



**TWO RIVERS COALITION
FEBRUARY 12, 2014 BOARD MEETING
Geneva Township Hall**

Call to order: 7:07 PM

Attendees: Sam Ewbank, Dave Foerster, Bette Pierman, Chris Bauer, Kenneth Nesbitt, Colleen Forestieri, Joe VonWalde, Julie Pioch (board members underlined)

Introductions: Julie Pioch, Michigan State Extension, Greening MI Institute

Board approved agenda as submitted.

Motion by Bette Pierman, seconded by Colleen Forestieri to approve the January 8, 2014, minutes as submitted, all in favor.

Kenneth Nesbitt reported that we had a \$13,073 balance; \$161.00 in petty cash; had received \$50 from the December Annual Meeting raffle; and \$10 in donations.

Old Business

- **Speaker Series - Invasive Species - Tues., March 11, 2014 – Lake Michigan College South Haven Campus, 7 PM.** As soon as Sam receives the bios for the 2 speakers (1-Brian from Cardno JF New; 1-SWLC rep) he will be working to get fliers and publicity ready. He asked Colleen Forestieri to help get VBCD reps and Chris Bauer to get DEQ reps to attend. Discussed contacting various lake associations in the area and inviting them to attend. Dave Foerster has contact info, but it has been several years and would need to be updated. Bette Pierman suggested that we send invitations to these groups with information on any event that TRC hosts that may be of interest.
- **Watersheds Sign Project Update – Jurenka/Haight/Foerster**
Dave Foerster reported that all is set in Berrien County; Kalamazoo County has been difficult to reach. Chris Bauer reported that that contact had recently retired. We are waiting for a final count and that there is not a price break for the number of signs. Hopefully, signs will be put up this spring. Dave Foerster and Kevin Haight will follow up.
- **Grapes & Grains Festival project proceed allocation – discussion**
The money is set aside for something with that. Dave Foerster, Joe Parman and Matt Meersman are tracking environmental actions on Maple Lake. Add \$5,000 to 319 Project of Village of Paw Paw. Joe Parman and Matt Meersman have more specific ideas for things they can do. This will be a great photo op. Larry Nielson has agreed that TRC will get up front publicity along with St. Julian and Paw Paw Brewing in recognition of the \$5,000 donation for the Maple Lake clean up. Motion by Kenneth Nesbitt and supported by Colleen Forestieri to cut this donation check and to pursue possibility of the event again this year.
- **Board Vacancy – discussion**
We still have a TRC board vacancy for a 3 year term. If we know anyone who may be interested, please invite them (would be good if they were from the Black River Watershed at this time).



*An alliance of the Black River
and Paw Paw River Watersheds*

- New TRC Board Meeting time – 6 PM starting with April Meeting – Joe VonWalde moved to change our board meeting start time beginning with the April meeting to 6 PM (with the approval of Geneva Township), Kenneth Nesbitt supported, approved.
- Strategic Plan – Review
Continued review of the Strategic Plan. Kenneth Nesbitt distributed his detailed suggested revised page of the “TRC – Events Committee Proposed 2014-2-11” page and “Proposed Two Rivers Coalition 2014 Paddle Events”. He has the publicity created and in process for the various events. Grant Poole wants to be involved with communications. Kevin Haight sent an E-mail on January 25, 2014 with details of his desired involvement. All board members should review the Strategic Plan and advise Sam Ewbank of their desired involvement as soon as possible. He will also contact board members and confirm commitments and sign up new board members for their participation interest.

New Business

- Temporary Beer and Wine License – Foundry Hall, Michigan Beer Movie, March 29
Discussed getting a temporary bond license and permit to handle bar for this event. Bette Pierman moved and Joe VonWalde support securing the license/permit while ensuring that tax liability is set aside. Approved.
- Speaker Series – Theme for June Meeting
Looking for suggestions for upcoming TRC programs – for consideration:
 - Septic & sewer – for Sept. meeting
 - Landscaping waterfronts
 - Education on Maple Lake explaining clean-up efforts (could be held on Maple Isle in June)
 - Environmental movies
- Julie Pioch attended the meeting to pick our brains as a focus group for her Leadership and Policy group. She presented information that they were considering and asked what our interest level would be for a proposed leadership program for a community or group around sustainability.

Announcements, suggestions, comments:

- 26-February – Lake Michigan Water Trail – SWMPC at Michigan Works BH, RSVP
- 8-March – MSEF Renewable Energy Workshop – Lake Michigan College, South Haven
- 11-March – Invasive Species Program – Lake Michigan College, South Haven
- 14-March – Friends of SJ – “Don’t Farm Naked” – Sturgis (pre-register online)
- 19-March – VBCD Conference – Cover crops – location TBD
- 29-March – MI Beer Movie – Foundry Hall
- 25-26-April – VBCD Tree Sale
- 17-May – VBCD Native Plant Sale
- 2-Aug – River Rescue

Adjourned: 9:00 PM

Respectively submitted:

Bette Pierman, for Joe Parman

The Two Rivers Coalition is a citizen-based Group working to protect the health of the Black River and Paw Paw River watersheds through conservation education, and advocacy.