



**TWO RIVERS COALITION
APRIL 13, 2011 BOARD MEETING
GENEVA TOWNSHIP HALL**

Call to order: 7:06 p.m.

Attendees: Dave Foerster, Sam Ewbank, Kevin Haight, Tom Howe, Kenneth Nesbitt, Nancy Edwards, Geoff Cripe, Grant Poole, Carl Bayha (Board members underlined)

Treasurer's Report: Matt Meersman, Not available

Kevin Haight's "Paw Paw River Odyssey" Presentation – Kevin proposed moving TRC meetings to different location to encourage participation and he would give his presentation at the meetings. Possible location: Paw Paw Chamber of Commerce meeting

Garvey Project – Geoff Gripe, GLRI Grant Proposal: 120 acres of critical wildlife habitat and water resources fronting along two miles of the Black River. This property will become a publicly accessible preserve and a demonstration site for comprehensive restoration and management. TRC provided a letter of support and partnership. A paddle event will be scheduled to view the property and its restoration and preservation practices.

Water Quality Monitoring Grant (GLRI), Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, ftc&h Engineering and the City of South Haven – Monitoring and sampling water quality related to e-coli levels and beach closure in South Haven. Monitoring and sampling will be done on the Black River, tributaries and county drains to identify the source of high e-coli levels.

Motion by Nancy Edwards, seconded by Kevin Haight for TRC letters of support and partnership for the GLRI Grants, Garvey Project and Water Quality Monitoring, all in favor

Strategic Plan Review:

- **Membership** – Committee to purchase membership software and training to help monitor and organize TRC membership, Sales Force Software; database software.
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- **Fund Raising** - Possible Foundry Hall Events this summer along with the June 17th Harbor Fest
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- **Community Connections** – Joe Van Walde suggested that the DNRE give a presentation at future TRC meeting, invasive species. Other suggestions for presentations include Pokagon Band and Shedd Aquarium.
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- **Paddle Events** – Nesbitt & Haight: Events will include Guest Speakers, Public Officials and Environmental Professionals.
 - July 23, Upper Paw Paw River South Branch, Paw Paw to Lawrence Area
 - August 20-21, Middle Paw Paw River, Hartford to Watervliet-Coloma Area
 - October 8, Lower Paw Paw River, Riverside to Benton Harbor Area



- **Septic System Outreach** - Tome Howe step-up as new committee chair. Barry and Eaton Counties studied “point of sale” and transfer inspections. Information and link available on TRC website.

Announcements, Suggestions, Comments:

July 23rd – Upper Paw Paw River Paddle
August 6th – River Rescue – Partnership with VB Conservation District
August 11th – Black River Paddle – Garvey Project
August 20th-21st – Middle Paw Paw River Paddle
October 8th – Lower Paw Paw River Paddle

Adjourned: 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by, Joe Parman, Secretary