



TWO RIVERS COALITION
January 14, 2015 BOARD MEETING
Geneva Township Hall

Call to order: 6:01 PM by Sam Ewbank

Attendees: Sam Ewbank, Kevin Haight, Kenneth Nesbitt, Bette Pierman, Dave Foerster, Grant Poole, Kyle Alexander, Richard Curtis (board members underlined)

Dave Foerster and board members expressed their gratitude to Sam Ewbank for his work as TRC President and all that he did for the organization. While we hope that he enjoys his mandatory year off from the board, we hope that he will continue to be involved with events, and that we will be able to once again count on his future involvement after 2015. Thank you, Sam!

Introductions:

Kyle Alexander was attending as he transitions into his new role with the DEQ in the “Nonpoint Source Program and MS4 Program” taking over responsibilities from Christina Bauer as she moves on to her new role. We welcomed him and any involvement and assistance he can provide in the future.

Agenda - January 14, 2015 agenda approved as presented, all in favor

Minutes - Motion by Kevin Haight, seconded by Dave Foerster to approve November 12, 2014 minutes with noted corrections, all in favor.

Election of Officers Motion by Sam Ewbank to open the floor to nominations for the 2015 Executive Officers:

Kevin Haight as Board President - nominated by Dave Foerster, 2nd by Grant Poole

Bette Pierman as Board Vice President - nominated by Kevin Haight, 2nd by David Foerster

Kenneth Nesbitt as Board Treasurer - nominated by Kevin Haight, 2nd by Bette Pierman

Joe Parmen as Board Secretary - nominated by Kevin Haight, 2nd by Grant Poole (Joe previously agreed to this position via E-mail.)

Sam Ewbank moved to close nominations. Roll Call vote to elect the candidates by those board members present was unanimous. (Board members absent: Joe von Wahlde, Colleen Forestieri, Frank Jurenka, Joe Parmen)

Kevin Haight took over conducting the rest of the meeting.

We still have 2 open seats on our board so if you know anyone who would be willing to serve; we can nominate them at any time.



Treasurer Report - Kenneth Nesbitt reported that TRC had a \$7,133.00 balance with \$320 received for signs sold, \$389 in donations received, \$300 paid to speaker for the Annual Meeting. David Foerster said that the money accumulating in Pay Pal needed to be swept. There was also a discussion regarding Kenneth's board membership and role as Treasurer. In December 2014, Kenneth has been elected to fill the remaining 2 years of a 3 year term. 2014 was his "year off" even though he had been elected Board Treasurer for the year. He stated that the bylaws allow someone to be an officer even though they are not a current board member. Bette Pierman suggested that we review our Bylaws for revisions that may be needed.

Bette Pierman moved, 2nd by Kevin Haight to accept the Treasurer's Report. Unanimous support.

Kevin Haight stated that we need to develop a budget of our existing running expenditures. We need to have a budget/finance report monthly (Dave Foerster said that this can easily be tracked and printed from Quick Books.) Kevin said that we will be working through the Executive Committee who will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to get this set up.

Old Business

Stream Monitoring Update -Haight

Kevin Haight commended Colleen Foerstieri for her presentation at the Annual Meeting in December (slides available on the TRC website). He and AJ are working on the grant report and will be meeting next week to finalize. They have set 2 very tentative dates for this year's monitoring: Spring, May 3 and Fall, Sept. 20.

Kevin reported that the Conservation District has been sending quarterly reports and Sam asked if we could get copies of these.

Discussion of the sites for this year has been occurring and they are looking at possibly shifting some of the sites to the Black River.

In the future, they are searching for community groups to get involved i.e. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, etc. to work on the monitoring as part of an "Adopt a Stream" program.

Right now the grand funding is for these 2 events. Kevin will have more information next month.

Annual Meeting Review

Sam reported that all presenter slide presentations and PJ Chmiel's notes are now posted and available on the TRC website. Dave Foerster reported that all public comments were very positive.

We need to reserve the Van Buren Conference Center for next year's Annual Meeting on December 9, 2015.

Many board members liked the give aways and hope that we can do something like that again at future meetings.



New Business

Bank Account Authorization

At this time, Dave Foerster moved, 2nd by Grant Poole to adopt the motion giving the newly-elected TRC Board Officers (listed above) the authorization "to endorse checks and orders or the payment of money or otherwise withdraw or transfer funds on deposit with Chemical Bank Shoreline in accordance with current by-laws of the Corporation. This resolution supersedes any and all resolution which may be on file with Chemical Bank Shoreline prior to January 14, 2015." Roll Call vote of those board members present was unanimous. (Board members absent: Joe von Wahlde, Colleen Forestieri, Frank Jurenka, Joe Parmen)

Joe Parmen will deliver the required forms and a copy of the minutes to the bank for the Bank Account Authorization. Each of the newly elected board officers will then need to go to the Paw Paw branch of the bank and sign the required documents. Joe Parmen will need to notify when they are ready.

We need multiple board members to have access to Pay Pal; suggested that it be two officers. It was suggested that it be Kenneth and Joe.

Our bank account is currently with the Paw Paw Branch of Chemical Bank and Kenneth and Dave have checkbooks. Dave will give his checkbook to Joe so that they are held by the current Secretary and Treasurer.

Strategic Planning for 2015

We will be actively working to hammer out our Strategic Plan for 2015. Each Board Member needs to think about their vision for what they would like TRC to accomplish in 2015 and send their ideas to Bette Pierman to compile before our next meeting.

It is much easier to complete our Strategic Plan and our Budget needs if we know the direction that we are moving. Currently, we know that TRC is doing 2 stream monitoring events and that Kenneth has organized a number of paddling events.

Kevin stressed the importance of the following committees:

- **Budget/Finance** – we need a clear understanding of our committed regular expenditures, money coming in, money committed for projects, etc. and how much we need to raise to achieve our goals for the year.
- **Public/Relations/Communications**
 - **Facebook**
 - **Blog**
 - **Press Releases**
 - **E-mail blasts on Mail Chimp (goal one a month)**
- **Events**
 - **Stream monitoring**
 - **Paddling**
 - **Clean-up**



○ **Speakers/programs**

Kevin believes that everyone needs to bring their ideas to the next meeting. Grant Poole added that our events/speakers need to relate to our watershed plans. We need to decide what we are going to do and then plug it into our Strategic Plan.

Kevin will be meeting with Marcie to discuss our TRC involvement with her project.

May 29, 2015 (?) Kevin reported something significant, but I did not get it in my notes.

March Speaker 2015

Kevin said that we need to get moving on this if we are going to do something in March. Bette Pierman suggested bringing back the "Don't Farm Naked" speaker and combining that presentation with someone from the Army Corp of Engineers to address the yearly problem of dredging issues and expense in the St. Joseph harbor. We discussed whether he had already recently spoken at a VBCD event and how many from other counties in the watershed have heard him give his presentation.

Also suggested: a re-do and different location for the shoreline landscaping presentation, area watershed geology combined with Peter Banes ideas for water control and shoreline erosion control.

Board members can send their ideas to Bette Pierman and she will compile before our next meeting.

Announcements, suggestions, comments:

- Citizen's Climate Change Lobby meeting Saturday, Jan. 17 from 9:30-12:30 St Luke's Episcopal Church, 247 W Lovell Street, Kalamazoo MI 49007
- Grant Poole received an E-mail from DEQ regarding stream monitoring (and funding?); Kevin suggested that he contact Marcie Colclough to see how it applies to her project
- Dave Foerster would like us to discuss and come up with a plan/system for how to address how to handle TRC Membership and Dues

Adjourned: Kevin Haight moved, 2nd by Grant Poole to adjourn at 8:15 PM

Respectively submitted:

Bette Pierman

Acting TRC Recording Secretary