

Township of Manchester, Michigan

Resolution No. 26-03

At a regular meeting of the Manchester Township Board, Washtenaw County, Michigan, held on March 10, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Milkey, Moutinho, Walter, Fusilier, Proctor

ABSENT: Thompson, Seefeld

The following preamble and resolution were offered by and seconded by:

Supporting Careful and Comprehensive Review of Environmental and Community Impacts Related to Gravel Mining Proposals Near Watkins Lake State Park & County Preserve

WHEREAS, the Township of Manchester, Michigan (“Manchester Township”) is committed to the protection of natural resources, environmental quality, and public health and welfare for its residents and neighboring communities; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Manchester lies wholly within Washtenaw County and shares common environmental, recreational, and economic interests with neighboring municipalities including Norvell Township in Jackson County; and

WHEREAS, Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve (“Watkins Lake Preserve”) is a regionally significant open space that provides important habitat for wildlife, ecological services, water quality protection, and recreational opportunities for residents of Manchester Township, Norvell Township, and the surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, proposals to allow or expand gravel mining operations in proximity to Watkins Lake Preserve have been discussed, with potential impacts to soils, surface water, groundwater, wildlife habitat, scenic integrity, traffic safety, and the well-being of local communities; and

WHEREAS, Manchester Township recognizes the authority of Norvell Township, Jackson County, and relevant state agencies in reviewing and approving land use and mining permits within their respective jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, Manchester Township appreciates that Norvell Township will carefully consider the impact of gravel mining operations near Watkins Lake Preserve, and will carefully assess and mitigate all environmental, community, economic, and public health impacts, including but not limited to impacts on air and water quality, wetlands, wildlife habitat, agricultural lands, property values, and safe public use of surrounding roads and trails.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Manchester Township Board respectfully thanks the Norvell Township Board and all relevant review authorities for:

1. **Considering all environmental factors** with rigor and transparency, including cumulative impacts to water resources, groundwater recharge areas, wetlands, and sensitive wildlife habitats adjacent to and within Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve;
2. **Applying best available science and professional expertise** in evaluating any gravel mining proposals, including independent environmental review where appropriate, to ensure decisions are based upon sound data and analysis;
3. **Ensuring meaningful public engagement** by providing opportunities for citizens from Manchester Township, Norvell Township, and Washtenaw and Jackson Counties to review, comment, and participate in the decision-making process;
4. **Coordinating with Washtenaw County, Jackson County, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and other applicable agencies** to evaluate interjurisdictional impacts and compliance with all environmental laws, regulations, and policies;
5. **Prioritizing protection of the long-term environmental and economic value** of Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve as a community asset that supports quality of life, tourism, conservation, and outdoor recreation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Norvell Township Board of Trustees, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, and other appropriate local and state officials.

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

YEAS: Milkey, Moutinho, Walter, Fusilier, Proctor

ABSENT: Thompson, Seefeld

ADOPTED this 10th day of March 2026

TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER

BY: _____



Ron Milkey, Supervisor

STATE OF MICHIGAN

COUNTY OF WASHTENAW

CERTIFICATION

I, Danell Proctor, Clerk of Manchester Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan hereby certify that this is a true and complete copy of the foregoing resolution, which was duly adopted by the Manchester Township Board of Trustees at a regular meeting held on the 10th day of March, 2026 at the Manchester Township Hall, 275 S. Macomb Street, Manchester, MI 48158.

Signed: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danell Proctor". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Danell Proctor, Clerk