



TWO RIVERS COALITION
May 13, 2015 BOARD MEETING
Geneva Township Hall
DRAFT

Call to order: 6:19 p.m.

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

Agenda – March 13, 2015 agenda approved as amended

Motion by Dave Foerster, seconded by Colleen Forestieri to approve April 8, 2015 minutes, all in favor.

Treasurer Report, handout provided - Kenneth Nesbitt reported that TRC had \$7,224.00 in total resources. The Board held discussion on Board access to QuickBooks and if data is backed-up on a regular basis; can Quickbooks/treasurers report show re-occurring monthly and annual cost for TRC? Additional suggestions were made to attach bank statement to Treasurer's Report along with the month meeting minutes.

Additional Motions: Special vote/meeting via email was called by President Kevin Haight on April 22, 2015. **Motion** by Bette Pierman, seconded by Kenneth Nesbitt that TRC commits to provide, in-kind resources totaling \$900 over the 3 years of the Great Lakes Commission Grant submitted by the Van Buren Conservation District, all in favor, motion carried. The project will provide cost share to farmers willing to implement BMP's to reduce phosphorus and sediment loading in 3 sub-watersheds of the PPR, Brandywine, Hog Creek and Mill Creek.

Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program, VSMP – The events scheduled for May 3rd & 4th was well attended with six team leaders having 4-7 volunteer's each. The May 4th event had Cub Scouts help with the macroinvertebrate identification. TRC members along with the Van Buren Conservation District staff will finish with the cataloging of macroinvertebrates and information will be available to the public soon.

Watershed signs - Checking with Berrien County Road Commissioner to see how TRC's watershed signs held up over winter.

Earth Day Event – Report by Bette Peirman – Event was well attended and Bette answered several question on TRC and programs.



New Business

Spring Presentation: May 28th, 6:30 – Julia Kirkwood, MDEQ – Restoring and Protection Inland Lakes with Natural Shorelines. VBISD Technology Center, Lawrence, MI; across the street from our usual venues (Conference Center). Board will have signs out by road directing people to the event location to reduce confusion. Kevin & Bette will send out press release and information to lake associations. Kevin will post info on Facebook and Joe Parman will put event flyer on website. Board members will be there at 6:00 p.m. for sign and event set-up.

Paw Paw River Paddle - May 30 TRC will host a paddle trip on the Paw Paw River on Saturday morning, meet at 10:00 a.m., group paddle begins at 11:00 a.m., May 30th. Participants will paddle from Hayes Park in Watervliet along three meandering miles of wooded floodplain corridor to Coloma and exit at Paw Paw Lake Road approximately at 1:00 p.m.. Kenneth Nesbitt will be the contact person for paddle event.

Marcy Colclough – Regional Conservation Partnership Program, RCPP Grant -

The goal of Marcy's talk was to define the program and TRC's role. The grant was for 6.8 million over 5 years through NRCS and Conservation Districts for programs such as; EQIP, CSP, ACEP to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. The program will promote conservation activities for landowners, and efforts with producers to increase the restoration and sustainable use of soil, water, wildlife and related natural resources. TRC will be able to use the macroinvertebrate program, educational outreach, etc...for match on the grant. In addition, TRC can help promote a unified message on the program to the ST. Joe River Watershed. The next step for the program will be to set-up a ranking process for projects that will have the most impact/benefit and a marketing campaign to get the message out.

Paul Vandenbosch – City of South Haven, Black River Park Project, handouts provided of project site plan: The city received a grant to install a handicap accessible boat dock/launch at their Black River Park. The site is for canoes and kayaks to access the Black River.

Quarterly Speakers/Topic: Grant Poole made contact with EPA for possible quarterly speaker for pipelines going through Michigan and community preparedness for possible disasters/leaks. Kevin is also contacting the Sierra Club for possible speaker on same issue.

Board held discussion on bill in the House preventing FOIA request to gas & oil companies; further information to follow.

Announcements, suggestions, comments:

June 18 - Army Corp – Stakeholders Meeting – Michigan Harbors – Grand Haven?

July 22- Maple Lake Workday

September 20-VSMP

December 9 – TRC Annual Meeting – VB Conference Center

Adjourned 8:05 p.m.

Respectively submitted by: Joe Parman, Secretary