



**TWO RIVERS COALITION  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
November 9, 2016 6:00 p.m.  
Geneva Twp. Hall**

**Call to order:** 6:06 p.m.

**Attendees:** Kevin Haight, Bette Pierman, Joe Parman, Grant Poole, Dave Foerster, Paul Vanden Bosch, Colleen Forestieri, Kenneth Nesbitt, Grant Poole, Larry Nielson (board members underlined)

**Agenda** – November 9, 2016 agenda approved as amended

**Motion** by Paul Vanden Bosch, second by Dave Forester to approve October 12, 2016 minutes as amended

**Announcements, events, deadlines, etc.:**

- Nov 9- November TRC board meeting at Geneva Twp. Hall at 6:00 p.m.
- Nov 10- Community Pint Night fundraiser at The Livery in Benton Harbor 5-8pm
- Nov 17- PPRWT meeting at Coloma Twp Hall 9:00 a.m.
- Dec 1- Ox Creek Steering Committee Mtg at Wightman and Assoc. 10:00 a.m.
- Dec 7- Annual meeting- 6:30- 9:00 p.m.
- January 11, 2017- next board meeting/plan priorities for 2017
- March 20, 2017- Volunteer recognition event with VBCD

**Presentation by Larry Nielson, Village of Paw Paw:** Report of Maple Lake Drawdown, **hand-out provided** – Update Maple Lake Management Plan for 2017 fiscal year.

**October 2016 Treasurer Report, Kenneth Nesbitt,** hand-out provided: Jimmy Scott Memorial Giving: \$1,250 (2 PayPal & 6 mail donations)

Dave Forester will consult webpage designer, LIAA to help set-up honorarium donation page, \$60 per hour, \$120 maximum.

**Old Business/Projects/Funded Grants:**

- A) **VSMP with VBCD** – New MiCorp grants for stream flow study
- B) **Stream crossing inventory with VBRC** – Completed/closed
- C) **PPR/Ox Creek with SWMLC and SWMP:** Wightman organizing Steering Committee - Kevin and Bette to attend/report on next meeting.
- D) Pine/Mill Creek 319 grant: VBCD: Colleen Forestieri starting with ag portion, field study E.coli, flow samples form tile outlets
- E) VBCD Septic Workshop: Main Focus – Outreach & POS Ordinance

**New Business:**

- A) MDEQ to focus on Black River in 2017: Suggestions/comments for sites needed by November 30<sup>th</sup>



- B) MDEQ needs suggestions for places/venues and dates for E.coli TMDL presentations: Very technical presentations. MDEQ needs 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> choice dates and people attending. Board suggested LMC, South Haven and inviting local government officials.
- C) Geoff Gripe leaving SWMLC: Taking new job with Ducks Unlimited
- D) Paw Paw River Water Trail(PPRWT): Board adopts new resolution supporting PPRWT**  
Two Rivers Coalition Resolution of Support for Paw Paw River Water Trail  
In 2006, a study performed by The Nature Conservancy determined that the largely intact floodplain forest corridor along the Paw Paw River from Benton Harbor to the Village of Paw Paw is one of the greatest assets of the entire Paw Paw River watershed. The forested floodplain not only provides habitat for several migratory birds and other species, but also maintains water quality, stabilizes flows, and reduces flooding in the river. Because the mission of Two Rivers Coalition (TRC) includes conservation, education, and advocacy on behalf of water quality in the Black River and Paw Paw River watersheds, TRC promotes environmentally responsible paddling on the navigable waters in the two watersheds in the belief that exposing people to the streams of Southwest Michigan will make them want to preserve and better steward this tremendous natural resource.

**Motion** by Joe Parman, Second by Keven Haight: Therefore, TRC now supports the concept of a Paw Paw River Water Trail (PPRWT) and plans to work to implement such a water trail in an environmentally responsible way that balances promoting increased paddling access on the river with preserving the conservation values and natural character of the river and floodplain corridor. TRC's vision of the PPRWT is for a regional water trail: 1) involving as many partners, stakeholders, and units of government as possible, 2) having different segments of the trail appropriate for different levels of paddlers, including Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced/Wilderness segments, and 3) having the segments maintained as appropriate for the required skill level and in accordance with MDNR/MDEQ guidelines, such as Woody Debris Management 101 Clean and Open method. All in favor, motion carries.

- E) Community Pint Night at the Livery, Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 p.m., Third Coast donated gift certificate that will raffled off as door prize.
- F) **Annual Meeting:** Colleen F. and Bette P. have agreed to stand for re-election so only one other board seat is open. May not be able to do 50/50 raffle unless get license from SOM. Silent auction of donated items including: Large seed packet from Cardno, beach stone jewelry from Lupine Prairie Glassworks, hand-forged pendants from TRForge, sampler kit of soaps, balms, lotions, etc. from Melanie's Apothecary, handmade native bee house from Sam. PPR sign and BR sign? Richard Jordan BRP print courtesy of SWMLC. Third Coast gift certificate. Desserts: Need to identify what we are bringing to make sure we have enough. It has been suggested that we need a sugar free option: B/SH HWTA had two sugar free pies at their event. Poster?

Adjourn. 8:04 p.m.

Respectively submitted:  
Joe Parman, Secretary