



**TWO RIVERS COALITION  
August 14, 2013 BOARD MEETING  
GENVEVA TOWNSHIP HALL**

**Call to order:** 7:05 p.m.

**Attendees:** Joe Parman, Sam Ewbank, Dave Foerster, Frank Jurenka, Nancy Edwards, Kevin Haight, Kenneth Nesbitt, Grant Poole, Chris Bauer (board members underlined)

Board approved agenda as amended

**Motion** by Sam Ewbank to approve July 13, 2013 minutes as amended, all in favor

**Treasurers Report** – Kenneth Nesbitt — Total Funds Available \$13,049.47

**Old Business**

**Grant – Freshwater Future – E coli** – TRC will be applying for grant through Freshwater Future for funds on additional testing on the **Black & Paw Paw River E. coli monitoring project**. Board members are currently working with the City of South Haven, Columbia Township and Van Buren County on local ordinances for septic systems. It was noted that success on E coli source was accomplished with trained dogs in some water courses. Dogs were available for \$70.00 an hour.

-Frank Jurenka is working with Berrien County on adopting a county ordinance on septic system point of sale testing. Frank is looking for and/or developing a report on the number of failed septic systems in the county. It was also reported that Branch and Derby Intercounty drain tested high for E coli by the Paw Paw Lake Foundation and County Berrien County Health Department.

**Celery Pond Invasive – Celery Pond Advocates** – The Celery Pond Advocates did not meet their goal of 100% property owner cooperation in order to move forward on the phragmites removal project. A property owner along the Celery Pond did show interest in selling land to the conservancy. Board members suggested a presentation at the March meeting on phragmites specifically targeting property owners and area around the pond. The March TRC meeting/presentation is tentatively scheduled at Lake Michigan College in South Haven.

**Watershed Sign Project** – Frank Jurenka talked to the Van Buren County Road Commissioners on the possibility of putting up the Black and Paw Paw River Watershed signs. The road commissioners have denied similar sign requests in the past and were concerned about liability and maintenance of signs. The commissioners will look into the possibility on sign approval but comments were not positive. Allegan County Road Commission had approved similar signs in the past and would address the possibility at a future meeting.

**Grapes & Grain Festival project recap** – hand-outs provided - Attached  
St. Julian expressed interest in TRC's watersheds display panel used at the event for use at their business as a framed wall display. Dave Foerster suggested that TRC purchase 4-5 display panels for St. Julian's and Paw Paw Brewing Company for their support for TRC and the Grapes & Grain Festival.



**Motion** by Kenneth Nesbitt for TRC to purchase watershed display panels for presentation to St. Julian Winery and Paw Paw Brewing Company for their support of TRC and the Grapes & Grain Festival, 4-5 signs not to exceed \$200.00 – Motion seconded by Sam Ewbank, all in favor, motion carried

**Paw Paw Days Maple Paddle recap – Nesbitt** – Event was well attended, 40+ and is planned again for 2014.

**September 11, 2013 Quarterly Presentation-Meeting** – Nesbitt- TRC will be hosting a presentation by Tara Kneeshaw, Associate Professor of Geology at Grand Valley State University at the September meeting. Professor Kneeshaw will be presenting on the geology of the Black and Paw Paw River Watersheds. The presentation will be at the Paw Paw District Library from 7:00-9:00 p.m., doors open at 6:15. The library requires a \$200 deposit and \$100 fee for staffing after closing time. Board members suggested video recording of presentation for viewing and website: task – Sam Ewbank. The board also authorized the purchase of snacks and drinks for the event.

**Motion** by Sam Ewbank, seconded by Kevin Haight to approve up \$75.00 on for the September 11<sup>th</sup> presentation at the Paw Paw Public Library, all in favor

**Board Vacancy – Discussion** – Board members made several attempts via email, letters and phone calls to contact fellow board member Carl Bouton regarding his lack of attendance at monthly meeting. It was decided to officially remove Carl Bouton as a TRC board member, Roll Call Vote attached.

**Annual Meeting – December 11, 2013** – The board held discussion on possible topics and speakers for TRC's annual meeting on December 11, 2013 at the Van Buren Conference Center, Lawrence. Suggestions: Peter Sinclair on his Greenland project – climate change (first choice/contact) and/or Speaker from Freshwater Future regarding Fracking

### **New Business**

**TRC Transition plan for 2014** – Dave Foerster term as president of TRC will expire at the end of 2013. Additionally, Dave will not be as involved with TRC because of vacation/travel plans. Beyond duties as president Dave was also TRC's website manager. The Board held discussion on possible candidates for president and officers for 2014. It was decided that TRC's Transition Committee would meet to decide on a plan to fill four board member positions and duties.

**Foundry Hall Events** – Sam Ewbank – Discussion was held on TRC sponsoring temporary liquor licenses at the Myrtle Beach Film Festival events in Niles and South for fund raisers. TRC members would staff the sales and TRC would receive the profits from the sales. The first event is at the Ready Theater in Niles on September 14<sup>th</sup> and the seconded event is in South Haven on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Joe Parman and others will staff the September 14<sup>th</sup> event and Sam Ewbank and others with staff September 21<sup>st</sup> event. Sam will be unable to attend the September 14<sup>th</sup> event and will work with on the purchase of alcohol and planning.

**Motion** by Sam Ewbank, seconded by Grant Poole to authorize Sam Ewbank to make application to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) for a Special License and bond for the sale of Beer and Wine for consumption at the Myrtle Beach Film Festival, Ready Theater, Niles MI, September 14, 2013- Amounty \$75.00, all in favor



**Motion** by Sam Ewbank, seconded by Grant Poole to authorize Sam Ewbank to make application and spend \$75.00 to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) for a Special License and bond for the sale of Beer and Wine for consumption at the Myrtle Beach Film Festival, Masonic Lodge, South Haven, MI, September 21, 2013 – Amount of \$75.00, all in favor

**Black River Preserve Paddle** - Cancelled

**Announcements/Events**

- 11-Sept- Geology of the Watersheds – Paw Paw Public Library
- 14-Sept- Myrtle Beach Film Festival – Ready Theater, Niles
- 21-Sept- Myrtle Beach Film Festival – Masonic Lodge, South Haven

Adjourned 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by, Joe Parman, Secretary