



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

**TWO RIVERS COALITION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wed. October 12, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
Geneva Township Hall**

Call to order: 6:08 p.m.

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

Agenda – October 12, 2016 agenda approved as amended

Board approved July 13th & September 7th 2016 minutes as amended with attachments.

Announcements, events, deadlines, etc.:

Oct 15 - grand opening Black River Preserve/ Community Paddle on BR: 9-9:30 boats, 9:45 start paddle; 10-11:30 hiking; 11:30-12:00 lunch; 12:00 dedication

Oct 19 - TRC Fall Speaking Event; Erin Fuller on CISMA and New Invasives, 7pm at VBCC

Oct 22 – B/SHHWTA annual meeting (Kevin to speak re: PPRWT)

Nov 2-3 - MiCorps Conference; Kevin, AJ, and Bette attending

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

Dec 7 - Annual meeting-“Shifting Sands”, 6:30- 9:00 p.m.

September 2016 Treasurer Report, hand-out provided: Activity during Sept included \$105 of Contribution Receipts and \$20 Mich Non-Profit Filing Fee and \$4 PayPal Fee Expenditures

Motion by Sam Ewbank, seconded by Paul Vanden Bosch to approve September Treasurer’s Report, all in favor, motion carries.

Board held discussion on concerns/question on members donating to TRC in honor of an individual, honorarium. Can the website be set-up to show that an individual donated money to TRC in memory on someone? Kevin, Dave and Joe will look into setup and other websites setup on honorarium donations.

Old Business/Projects/Funded Grants:

- A) **VSMP with VB CD** - Fall collection event recap: Collection and Identification segments were well attended and went well. Data is setup and almost completed, will be posted on MiCorps site and linked to VB CD & TRC websites.
- B) **Stream crossing inventory with VB RC** – no new information, grant will be closed out soon.
- C) **PPR/Ox Creek with SWMLC and SWMPC** - Park(ing) Day event recap, Paw Paw River Preservation portion going well with property values going higher than expected, increases match. TRC will be posting information and updates on Ox Creek portion of grant on the website.
- D) **CISMA/Japanese Knotweed forum** in St Joe on Sept 23 recap, Kevin Haight
- E) **Pine Creek w/ VB CD** - Update from Colleen at November Board meeting



Miscellaneous:

Board reviewed TRC's Board term limits spreadsheet for updates and is looking for possible suggestions for new Board members (Allegan & Berrien Counties?). Board also held discussion on updating TRC's website for a new look, additional information and content. Dave, Joe & Kevin will be looking into possible updates and changes.

New Business:

(A) **Black River Preserve, SWMLC/"Friends of" establishment:** The SWMLC would like to establish a Friends of the Black River Preserve Group comprised of volunteers. The group would help keep the trails clean and property maintained. The group could transition into fundraising efforts for future projects, trail stewards.

Motion by Sam Ewbank, seconded by Bette Pierman for TRC to support the formation of a Friends of the Black River Preserve Group/Committee for maintenance and stewardship of the Preserve, all in favor, motion carries.

(B) **Blue Accounting**, Bette Pierman: Partnership of the Great Lakes Commission and The Nature Conservancy to develop a groundbreaking program that will look at how we can best protect the Great Lakes region as a whole. Three pilot programs are being developed to demonstrate how this model works.

(C) **Technical update to PPR and BR Watershed Management Plans-** in kind pledge amounts in letter of support: Board has reviewed or will review information sent out by Kevin Haight.

Motion by Paul Vanden Bosch, seconded by Sam Ewbank to have Kevin Haight update letter of support and in-kind match numbers/calculations for the SWMPC application grant to MDEQ to update the management plans for the Paw Paw and Black River Watersheds, all in favor, motion carries.

(D) **Request for support from SWMLC for Black River Protection project-** see material sent by email: TRC was asked by SWMLC to support and commit to their grant application to MDEQ for the Black River Priority Riparian/Wetland Protection proposal. TRC's support would be in the form of in-kind match of \$3,500 for landowner outreach events and education.

Motion by Paul Vanden Bosch, seconded by Dave Forester for TRC to provide a letter of support to the SWMLC application to MDEQ for the Black River Priority Riparian/Wetland Protection proposal and an in-kind match of \$3,500, all in favor, motion carries.

(E) **Paw Paw River Water Trail (PPRWT)** – LIAA Water Trails Summit recap. Kevin proposes that board recognize the PPRWT as an ongoing current project of TRC. Friends of Paw Paw River raised \$6,000 for water trail clean-up, group used entire amount for only 1 mile stretch of the River. Hagger Twp. pledged \$7,500 toward PPRWT. Efforts are moving forward on getting other Townships along the river to pledge \$5,000 to PPRWT.

Motion by Paul Vanden Bosch, seconded by Sam Ewbank that TRC be an active participant in the PPRWT as it pertains to our mission towards water quality, all in favor, motion carries.



(F) **Fundraising:** PPR not open enough for a community paddle so fundraiser at Arclight on hold until Spring? Community Pint Night at The Livery on Thursday Nov 10 from 5-8. Still need to submit additional info to SOM to be qualified for raffle license.

(G) **Annual Meeting:** Need to determine whose seats on board are up. 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. Everyone needs to solicit more donations. Kevin went to VBCC and tested new DVD equipment. Board approve the use of TRC's Watershed sign for silent auction donation.

(H) **Maple Lake sediment issues/drawdown:** Larry Nielsen has asked to speak to board at Nov 9 meeting re findings from 2015 drawdown. Dave F. has spoken to Dave Sons of Ackley Lake Assoc. who wants to talk to us about toxins in sediment. Board approve Larry Nielsen for November 9th agenda and will send invitation to Dave Sons to speak at January Board meeting.

Adjourn. 8:14 p.m.

Respectively submitted:
Joe Parman, Secretary