



TWO RIVERS COALITION
September 9, 2015 BOARD MEETING
Geneva Township Hall

Call to order: 6:12 p.m.

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

Agenda – September 9, 2015 agenda approved as amended

Motion by Dave Foerster, seconded by Kevin Haight to approve August 12, 2015 minutes, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report, handout provided - Kenneth Nesbitt reported that TRC had \$7,607.00 in total resources and \$8,440.00, \$100 membership donation by Pokagon Band for September.

Old Business

(A) Report on Film Festival Beer Sale Event – Dave: 50 + people attended the event. \$300 payment to TRC from On Base Production for co-sponsoring the event. TRC also received a credit an advertisement before film screenings. On Base Production offered to produce film for TRC's participation in the Ox Creek/Paw Paw River Grant.

(B) Invasive Species Event, LMC – Bette & Kenneth: 25-30 attendees. Event was sponsored by the Allegan County Conservation District. Guest speakers included Nate Fuller & Justin Burchett. The Conservation District received a grant to address and educate property owner on phragmites, invasive plant in Michigan.

(C) Funded Grants:

1. **VSMP with VBCD** – Kevin Haight & AJ Brucks meet with Paul Steen form the Huron Watershed Council on the VSMP to do a side-by-side field test on proper stream monitoring techniques, collection areas and training.
2. **Stream Crossing Inventory with VBCRC** – Road Commission will need to finalize and sign grant agreement before moving forward with program.
3. **PPR/Ox Creek** – SWMLC & SWMPC: TRC Board member attended meeting with Marcy Colclough, SWMPC and Nancy Carpenter, Berrien County Conservation District on August 25th to discuss TRC's roll in the new grant program. Board members discussed possible educational events TRC could sponsor: Quarterly speaker in February, BMP farm practices, Wightman & Associates rain garden parking lot conversion.



New Business

- (A) Pass through/sponsor** for payment from WMU's Office of Sustainability to Peter Bane for Van-Kal Permaculture event. The event will be held on September 26th at WMU's Gibes House. The event starts at 9:00 a.m. and continues through the evening. The Board approved the pass through sponsorship of a \$300 donation to Peter Bane, guest speaker.
- (B) TRC Quarterly Speaking Event – September 30th** at the VB Conference Center, 7:00 p.m., Guest speaker will be Beth Wallace – 5 years after Kalamazoo River Oil Spill and Pipeline Safety.
- (C) VSMP Fall Collection** – Sunday October 4th, 9:00 a.m. at Village of Lawrence Park. Need commitments from team leaders and more volunteers for sampling sites.
- (D) Black River Preserve Dedication/Paddle Event**, September 19th, Geneva Twp.: 10:00 a.m. dedication, 12:00 p.m. picnic followed by an afternoon paddle.
- (E) Celery Pond** – Request for letter of support: Celery Pond Advocates requested that TRC send letter of support of previous commitment of \$2,000 for removal of phragmites in celery pond. Board previously removed \$2,000 commitment from the budget due to projects lack of activity. The Board would like to see new data on phragmites in pond along with a new plan of action for removal.
- (F) Annual Meeting, December 9th**: Van Buren Conference Center is reserved. Board held discussion on possible guest speakers and topics for annual meeting. The Board will be working on contacting possible speaker for commit to meeting over the next month or two. Elections and Board terms limits will be addressed prior to annual meeting.
- (G) Petition to Ban Fracking**: State Petition and signatures due November 11th. Information and links will be added to TRC website.

Announcements, suggestions, comments:

September 30 – Quarterly Speaker Event, 7:00 p.m., Van Buren Conference Center
October 4 –VSMP Fall Collection, Village of Lawrence PP River Park
December 9 – TRC Annual Meeting – VB Conference Center

Adjourned 8:17 p.m.

Respectively submitted by: Joe Parman, Secretary