



*An alliance of the Black River
and Paw Paw River Watersheds*

**Board Meeting Minutes
Geneva Twp. Hall
Tuesday June 18, 2019 6:00 p.m.**

Call to order: 6:05 pm

Attendance: Kevin Haight, Kenneth Nesbitt, Kyle Boone, Joe Parman and Colleen Forestieri, Dave Foerster (board members underlined)

Motion by Colleen, seconded by Kyle to approve April 16, 2019 minutes, all in favor. Motion carries.

Treasurer's Report, Nesbitt: \$13,300 in resources available, \$1,156 in contribution to date and \$900 in Paypal account.

Announcements, events, deadlines, etc.: Board discussion of...

Wed. July 24 – Van Buren Conservation District Annual Meeting Picnic

Fri. July 26 - Cardno JF New Open House, nursery, Walkerton, IN

Sun. July 28- Prairie Fen Paddle Trip w/ MNA; 9-12 and 1-4 p.m., RSVP Kevin Haight

Sat Aug. 3- PPR Poker Paddle with Hartford Fire Dept.

Sat Aug 10 – Nor from CISMA: Paddle with a Naturalist, Watervliet to Coloma, 11:00 am

Sat. Aug 24 – Ox Creek clean-up

Sat Sept 7- Mich Sea Grant/CISMA paddle workshop on AIS

Thur. Sept 12 – Healthy Home Fair

Sat Sept 14- Black River Paddle

Sun Oct. 6-Fall Macro collection, ID on Monday Oct. 7

Thur Nov 7- TRC Annual Meeting: Keynote by Ryan Postema of COL, Evolution of SW Mi river ecosystems

Old Business

Report from Pierman - Sierra Club, BCCD, and/or MSEF: Bette was not present at meeting but provided an update via email, **attached**.

On-going grant projects: PPR Riparian/Ox Creek, CISMA, Mill/Pine Creeks 319.

CISMA: Saturday, September 7 (Graham Ave BH) series of naturalist paddles being planned; Aquatic Invasive Species paddle workshop.

Mill/Pine Creek 319 Grant: VBCD grant with ND ending soon. VBCD looking to write another grant expanding on the Notre Dame grant. Water control structures on tile lines are showing 50% reduction in E. coli.

Membership Renewals – Freshwater Future, \$100 and River Network, \$150

Motion by Dave Forester, second by Colleen Forestieri to renew TRC's memberships to River Network and Freshwater Future for a total of \$250, all in favor, motion carries.



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New grant projects: PPR/BR Watershed Management Plans Update, Ox Creek 319,

Watershed Plan Updates: Agricultural field survey of summer tillage practices in PPR S. Branch and Mill Creek in July 2019.

E. coli testing project: TRC received \$2,500 grant from VBCD to help fund a 3rd year of E. coli testing. Estimated total costs for Summer wet/dry sampling is \$3,500. Kevin will need help on Black River sampling collection.

Non grant projects: VSMP, PPRWT, River Rescue, TRC Paddles

PPRWT: June 25th is the next trail meeting. Mary Hamilton, SWMPC secured final funding for maintenance. Waverly Twp. contributed \$500 and Paw Paw Twp. paid the rest of monies, \$3,500.

VSMP: No update currently

TRC Paddles: See Announcements for dates.

PPR National Wild and Scenic River status- Kyle: No update currently

New Business

Paw Paw River Poker Paddle fundraiser w/ Hartford Fire Dept- tentatively scheduled for Sat Aug. 3; Kevin has scouted sites w/Mike Chappell and Kevin McGrew of HFD. Complicated to get license from state lottery commission for “poker game”. May just give trophies for winning hands. Take-out will be at Sportsman’s Club and food etc. will be inside.

Marcy, SWMPC has suggested adopting a neglected rain garden in Watervliet as a project. Board held discussion on adopting a neglected rain garden. Possible locations: Watervliet, Bangor or Paw Paw District Library.

***Formal Board meeting in July**

Adjourn 7:42 pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Joe Parman, TRC Secretary

Attachment



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Bette Pierman, email update 6-17-19

Hello, All,

Here are a few additions to the agenda. I will not be able to attend tomorrow's meeting but wanted you all to have my report.

I have been meeting with the Marcy Hamilton and the Ox Creek Clean Up Coordination Committee consisting of members from The Interfaith Action Committee, the BH Sunrise Rotary and TRC. This group is very enthusiastic about tackling this project. A clean up date has been scheduled for Saturday, August 24 details TBD. This AM the committee went out and scouted various areas of Ox Creek that will be targeted for Clean-up:

--Territorial north to the bike path and over the bridge off North Shore

--Territorial south to Main and then to Highland

--Hall Park

--Road crossing at Britain Ave.

--Road crossing at Empire Ave.

(--There may also be something scheduled in the Meijers/Mall area)

The Clean Up Site Hub will be Hall Park.

Discussions with Whirlpool and Lakeland Hospital have garnered interest in recruiting volunteers for this clean up, and it looks like we could have a possible thirty volunteers plus. These would be divided between the sites as predetermined need and each committee member would lead a group.

More details still need to be worked out, but the committee is enthusiastic and ready to go. One member in particular is "enthusiastic" about getting people in kayaks out on the creek for this cleanup, but Marcy and I have been trying to discourage this as there are no easy entrance/exits on the water or for removing trash once on the water; and water contamination could be an issue in some areas. This is not a good area for inexperienced people getting on the water in kayaks. There is more than enough to keep everyone busy just with the shore/bank pick up on all the locations identified above. I will be reporting more to all of you as it is finalized. Please mark your calendars if you are available to volunteer as a representative of TRC.

As I stated earlier, I am interested in TRC sponsoring or co-sponsoring a program on Oak Wilt. AJ and Nancy Carpenter have been in discussion about possibly scheduling 3 programs in three counties. Nancy was supposed to be contacting the presenter to see if he would be willing to do multiple programs over a couple days, and I have not heard a status on that yet. Oak Wilt is a serious problem in the state. I have seen this program twice and it is very good and informative. It is especially important for all people to attend who are trimming or hiring people to trim/remove trees on their property. As soon as I know finalized details, I will let you know.

Also, I still need to contact the Sierra Club person regarding the CAFO documentaries. I believe there may be a new one. Since people expressed an interest in TRC doing this program again when we had it last winter, I would like to explore getting something scheduled at LMC in South Haven or in Lawrence again and publicize it well. The documentaries appeared to be of special interest to small farmers in the area who were in attendance and expressed having this program again.



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This past week, I also sent out a link to a documentary "The Forever Chemicals" from <http://www.greatlakesnow.org> that I felt was important information on PFAS and a topic we may want to pursue in the future.

Also, as I have been doing the Alliance for the Great Lakes Clean Up the last few years at Jean Klock Park, we have been seeing more and more small plastic beads appearing in the sand. Microplastics is a major problem in the Great Lakes water basin. On the link above, there is also a report regarding a study being done in Ontario by filtering microplastics from washing machines. The microplastic issue may be something that TRC would like to pursue and study what may be occurring in our watersheds.

You can learn about upcoming events that the local Sierra Club is doing at <http://www.swmgsierra.org> and check out their events page and calendar.

Finally, I attended an Entergy/Palisades Open House last Thursday. It was the usual "feel good look at all of the wonderful things we are doing for the community presentation, and oh, by the way, we had these issues the first of the year on Jan 3 and Jan 11 that caused shut downs, we have resolved and all is well." This meeting was the day that many photos were being published about the destruction occurring on the Lake Michigan shoreline with the high water and the erosion. So, I asked the question about what kind of erosion were they seeing in front of Palisades. They reported that the lake was currently 580'6" and the flood plain is 594 feet so there is still a lot of margin. In 1996 they had 30 feet of beach; they have 10 feet of beach now.

If I have forgotten anything, I will send it to all later.

Thanks,
Bette