



TWO RIVERS COALITION
March 9, 2016 BOARD MEETING
Acapulco Restaurant, Lawrence, MI

Call to order: 5:10 PM

Attendees: Kevin Haight, Kenneth Nesbitt, Bette Pierman, Joe Parman, Grant Poole, Sam Ewbank, Tamara Lipsey (board members underlined)

Agenda – March 9, 2016 agenda approved as amended

Motion by Joe Parman, seconded by Sam Ewbank to approve January 13, 2015 and February 10, 2016 minutes as amended, all in favor, motion carried.

February 2016 Treasurer Report, hand-out provided: Kenneth Nesbitt reported that TRC had \$8,481.00 in Total Resources.

Motion by Sam Ewbank, seconded by Bette Pierman to approve February 2016 Treasurer's Report, all in favor, motion carried.

Announcements, events, deadlines, etc.:

Jan-Apr WMU Honors College Wed Noon Water lecture series

Mar 14- Volunteer recognition event

Mar 17- Farming for the Future Van Buren CD

Mar 18- FotSJR Annual Meeting-carpool?

Mar 29- MWEA meeting in E. Lansing: Joe P. to present

Mar 31- training session for stream crossing inventory

Apr 13- TRC Board meeting

May 1 - Spring VSMP collection event

May 5- Community Pint Night at The Livery

Oct 2 - Fall VSMP collection event

Old Business

Volunteer recognition/recruitment event with VBCD will be held on March 9, 2016 from 6-8 p.m. at the Old Town Hall in Lawrence. Volunteer recognition for everyone in 2015 and upcoming opportunities in 2016 announced.

VSMP Collection Event: TRC & VBCD collection event will be held on May 1, 2016, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Lawrence River Park, Lawrence, MI. Volunteers are needed to help collect insects in local waterways. Volunteers have the opportunity to be a "Collector" and wear waders to go into the water to collect insects.



Stream crossing inventory with VBRC- need to pick practice/training sites; training for volunteers March 31st with Patrick Ertel of MDEQ.- NEED volunteer team leaders.

PPR/Ox Creek with SWMLC and SWMPC: Kevin Haight attended meeting at Sarett on 2/12 discussion future fundraisers and community awareness for project. Community Pint Night at The Livery May 5th 5-8 p.m. Board held discussion on possible paddle event beforehand? Wightman will move-up time table for parking lot rain garden and are doing a study on storm runoff from Benton Harbor Mall as part of PPR/Ox Creek grant project.

Board is considering sponsoring a short film on Ox Creek grant and projects for public awareness and education.

Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area, CISMA: Kevin Haight, TRC and AJ Brucks participated in a phone conference for the partners on the Southwest Michigan CISMA grant. Discussion was held on about invasive species awareness, education and eradication programs.

Board held discussion on website updates and uploading prior presentations/PowerPoint to site. Kevin Haight and Joe Parman will work on uploads and updates.

Berrien County Parks grant request for DNR NRTF letter of support from TRC Board: Grant is for Hayes Park in Watervliet for walking bridge to island and trails. Board will review emails sent out on grant project proposal and vote via email before March 18th for possible letter of support.

Board held discussion on Board members to attend Michigan Water Environment Watershed Summit in E. Lansing Mar. 29th and pay registration fee of \$25.00. Board member, Joe Parman will be presenting at conference.

Motion by Kenneth Nesbitt, seconded by Kevin Haight to approve Board member Sam Ewbank to attend MWEA Watershed Summit in Lansing, MI on March 29th and pay registration fee of \$25.00, all in favor, motion carried.

Quarterly TRC speaker events and ideas for 2016: Board held discussion on speaker events and topics for 2016.

- a) Possible event would be a field trip to Cardno's Native Plant Nursery in Walkerton, Indiana. Possible trip in July but June/August may be available. Board members will check on cost of bus rental and lunch.
- b) MDN Parks, Michael Weaver: Strategic Planning
- c) Peter Bane: Another perma-culture topic?
- d) MDNR Fisheries: Concerns on Fish Farms, water quality contamination?
- e) Peter Annin: Great Lakes water diversion controversy?

Kevin Haight reported on a review of TRC By-Laws Article IX Liability. Since Article IX Section B of the TRC By-Laws references the Michigan NonProfit Act as it '*presently exists or may hereafter be amended*', it would appear the January 2015 amendments to the act would be incorporated into the TRC By-Laws. Continued monitoring of this issue was recommended.



TRC Board held discussion on possible partnerships for educating youth in area communities and schools, the DNR initiative to get classes into woods, Forest Stewardship Plan and Project Learning Tree.

Board Fundraising Ideas for 2016:

- a) TRC sponsor local showing of popular environmental movie
- b) Community Pint Night at The Livery in Benton Harbor
- c) Scavenger hunt on river and individuals getting sponsors
- d) Kayak/canoe river race

Motion to adjourn by Sam Ewbank, seconded by Bettie Pierman, motion carried. 6:24 p.m.

Respectively submitted:
Joe Parman, Secretary