



TWO RIVERS COALITION
June 10, 2015 BOARD MEETING
Geneva Township Hall
Draft

Call to order: 6:05 p.m.

Attendees: Kevin Haight, Kenneth Nesbitt, Bette Pierman, Grant Poole, Frank Jurenka, Joe von Wahlde, Joe Parman, Dave Foerster, Paul Vanden Bosch, Dave Sons, Casey Sons, Alysea Wilson, Kyle Alexander, Chara Viktora (board members underlined)

Agenda – June 10, 2015 agenda approved as amended

Motion by Dave Foerster, seconded by Bette Pierman to approve May 13, 2015 minutes, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report, handout provided - Kenneth Nesbitt reported that TRC had \$7,224.00 in total resources and \$8,440.00 in cash commitments for 2015.

Motion by Bette Pierman, seconded by Joe Parman to approve June 2015 Treasurer's Report.

TRC Partner Grants Funded 2015: Does include RCPP Grant

Paw Paw River and Black River Watershed Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program

Grantee: Van Buren Conservation District

Title: Paw Paw River and Black River Watershed Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program

Watershed(s): Paw Paw River, Black River

Funding Amount: \$11,000

Contact: AJ Brucks, Ph: 269-657-4030, alison.brucks@mi.nacdn.net

Project Duration: 2015-2017

The Van Buren Conservation District seeks to expand its monitoring program to add six to eight new sites in the Paw Paw River and Black River watersheds in Van Buren County while educating residents about water quality and the importance of healthy habitat.

Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP) - Coming soon!

Paw Paw River Watershed Road Stream Crossing Inventory

Grantee: Van Buren County Road Commission

Title: Paw Paw River Watershed Road Stream Crossing Inventory

Watershed(s): Paw Paw River

Funding Amount: \$8,500

Contact: Larry Hummel, Ph: 269-674-8011, larryhummel@vbcrc.org

Project Duration: 2015-2016

The Van Buren County Road Commission seeks to conduct a road/stream crossing inventory of the Paw Paw River watershed in Van Buren County to assist with prioritizing road fixes that will reduce flooding and erosion and improve the physical and biological conditions of the river to reflect natural conditions.

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.



PPR/Ox Creek with MDEQ Grant, \$600,000 – Marcy Colclough: TRC Match of \$3,000 a year for three years totaling \$9,000. SWMLC and a partnership of regional conservation organizations have been awarded a three-year \$600,000 Michigan Department of Environmental Quality grant for its “Paw Paw Priority Wetland/Riparian Conservation Project”. This award will enable SWMLC and partners to permanently conserve 700 acres of highest priority conservation areas in the Paw Paw River Watershed (PPRW), develop urban best management practices for a targeted non-point pollution sources in the PPRW’s Ox Creek sub-watershed, and work to initiate agricultural best management practices with agricultural landowners in the Ox Creek sub-watershed.

With the award, SWMLC will have the opportunity to protect over six miles of frontage along the Paw Paw River, two miles of additional frontage along tributary streams and lakes, and 300 acres of critical wetlands. The Paw Paw River Watershed is recognized by multiple State of Michigan departments as one of the most ecologically diverse areas in all of Southern Michigan. The watershed has been a high priority for SWMLC since its inception in 1991, and features at least 50 known state- listed plant and animal species as well as three Federally endangered species.

The project partnership includes SWMLC, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, Sarett Nature Center, Two Rivers Coalition, Berrien Conservation District and several private landowners and “conservation investors”.

Board held discussion on possible fundraising ideas for future grant money cash matches.

T.O.S.T – Frank Jurenka – Berrien County has a committee for ordinance on T.O.S.T. for septic system inspections when purchasing a home. Health Department had a draft ordinance from Shiawassee County for reference.

Watershed signs – Kevin talked to Berrien County Road Commission Director and he said that there were no issue with the signs over winter. Kalamazoo County Road Commission will need an application from TRC for an exemption to their sign policy in order to put up the watershed signs.

Mitchell Park, Bloomingdale – TRC commitment – Previously TRC had committed \$500 to the Jeff Mitchell Park for a possible rain garden and/or LID. Road Commission finished project and possible rain garden installing is no longer a possibility.

Motion by Kenneth Nesbitt, seconded by Grant Poole to remove TRC’s commitment of \$500 for Jeff Mitchell Park off of a budget allocations, committed funds, all in favor, motion carries

Celery Pond TRC Commitment – Celery Pond Advocates are putting phragmites removal project on hold; not all property owners were on board for project.

Motion by Frank Jurenka, seconded by Dave Forester to remove TRC’s commitment of \$2,000 for Celery Pond Project off of a budget allocations, committed funds, all in favor, motion carries



New Business

Quarterly Speakers/Topic: Next speaker - Beth Wallace, Sierra Club – Kalamazoo River Oil Spill and Pipeline Safety, 5 year anniversary of spill: Tentative dates for event, September 17th, 29th or 30th.

Presentation by Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan, Chara Viktora – Discussion: Whether TRC should endorse/support petition. TRC, being a 501 (c) (3) organization cannot campaign, as a substantial part of organizations focus for any one candidate or issues. Board heard presentation and ask question regarding fracking issues in Michigan. Board wanted link to organization put on TRC website and Facebook page.

Ackley Lake Association, Dave & Casey Sons – Association presentation opposing the Village of Paw Paw's Maple Lake drawdown application to MDEQ. Board heard presentation, was presented a PowerPoint presentation and asked question concerning the drawdown. Ackley Lake Association ask TRC to make a motion and letter of support for their position opposing the Maple Lake drawdown MDEQ permit. Board felt that they did not have enough information at this meeting to immediately propose a motion and letter of support.

Announcements, suggestions, comments:

July 22- Maple Lake Workday

September 20-VSMP

December 9 – TRC Annual Meeting – VB Conference Center

Adjourned 8:32 p.m.

Respectively submitted by: Joe Parman, Secretary