

Two Rivers Coalition
May Board Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2017

Attendance: Kevin Haight, Bette Pierman, Dave Foerster, Paul VanderBosch, Kenneth Nesbit and Colleen Forestieri

1. Meeting called to order at 6:07 pm
2. Minutes from May's meeting were approved. Bette approved, Paul Seconds.
 - a. Minutes from March and possibly February have not been approved. They are all on the website.
3. Announcements:
 - June 21- Wetland Field Day with BCCD in evening
 - June 24- Workday at Portman Preserve
 - June 27 –VBCD “Keeping it Rural” 6-8 pm at VBCC
 - June 28 – “Tapped” Sierra Club movie re bottled water industry at Portage Library 6:30
 - July 13 – MSEF-SH Speaker re decommissioning nuclear power plants
 - July 21- Cardno Native Plant Nursery open house/field trip
 - July 27- VBCD annual picnic (37360 52nd Ave. Paw Paw) 6-8:30
 - Aug 5- River Rescue
 - Oct 1- Fall macro collection, I.D. on Oct. 2
 - Oct. 14- joint paddle on Black River w/SWMLC and B/SHHWTA
 - Oct. 14- Grand Opening for Portman Preserve
 - Dec 13- TRC 9th Annual Meeting
4. Treasurer's Report: Paypal @\$400 Checking @\$12,000
 - a. In Memoriam contributions: \$250, From Eureka (Dave Foerster) was replaced. Discussion on giving Dave a donation receipt for taxes.
 - b. 2 deposits of \$50 we made.
 - c. Pint Night: \$135 total and \$45 from paypal (raffle). \$180 total
5. Old Business

A] E.coli monitoring – Kevin is proposing TRC take a broad approach and help grab baseline samples this year. Looking to take samples twice/year from about 25 sites (main tributaries). Dave motions to reserve \$1,000 for testing baseline data for E.coli in the Paw Paw and Black river watersheds. Paul seconds. All members agree to pass the motion.

B] PPR/Ox Creek with SWMLC and SWMPC- Kevin met with Pete Terlow of SWMLC and explained the “original agreement” TRC had with Geoff Crippe on the project. Telling Pete that TRC had originally put up the \$9,000 know that it most likely would not be needed (something about needing the 9K to be awarded the grant, but because the land value being appraised higher, they most likely will not need the money). Pete thought TRC should still offer some contribution to this grant. TRC will offer the earnings from the 2016 pint night (over \$1,000) plus whatever they need at the end of the grant. Discussion on keeping \$9K in reserves, just in case we have to pay the full amount originally contributed for the grant.

C] In memoriam donations page now up and running? Dave said not one check it. Keven claims it works when he looked at it. More discussion on website. Chairman's blog is old and new content needs to be put up.

D] Paw Paw River Water Trail (PPRWT) – Marcy hired 4 contractor for summer work. Discussion on citizen paddlers being disappointed with the low water levels and difficulty of the newly cleared parts of the river. A section of the river, near the village of Coloma, has earth moved into the river. Not clear who is in violation of earth movement. DEQ has been informed.

E] Waterfront Overlay District- TRC submitted a letter of support. Kevin attended the June 1 public hearing. Outraged property owners showed up to share how upsetting the idea is and how much frontage they will lose. No one was really in favor of this ordinance. The village tabled the discussion until the next meeting.

F] VBCD has asked TRC for continued support on the CISMA grant. Bette motioned to offer a letter of continued support, when needed, for the CISMA grant.

6. New Business

A] Updating the PPRW Management Plan – Marcy has reached out to TRC about doing drive-by site visits to see if land management has changed and what improvements have been made. Discussion on using DEQ's report to see where improvement need to be made and see if those are areas of concern for the new management plan.

B] Line 5 shutdown campaign - Kevin is proposing to write a letter of support to shut down the pipeline under the Mackinaw Island Bridge. Dave supported this motion and Paul seconded.

C] Sam report re T-shirt progress? Sam missed the meeting.

D] Consider adding Kyle Boone to open board member seat – The board has agreed to appoint Kyle to be a board member. They will see if he is interested at the next meeting. Kyle missed the meeting.

E] Maple Lake Drawdown/Sediment Issue - After hearing the Son's Presentation at the May meeting on the potential dangers of lake drawdown on increased sedimentation and contamination downstream of Maple Lake, the board ask Kevin to talk with Paw Paw's Village Manager Larry Neilson on the measures the Village or DEQ has taken to address contamination and sedimentation. Larry responded that the village has done the bare minimum in sediment testing. TRC is interested in approaching the village on additional environmental testing (or seeing evidence, if already done in the last few years) and sedimentation testing with the next drawdown. The Son's requested a letter from TRC in opposition of the next Lake Drawdown. TRC is preparing to take a position to request more testing to ensure the health of the river and residence are being protected with this current lake drawdown approach. No motions have been approved.

F] Need a speaker for the annual meeting

Dog sniffers

Turtle Dave

The couple that kayaked the great lakes.

Sierra Club projects.

Meeting adjourned 7:58 pm

Notes taken by Colleen Forestieri