may pose a threat to the public water supply and groundwater shall be properly managed to minimize the possibility of contamination.

**RESOLUTION:**

**WHEREAS**, the Charter Township of Union recognizes the importance if its groundwater supply as a natural resource used for drinking; and

**WHEREAS**, it is within the responsibility of the Charter Township of Union as a public water supplier, to consider the health, safety and welfare of its customers; and

**WHEREAS**, groundwater contamination can and does occur as a consequence of a variety of land use activities; and

**WHEREAS**, it is desirable to preserve and protect the quality and quantity of our groundwater resources to assure a continued safe, adequate, and useable supply both now and in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, the protection of current and potential future sources of groundwater used for drinking water is worthwhile from the standpoint of resource protection; and

**WHEREAS**, state, county and municipal laws and regulations require certain land uses to obtain permits and approvals for construction and operation; and

**WHEREAS**, state agencies are not always aware of new development proposals and the owners or developers of proposed new land uses are not always aware of state, county and municipal permit and approval requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, local government officials, through adopted zoning ordinances, have the legal authority to review and/or approve land uses for the purposes of meeting the needs of the state's residents for natural resource protection and public services, including public water supplies;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Charter Township of Union agrees to take action to: (1) protect the immediate Wellhead Protection Area(s) and (2) take steps to update the zone of contribution to the wells or well field(s) in compliance with the State of Michigan Wellhead Protection Program; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Charter Township of Union designates budgets for expenses accrued in determining and updating the zone of contribution of the wells or well field(s) and to implement and update their Wellhead Protection Program Plan at such time as funds become available; and;

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED** that the Charter Township of Union will issue no land use permit, zoning permit, building or occupancy permit until such time that all required federal, state, county and/or local environmental permits or approvals have been obtained, and/or there is evidence that proper application to the responsible municipal, county, state or federal agencies has been made and significant issues affecting the Wellhead Protection Area have been addressed. An Environmental Permits Checklist and Hazardous Substances Reporting Form will hereby be adopted for administrative use when new, changed or expanded land use activities are proposed.

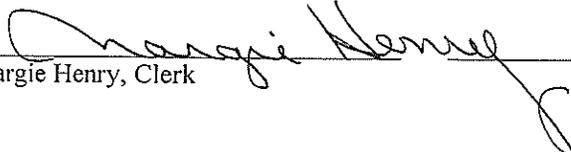
Moved by: Trustee Hauck

Seconded by: Clerk Henry

AYES: Hauck, Henry, Mikus, Alwood, Mielke, Ayris

NAYS: None

Adopted this 26 day of February, 2014

  
Margie Henry, Clerk

3-20-2014  
Date