

MAR - 8 2003

**TOWNSHIP OF PUTNAM**

At a Regular meeting of the Township Board of the Township of Putnam, Livingston County, Michigan, held at the Township Annex on Wednesday, February 19, 2003 at 7:00 P.M. Eastern Time, there was:

PRESENT: Bennett, Guyon, Hendee, Hollister and McCloskey

ABSENT: None

The following resolution was offered by Hollister and supported by Guyon:

**RESOLUTION TO AFFIRM A BROADER DEFINITION OF  
FEDERALLY PROTECTED WATERWAYS.**

WHEREAS: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency have requested public input regarding issues related to what waters are subject to Federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and other laws designed to protect the environment and particularly have requested public input regarding how "waters of the United States" shall be defined; and

WHEREAS: Clean water is essential for drinking, for recreational, industrial, commercial and agricultural uses and for aquatic life and wildlife; and

WHEREAS: For 30 years, the Clean Water Act has played an essential role in protecting and restoring our nation's waterways; and

WHEREAS: This progress would not have been possible if the Act had not applied to all our nation's waters; and

WHEREAS: A more restrictive definition of the waters subject to the Clean Water Act would be detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare of Putnam Twp. for the following reasons:

- A. Scientific studies repeatedly show the interconnectedness of surface waters, wetlands, and groundwaters. Therefore, adequate protection of navigable waters relies on protection of non-navigable tributaries and adjacent wetlands; and
- B. Isolated wetlands provide essential groundwater recharge services. In recent years, Southeastern Michigan aquifer levels have been declining, negatively affecting the amount of water available for residential, commercial and industrial use; and
- C. Smaller, isolated wetlands have been shown to provide as many ecological services to the Huron River Watershed as larger wetlands contiguous to waterbodies; and

D. Flood control is dependent on proper management of the entire watershed draining to the Huron River; and

WHEREAS: Enforcement of water protection for isolated, ephemeral, non-navigable or adjacent waterbodies at the state level, without federal support under the Clean Water Act, would be inadequate because

1. Enforcement by the state of Michigan of existing water protection programs is underfunded and regularly inadequate; and
2. Without the leverage provided by Clean Water Act requirements, state compliance with water protection rules would be much less likely to occur; and

WHEREAS: Putnam Twp. has non-navigable waters that provide recreation for out of state visitors;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Putnam Twp. Board affirms that the definition of U.S. waters subject to the Clean Water Act should include, in addition to traditionally navigable waters, all non-navigable tributaries, intermittent and ephemeral streams, waters that pass through man-made conveyances, and all wetlands whether or not there is a visible connection to surface waters.

A vote on the foregoing resolution was taken and was as follows:

YES: Bennett, Guyon, Hendee, Hollister and McCloskey

NO: None

ABSTAIN: None

THE RESOLUTION WAS THEREUPON ADOPTED

**TOWNSHIP CLERK'S CERTIFICATE**

The undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Township of Putnam, Michigan, hereby certifies that (1) the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township at a special meeting held on February 19, 2003, at which meeting a quorum was present and remained throughout, (2) the original thereof is on file in the records of the proceedings of the Township Board in my office; (3) the meeting was conducted, and public notice thereof was given, pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act (Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended); and (4) minutes of such meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required thereby.



Township Clerk

Sally D. Guyon