



TWO RIVERS COALITION (TRC)

September 14, 2011 BOARD MEETING

GENEVA TOWNSHIP HALL

Call to order: 7:04 p.m.

Attendees: Sam Ewbank, Tom Howe, Chris Bauer, Marcy Colclough, Frank Jurenka, Matt Meersman, Mark Toncray, Aaron Kleidon, Kenneth Nesbitt (Board members underlined)

Treasurer's Report: Matt Meersman: Report Summary...Aug. 2011 – Sept. 2011, TRC net income is -\$597.07 (mostly related to Foundry Hall Events); Jan. 2011 – Sept. 2011, TRC net income is \$1,579.62. TRC Total Restricted Funds is \$1,008.93. TRC Total Unrestricted Funds is \$8,681.67. TRC Total Assets as of Sept. 14, 2011 is \$9,690.60.

Motion made by Tom Howe to accept the September 14, 2011 Treasurer's Report, all in favor.

Motion by Frank Jurenka to renew TRC membership to Freshwater Futures (FF) for \$100. **Motion 2nd** by Tom Howe, all in favor. Meersman to renew membership with FF.

Presentation Review – Time of Sale or Transfer Program (TOST): (Howe)

Suggestions from Frank Jurenka, Chris Bauer, Marcy Colclough, Mark Toncray, et al. as to how to most effectively approach Berrien County Health Department (BCHD) regarding TOST ordinance. Suggestion made by Jurenka to approach Eric Pessell from Barry-Eaton HD in regards to accompanying TRC and presenting materials to BCHD, all in favor. Howe and Jurenka agree to meet with BCHD at 9am on October 5th regarding TOST ordinance. Howe agrees to contact Eric Pessell regarding BCHD presentation.

Old Business:

Membership: Howe agrees to call meeting of membership committee to reconvene prior to the next TRC board meeting. Paw Paw Brewing Co. is suggested as possible meeting place. Colclough raises question regarding member: Georgia Boerma, donated with a check and is a member, but apparently never received an acknowledgement from TRC. Howe agrees to contact Boerma reading the situation.

Fund Raising: Ewbank reports no new business

Jeff Mitchell Midpoint Park Project (JJMP): Ewbank presents diagrams of site and explains plans for JJMP to meeting attendance. TRC has pledged an amount not to exceed \$500 to support project landscaping and proposed rain garden plants. Howe suggests native plants could be purchased from the Van Buren Conservation District (VBCD) annual native plant sale in the spring.

Events: Nesbitt gives overview of two TRC paddle events that took place since the last TRC board meeting. Approximately (~) 12 – 15 people attended on Aug. 27th. ~6 people attended paddle on Sept. 10th. Events were evidently very successful and Nesbitt also comments on a conversation he had with a riparian landowner who has interest in dedicating a river access on their property. The rained-out Garvey property event planned with Southwest MI Land Conservancy (SWMLC) is rescheduled for Oct. 22.



Water Quality Monitoring Grant Proposal: Colclough gives update on project status. City of South Haven, Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber, (FTC&H) along with Southwest MI Planning Commission (SWMPC) and TRC are partners on the project. City of South Haven was awarded \$48,000 grant from MDEQ. \$16,000 in local match is needed for the project. TRC has pledged to partner by supporting with hours of local match by providing education and outreach materials and being on the steering committee. Project start date is Sept. 1, 2011. Also, Paw Paw Village (PPV) is applying for a 319 Grant from MDEQ. A notice of intent (NOI) has been submitted to MDEQ. PPV and SWMPC are requesting TRC to supply local match and letters of support for project. **Motion** by Jurenka for TRC pledge ~55 hours of local match to project. **Motion 2nd** by Nesbitt, all in favor.

Annual Meeting (AM): Howe has contacted Eric Pessell from BECHD and he has agreed to be a keynote speaker for AM. Suggestion made from Colclough to ask Chuck Nelson and Mindy, from Sarrett Nature Center, to be the other keynote speaker. Colclough agrees to contact Nelson regarding the presentation.

New Business: Pilgrim Haven property public visioning: Ewbank leads discussion about a property in South Haven which is being planned to be converted into a park. The public visioning event will be held the weekend of Sept. 16 and 17.

Other: Mark Toncray leads discussion about Blueberry View Artist's Retreat (BVAR). Aaron Kleidon, current resident artist at the retreat is paddling the Paw Paw River this week and will be photo documenting the trip. Toncray and Kleidon invited TRC to attend a reception for Kleidon's work to be held at BVAR on Sept. 22 at 6:30 pm.

Announcements: Open – Colclough makes announcement regarding Oct. 14th workshop for the Friends of the St. Joseph River (fotsjr) to be held in Elkhart. Also a Sept. 26 State of the Lakes Conference at the Blue Chip Casino and Hotel is planned. Ewbank makes announcement regarding Tiller's International Harvest Fest on Sunday Sept. 18 in Scotts, MI. Ewbank will be displaying TRC info at a booth during the event. The cost of the booth is \$25.

Motion to adjourn by Howe at 9:05. **Motion 2nd** by Ewbank, all in favor.

Adjourned: 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by, Thomas Howe (substituting for Joe Parman, Secretary)