

1 THE CLAY TOWNSHIP PHRAGMITES MANAGEMENT PLAN

2 CLAY TOWNSHIP, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, MICHIGAN, USA

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4 Section 1. DEFINITIONS.

5 “Advisory Board” means the Clay Township Phragmites Management Advisory
6 Board as established by the Clay Township Board.

7 “Person” means an individual, firm, corporation, association, partnership, limited
8 liability company, or other legal entity.

9 “Phragmites” or “Phragmites plant” means the invasive plant species with the
10 scientific name “Phragmites australis”. Where used in this document the term
11 “Phragmites” or “Phragmites plant” does not include the native variety of
12 Phragmites.

13 “Plan”, “Management Plan” or “Phragmites Management Plan” means this Clay
14 Township Phragmites Management Plan.

15 “Phragmites Treatment” means the control of Phragmites by best management
16 practices including, but not limited to herbicide, cutting, burning or other methods,
17 as prescribed by the Advisory Board and in accordance with all Local, State and
18 Federal laws.

19 “Phragmites Infestation” means a concentrated dense stand of phragmites
20 plants, determined by the Advisory Board to contain any of the following
21 characteristics:

- 22 • It impacts wetland ecology by out-competing the native plants by creating
23 a monoculture of reeds or reducing plant or animal diversity,
- 24 • It blocks or inhibits the flow of surface water in canals, drains or other
25 open conveyances or adversely impacts the groundwater hydrology,
- 26 • It reduces land values or tourism by limiting access to or views of the
27 lakes, rivers and canals, or can encourage blight conditions as defined in
28 Clay Township Ordinances,
- 29 • It presents a safety hazard by blocking or inhibiting visibility or access
30 along roads or trails, at intersections or driveways or along navigable
31 reaches of shoreline or waterways,
- 32 • Or it presents a fire hazard due to its proximity to dwellings, appurtenant
33 structures or adjacent property as defined in Clay Township ordinances.

34 “Program” or “Annual Program” means the Annual Phragmites Management
35 Program described in Section 3H.

36 **SECTION 2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE.**

37 This Phragmites Management Plan was developed by the Clay Township
38 Phragmites Management Advisory Board and the Clay Township Board to
39 provide a plan for the Township to assist the citizens with procedures to receive
40 effective Phragmites treatment. By including all property owners within Clay
41 Township that have a Phragmites infestation, this Phragmites Management Plan
42 will help maximize effectiveness of the Phragmites treatments, thereby helping to
43 better understand and manage Phragmites.

44 **SECTION 3. COMPONENTS OF THE PHRAGMITES**
45 **MANAGEMENT PLAN**

46 **A. SURVEY**

47 The Advisory Board should conduct a Phragmites survey to determine the extent
48 of Phragmites infestations in the Township,

49 This should include gathering, consolidating and interpreting data. To the extent
50 possible the survey should be conducted of all property within the Township for
51 the purposes of identifying all parcels on which, and the extent to which,
52 Phragmites infestations exist. However, before entering onto a parcel to conduct
53 the survey, the person doing the survey shall obtain written consent from the
54 property owner. When entry is not possible, an estimate of infestation should be
55 made using existing data, off-site visual inspection or remote imagery
56 techniques. The survey data will be used to determine priority treatment areas
57 and when combined with future survey data can be used to gage the success of
58 the implementation of this Phragmites Management Plan.

59 **B. PRIORITY TREATMENT AREAS**

60 The Advisory Board should annually determine priority treatment areas based on
61 the extent to which infestations impact the community, the availability of
62 resources and the interest and cooperation of owners of infested properties.
63 Guidelines for determining the impact to the community will be those listed above
64 in the definition of "Phragmites Infestation."

65 **C. COMMUNICATIONS**

66 Communications should be established with the citizens and property owners of
67 Clay Township, permitting agencies, the research community and other active
68 phragmites management organizations.

69 The Advisory Board should hold an annual meeting to inform or update the
70 community on the Phragmites Management Plan and the Annual Phragmites
71 Management Program. This meeting should include the opportunity for the
72 Advisory Board to gather input from the community regarding the Annual
73 Phragmites Management Program. The Advisory Board should publicize the

74 availability and activities of the Phragmites Management Program through the
75 use of signs, flyers, public access TV, the Internet, the Press and other available
76 forms of media.

77 The Advisory Board should maintain communications with Phragmites
78 management permitting agencies in order to assist property owners in
79 understanding and completing the permit process.

80 The Advisory Board should maintain communications with the Phragmites
81 management research community and other phragmites management
82 organizations in order to bring information about the latest techniques in
83 Phragmites management back to the community. These communications should
84 be in the form of personal communications, subscribing to publications and/or
85 member attendance at workshops and seminars.

86 D. EDUCATION

87 The Advisory Board should be responsible for educating the public regarding the
88 affects of Phragmites infestations and for training the public on the latest
89 methods of Phragmites management for purposes of health and safety.
90 Education and training should include, but not be limited to, workshops, personal
91 consultations, and the availability of reference materials.

92 The Advisory Board should use signs, flyers, public access TV, the Internet, the
93 Press and other available forms of media for educational and training purposes
94 and to publicize educational and training opportunities and to maximize public
95 awareness and involvement.

96 The Advisory Board should maintain a list of volunteers who are willing to help
97 others in the community with education assistance in the management of their
98 Phragmites.

99 E. PERMITTING ASSISTANCE

100 The Advisory Board should assist property owners in obtaining required permits
101 for Phragmites management including herbicide treatments and cutting or
102 burning. One method of providing this assistance should be the establishment of
103 annual Township-wide permits obtained by the Township on behalf of all property
104 owners wishing to manage the Phragmites on their property.

105 Property owners wishing to self-treat their parcels under the authority of the
106 Township-wide permits shall be required to attend Phragmites management
107 training as established by the Advisory Board.

108 The Advisory Board should maintain a list of volunteers who are willing to help
109 others in the community with permitting assistance in the management of their
110 Phragmites.

111 F. TREATMENT ASSISTANCE

112 The Advisory Board should assist and/or advise property owners on obtaining
113 services from reliable certified contractors for Phragmites management. As part
114 of an Annual Phragmites Management Program the Township should arrange for
115 a contractor to treat multiple properties under a group contract, thereby resulting
116 in cost savings to the property owners who choose to participate. The
117 Township's existing ordinance on the establishment of Assessment Districts
118 should be used as needed to assist property owners in this process.

119 The Advisory Board should assist and/or advise property owners on obtaining
120 supplies and equipment for Phragmites management. Information should be
121 available at the Township Hall on sources for equipment and State approved
122 chemicals.

123 The Township should purchase equipment that could be loaned or rented to
124 property owners to be used in the management of Phragmites within the
125 community. This should also include the Township's arrangement for the annual
126 purchase of Phragmites management chemicals in bulk quantities for resale to
127 property owners at a location within the community.

128 The Advisory Board should maintain a list of volunteers who are willing to help
129 others in the community with treatment assistance in the management of their
130 Phragmites.

131 G. FUNDING

132 The Advisory Board should investigate funding opportunities for ecosystem
133 preservation and restoration and public education on those subjects.

134 The scope of the Annual Phragmites Management Program should be based on
135 available funding each year. Funding sources may include, but not be limited to,
136 the Clay Township annual budget, grants, donations, fees and income generated
137 from the sale or rental of equipment or supplies for Phragmites management.

138 The Township may establish fees for persons who elect to be included in
139 components of the Annual Phragmites Management Program.

140 After the Advisory Board has approved which parcel or parcels shall be included
141 in the Annual Phragmites Management Program, the Coordinator or other
142 Township authorized administrator acting on behalf of the Township, shall apply
143 to the appropriate authorities for a permit or permits authorizing Phragmites
144 treatment on the parcels included in the Program. Any fees associated with this
145 process for such permit or permits shall be paid for as determined by the
146 Township Board.

147 The Township may establish Special Assessment Districts for the management
148 of Phragmites.

149 H. ANNUAL PHRAGMITES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

150 At the end of each calendar year The Advisory Board should develop an Annual
151 Phragmites Management Program for the coming year, to include a list of items
152 from the Phragmites Management Plan recommended for action by the
153 Township during that coming year. The items to be included should be based on
154 the success of the previous year's Program and the availability of funds, staff and
155 volunteers to administer the Program for the coming year. The Program
156 recommendation should be submitted to The Township Board no later than
157 January each year.

158 I. PHRAGMITES MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

159 Subject to annual funding, the Clay Township Board should establish an
160 administrative position of Clay Township Phragmites Management Coordinator
161 whose charge it is to oversee the implementation of the Phragmites Management
162 Plan and the Annual Phragmites Management Program. The duties and
163 responsibilities of the Coordinator shall be as established by the Township
164 Board. The candidate or candidates for the position shall be nominated by the
165 Advisory Board and submitted to the Township Board for approval.

166 In the absence of a Phragmites Management Coordinator the Advisory Board
167 may, at it's choosing, and with the approval of the Township Board, act as
168 Management Coordinator to oversee the implementation of the Phragmites
169 Management Plan and Annual Phragmites Management Program.

170 I. VOLUNTEERS

171 Persons who serve in any of the volunteer roles described in this Plan shall be
172 required to attend Phragmites management training as established by the
173 Advisory Board.

174 SECTION 4. COOPERTIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY 175 OF ALGONAC & OTHER COMMUNITY PARTNERS

176 If a cooperative agreement is reached between Clay Township and the City of
177 Algonac or other community partners regarding a joint Phragmites Management
178 Plan, references within this document to Clay Township shall be modified to
179 include The City of Algonac and other community partners as stated in the
180 cooperative agreement.