



TWO RIVERS COALITION
February 11, 2015 BOARD MEETING
Geneva Township Hall

Call to order: 6:03 PM by

Attendees: Kevin Haight, Colleen Forestieri, Kenneth Nesbitt, Bette Pierman, Dave Foerster, Joe Parman, Grant Poole, Kyle Alexander, Paul Vanden Bosch, (board members underlined)

Agenda – February 11, 2015 agenda approved as amended

Treasurer Report - Kenneth Nesbitt reported that TRC had a \$7,133.00 and \$161.00 in petty cash

New Business

Paul Vanden Bosch – City of South Haven: The City of South Havens is having difficulty dredging the Black River and outlet. The city would like to partner with TRC to help facilitate future dredging activities and possible upstream projects and grants.

Freshwater Future & River Network Memberships – Dave Foerster:

Dave asked the Board on the status of Freshwater Future & River Network Memberships for TRC. Typically, organizations will send a renewal reminder letter. Kenneth, Treasurer will need to check accounts to see if we are up to date with both memberships. Dave reminded the Board that small grants and funding is available from the organizations for programs that TRC is providing.

Motion by Dave Foerster, seconded by Bette Pierman to renew TRC's membership to Freshwater Future and River network for a total of \$200.00, all in favor

Finance Committee – Prior to Board meeting TRC's Finance Committee met to review financial commitments, grants, funding, audit and future planning of the groups finances. Kevin Haight would like to add prior committees deadline/planning list to Google Docs for Board access (check with Joe Parman for copy). Does the Board or Executive Board have access to Michigan's Annual Report and Form 1099 for TRC, Board to confirm? Committee is working on QuickBooks so Board members can track project commitments related to finances and provide a summary report.



Unfinished Business

Stream Monitoring Update, VSMP - Haight

The full grant will be submitted on February 12, 2015 with the Conservation District as applicant and TRC as a partner. The tentative dates for this year's monitoring events are spring, May 3rd and fall, Sept 20th 2015. Date may need to be change because the purchase of equipment and QUAPP are part of the grant.

River Rescue August 1st - Van Buren County Conservation District:

TRC provided a letter of support to the Conservation District for the annual River Recue funded through the Great Lake Commission. In accordance with TRC's bi-laws, a motion and vote via email was approved January 26, 2015: **Motion** by Dave Foerster, seconded by Bette Pierman for TRC to provide a letter of support to the Van Buren Conservation District for the annual River Rescue funded through Great Lakes Commission; 6 votes yes and 0 no, motion carried.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program, RCPP:

St. Joseph River Watershed Conservation Partnership grant proposal was awarded/funded by the U.S. Agriculture Department through the "farm bill". The funding was for \$6.8 million to give farmers public and private financial and technical assistance to access conservation tools that reduce excessive sediment and nutrients in the St. Joseph River and improve wildlife and fish habitat. TRC is a partner in this grant and will support the goals of the grants programs.

New Business

Clean Boats, Clean Waters Volunteer Leader Training program, hosted in Van Buren County for February 12th is cancelled. Cass County MSU Extension is hosting a program on May 23rd.

Bank Account Authorization:

Board members sign paperwork from Chemical Bank authorizing Executive Board members "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. Joe Parman will return paperwork to bank for files.

MDEQ and Great Lakes Commission Grant – Road/Stream Crossing Inventory:

TRC provided a letter of support via email motion and vote, February 8, 2015. Funding will provide training for a volunteer base road/stream crossing program. Volunteers will help build a comprehensive road/stream catalog that will prioritize impairments to fish passage and improve water quality for future improvements in the Paw Paw River Watershed: **Motion** by Bette Pierman, seconded by Frank Jurenka for TRC to provide a letter of support and partnership to the Van Buren County Road Commission for the MDEQ and Great Lakes Commission road/stream crossing inventor volunteer base pilot program, all in favor.



Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program Grants – Kyle Alexander, MDEQ:

The Board held discussion on the Great Lakes Commission funding grants for reducing sediment and nutrients in the Great Lakes Basin. The emphasis for the grants will be the reduction of phosphorus runoff into the Great Lakes. TRC would like to submit a small scale grant with a maximum amount of \$30,000 due by April 24th. Board member will verify sites for stream bank stabilization that will reduce phosphorus along the Paw Paw River for grant submittal.

Speaker/Topics for 2015:

Board held discussion on possible speakers/topics for 2015:

- Hans Kok: No-till farming practices (check to see if Hans has a speaking fee?)
- Harbor Towns, dredging: Educational speaker to address harbor towns spending money on upstream BMP practices instead of dredging Michigan's harbors every year.
- Shoreline Restoration/revisited: Target lake associations and meeting for speakers series involving natural shoreline restoration. Partner with Van Buren Conservation District and Village of Paw Paw. Board members are looking for property owners/locations on Paw Paw Lake for speaking event.
 - Shoreline restoration in relation to quality fisheries/habitat. Target fishing groups, clubs and individuals for possible partnerships and audience.

Motion by Dave Foerster, second by Colleen Forestieri to approve January 11, 2015 minutes as amended, all in favor

Announcements, suggestions, comments:

March 17- Farming for the Future Van Buren CD
March 20- "Hold Your Water" FOTSJR
April 17-19- Tree Seedling Sale
May 3- VSMP
July 22- Maple Lake Workday
September 20-VSMP

Adjourned

Respectively submitted:
Joe Parman, Secretary