



TWO RIVERS COALITION
May 11, 2016 BOARD MEETING
Geneva Township Hall

Call to order: 6:04 PM

Attendees: Kevin Haight, Bette Pierman, Joe Parman, Dave Foerster, Colleen Forestieri, Paul Vanden Bosch, Sam Ewbank, Grant Poole, Kyle Alexander (MDEQ) (board members underlined)

Agenda – May 11, 2016 agenda approved as amended

Motion by Bette Pierman, seconded by Colleen Forestieri to approve April 13, 2016 minutes as amended, all in favor, motion carried.

March 2016 Treasurer Report, hand-out provided: TRC has \$8,279.00 in Total Resources.

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

Announcements, events, deadlines, etc.:

- May 13 – volunteer work day at Black River Preserve 1-4
- May 14 - Soundwalk at Black River Preserve
- Jun 4 - Natural Shorelines program Cass County
- Jun 6 – next PPRWT meeting
- Jun 8 – next TRC meeting (Kevin gone)
- Jun 9- Natural Shorelines program Berrien County (Sarett)
- Jun 15 - Senior Paddle on Maple Lake
- Jul 8, 15, or 22 - Field trip to Cardno
- Jul 13 - VB CD Farm Day/Picnic (TRC meeting beforehand?)
- Jul 23 – Rhythm on the River festival South Haven (man table?)
- Jul 24 - Maple Circle Paddle on Maple Lake
- Aug 6 - River Rescue
- Sep 19 - ICCD/dedication of Maple Lake natural shoreline
- Oct 2 - Fall VSMP collection event
- Oct 15 - grand opening Black River Preserve/ Paddle on BR
- Dec 7- Annual meeting

Old Business

Grants:

1. **VSMP with VB CD:** May 1st event was well attended and several sites were sampled.
2. **Stream Crossing Inventory with VB RC:** Additional training session was held May 11th with Racheal Wise, MDNR.



3. **PPR/Ox Creek with SWMLC and SWMPC:** Community Pint Night fundraiser was at The Livery on May 5, 2016. Paddle event on the Ox Creek was held before Pint Night, 14 paddlers attended. Over 90 pints were sold during event raising \$150 from The Livery and \$523.06 in donations from the event. The Board held discussion on possible future “pint night” fundraisers. TBD
4. **CISMA with VBCD:** Erin Fuller, VBCD will be the program coordinator for the grant program for phragmites education and control.
5. **Pine Creek Grant/VBC, Colleen Forestieri:** Grant was improved and will include septic system inspection and assistance, work on Van Buren County point of sale, POS ordinance, farmer assistance for reducing E. coli.

Cardno Nursery Field Trip, Walkerton, IN, July 15th (22nd rain date): TRC be hosting a day long field trip to the Cardno Native Plant Nursery in Walkerton, Indiana. This is one of the largest nurseries specializing in native plants in the Midwest. Cardno staff will host a tour of all facets of production, including their extensive wetland plant area. Then we will eat a sack lunch (bring your own) in the Cardno conference room while watching a presentation on some aspect of native plant ecology.
Transportation - Carpooling

New Business

Proposed Paw Paw River Water Trail PPRWT: Board held discussion on TRC’s possible role in proposed water trail. The Board request more information on proposed trail; Keven Haight will send out informational emails and letters to Board for future discussion.

Berrien County Committee on Septic Systems/T.O.S.T: Kenneth Nesbitt, Board Member volunteered to be a TRC representative on Berrien County Committee.

VBCD millage proposal for August 2nd election: Board held discussion on proposed millage language for Van Buren Conservation District budget. The will review proposed language and approved President, Kevin Haight to write TRC’s endorsement for millage.

Motion by Dave Foerster, seconded by Sam Ewbank for TRC to endorse the Van Buren County Conservation Districts proposed millage for the August 2, 2016 election and taking a formal position on the millage. Board members reserve the right to review the official language of the millage prior to the election for support. Seven board member vote in favor of motion with one abstention, motion carries.

Annual Meeting: room reserved at VBCC for Wednesday Dec. 7; Kevin emailed “Shifting Sands” director/producer Pat Wisniewski

SWMLC Portman Preserve, Mattawan: Lime Lake: Land Conservancy is seeking state and federal support to conserve the Portman property.

Adjourn. 8:12 p.m.

Respectively submitted:
Joe Parman, Secretary