

April 13, 2017

Attendance: Betty Pierman, Sam Eubank, Kevin Haight, Kayak Kenneth, Kyle Boone, Paul Vanden Bosch, and Joe von Wahlde

Meeting called to Order at 6:09pm

1. Introduction of Attendees
2. Review of Announcements
 - a. April 14 VBCD Tree Sale – no additional comments
 - b. April 20 Birding Hike at BRP
 - c. April 22 Earth Day Event at Paw Paw Library – Sam will be bring Tri-fold. If anyone wants to help, it is being held from 10am-1pm.
 - d. April 26 PPRWT Meeting at Coloma Township Hall 9am
 - e. April 29 Climate March local activities – not sure of all activities at this time.
 - f. April 29 Van Buren Indivisible Bash – Kevin will take tri-fold. Located at Van Buren Youth Camp. Details on the website: Van Buren 4 All.com. The event is free. The schedule is from 2pm-5pm inside (presentations), then 5pm-10pm outside (bonfire)
 - g. May 7 VSMP Macro collection event 9am Lawrence
 - h. May 8 VSMP Macro ID VBCD office 1:30pm
 - i. May 8-11 River Rally in Grand Rapids. Kevin will be there on Wednesday, Tuesday and Thursday are available for someone to attend. Email Kevin if you are interested in going.
 - j. May 18 PPR Paddle Event. Start at Graham Avenue and paddle to Stevens Street and then paddle back. Meet at 2:30pm at Graham Avenue. Leave in kayaks at 3pm.
 - k. May 20 Portman Preserve Boardwalk presentation at 9am. Self-guided tours 9am-3pm.
 - l. June 21 Wetland Field Day with BCCD in the evening. Matt Meersman will be speaking. Nancy Carpenter will try to get someone to speak about restoration for petroleum. TRC will publicize. Betty Pierman plans on attending.
 - m. June 24 Work Day at Portman Preserve.
 - n. July 21 – Cardno Native Plant Nursery Open House – Joe von Wahlde brought in announcement cards to hand out at events advertising the event.
 - o. October 1 VSMP Fall Macro Collection
 - p. October 14 Grand Opening of Portman Preserve with Black River Preserve and TRC.
 - q. December 13 TRC Annual Meeting
3. Treasurer's Report
 - a. No activity in April so the Treasurer Report was the same as March. No quorum at March Meeting so we will review March report.
 - b. Contributions: \$55 and \$2 for PayPal
 - c. In Memoriam contributions: \$250, however this amount went into a different account controlled by Dave Foerster. So Kevin will talk to Dave to get the funds placed in the correct area.
 - d. Additional \$500 of charges still coming in April.

- e. Kevin Haight made a motion to continue our Annual Dues in River Network and Freshwater Future at a NTE amount of \$300. Betty seconded the motion. Discussion was in favor of passing the motion. All were in the favor of the motion. Motion passed.
 - f. Sam Ewbank motioned to approve the Treasurer's Reports from March and April. Kevin Haight seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor. Motion passed.
4. Old Business
- a. May 8-11 River Rally in Grand Rapids. Kevin will be there on Wednesday, Tuesday and Thursday are available for someone to attend. Email Kevin if you are interested in going. Event held at Amway Grand.
 - b. Ox Creek. Kevin Haight met with Marcy Hamilton and Nancy Carpenter. Clean-up in July is tentative.
 - i. The easements that were acquired along the PPR were estimated at higher value than expected so there may not be a need for TRC's donation of \$9K to the grant. This will be confirmed once the grant is completed.
 - ii. TRC has no deliverables for the grant, but will help Nancy Carpenter with her deliverables.
 - iii. Kenneth asked if the reason for Pint Night should be still to raise funds for Ox Creek? Kevin thinks that the funding purpose for Pint Night should be changed to fund raising for TRC.
 - iv. Betty asked if TRC publicizing will be seen as satisfying our commitment to the grant. Kevin stated that TRC never pledged in-kind commitment.
 - c. VSMP
 - i. Team Leaders: Joe von Wahlde, Sam Ewbank, Paul Vanden Bosch. Kevin will not be there. Betty is possible.
 - d. PPRWT
 - i. High water levels this winter has prohibited much activity on the river. There was only one trip conducted in the Spring.
 - ii. Marcy needs to get progress this summer due to lack progress so far.
 - iii. No progress with Larry Hummel
 - iv. Kevin contacted Dan Faulkner – Lawrence. Dan Faulkner also wants to contact Larry Hummel and may have better luck.
 - e. May 18 PPR Paddle Event. Start at Graham Avenue and paddle to Stevens Street and then paddle back. Meet at 2:30pm at Graham Avenue. Leave in kayaks at 3pm.
 - f. T-Shirts. Contact with PJ. Once Sam has the design, he will provide the design to the Board for review.
5. New Business
- a. Village of Paw Paw Proposed Waterfront Overlay District
 - i. Includes properties within 100 feet of waterfront
 - ii. Designed to regulate new construction.
 - 1. No more than 35% impervious allowed
 - 2. 15 foot vegetated buffer
 - 3. 20 foot openings allowed to access waterfront
 - 4. It will be a zoning ordinance

5. Public Hearing on 6/1 at Paw Paw District Library 7pm.
 - iii. Kevin will provide more information at May Board meeting, then we can vote whether TRC will support.
- b. Dave Sons would like to present at May Board Meeting
 - i. Dave lives on Ackley Lake and opposed to the drawdowns on Maple Lake
 - ii. He would like TRC support
- c. Nestle Application to withdraw water
 - i. Mindy and Kevin Haight, and Grant Poole attended the public hearing
 - ii. Original permit for 150 million gal/min, now they are requesting 450 million gals/min.
 - iii. Capacity of room was 650 people and it was full
 - iv. MDEQ will receive comments until 4/21
 - v. Grant Poole is preparing a letter on behalf of the Pokagon Band based on scientific data that the recharge area is less than the extraction volume.
 - vi. After Grant finishes his letter, TRC would like to review and draft a letter also.
 - vii. MLIVE completed a FOIA which indicated that local wetlands have a hydraulic connection to aquifers in the area.
 - viii. The group Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation was present at the hearing.
- d. E. Coli Project
 - i. Betty, Kenneth, and Kevin showed up to the presentation by Molly Ripke
 - ii. Kevin would like to explore doing an E. Coli volunteer project in tributaries of Black River.
 - iii. TRC probably does not have enough funds or volunteers to do an MDEQ based study on all tributaries
 - iv. Kevin suggests TRC does our own study where we do not take as many samples, so lower cost for testing. Once we have targeted tributaries that require more study, we can start up MDEQ based sampling.
 - v. Paul Vanden Bosch stated that testing has been done in the Black River. The E. Coli levels may change from day to day due to weather. He suggested that sampling locations should be plotted in GIS.
 - vi. A possible way to get funding for the studies would be through a Go Fund Me page.
 - vii. Kenneth suggested that the Village of Paw Paw and Lawrence may be good partners for this study.
 - viii. Looking at July/August/September for sampling, we need to look for volunteers.
 - ix. Kevin estimates \$1000/year for sampling effort. Paul is willing to volunteer.
 - x. Kevin will bring the subject up again at the May meeting.
- e. T-Shirts
 - i. Paul made a motion for approval of \$250 for t-shirt design costs. Betty seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor.
- f. Annual Meeting Speaker
 - i. Possible speakers
 1. Tree Pathology – Dave Roberts

2. Dave Misfud – Turtle Dave - Joe and Betty thought he would be a good speaker for a quarterly meeting, but maybe not for the annual meeting.
3. Joe suggested a presentation by a member of the Pokagon Band
4. Betty suggested a historical presentation by a member of the Pokagon Band
 - a. Kevin thought maybe a historical presentation of the two rivers would be good.
5. Kenneth suggested a Professor who lives in Decatur.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm