



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

**TWO RIVERS COALITION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 8, 2016 6:00 p.m.
Geneva Twp. Hall**

Call to order: 6:08 p.m.

Attendees: Kevin Haight, Joe Parman, Dave Foerster, Paul Vanden Bosch, Colleen Forestieri, Kenneth Nesbitt, Kyle Boone(board members underlined)

Agenda – February 8, 2017 agenda approved as amended

Motion by Paul Vanden Bosch, second by Sam Ewbank to approve January 11, 2017 minutes as amended

Announcements, events, deadlines, etc.:

- Feb 8- TRC meeting 6:00 p.m.
- Feb 8- Ox Creek Stakeholders/Orchards Mall meeting 6:00 p.m.
- Feb 16- BCCD annual meeting
- Mar 8- VBCD Farming for the Future
- Mar 15- Molly Rippe of DEQ on E. coli, 7:00 p.m. LMC-SH
- March 20- Volunteer recognition event with VBCD, old Twp. Hall Lawrence
- March 21- MSEF showing documentary film “Containment” at LMC-SH
- April 15, 9:00 a.m. & April 19, 4:00 p.m. - VBCD Tree seedling wrapping – Volunteers Needed
- April 20-22 – VBCD Tree Seedling Sale & Pre-order pick up
- May 7- VSMP macro collection event
- May 18- PPR paddle followed by Community Pint Night at The Livery
- July 21- Cardno Native Plant Nursery Open House/Field Trip
- Dec 13- TRC 9th Annual Meeting

January 2017 Treasurer Report, Kenneth Nesbitt, hand-out provided: \$55.00 in contributions with a total of \$11,536.00 in Resources Available.

Old Business/Projects/Funded Grants:

- A] Kevin Haight and Joe Parman attended **CISMA** mtg at SWMC on 1/26. Full room and well attended by Van Buren County Road Commission.
- B] Colleen updated Board on **Farming for the Future** on March 8: Keynote Speaker Scott Anderson, “Becoming the Lowest Cost Producer: Lessons From a Farmer”.
- C] **PPR/Ox Creek with SWMLC and SWMPC**- 1] March speaker event w/BCCD still a possibility; wetland field day possibly in June. No new information at this time.
- D] **Website** changes to acknowledge in memoriam donations- Dave added a Memorial Donation Sub-page. Jim Scott Tribute; Updated on homepage and Memorial Donation sub-page.



E] **Pine/Mill Creek 319 grant w/ VBCD-** Dave/Colleen updated Board on Septic Meeting: Well Attended. They will be setting up work groups/committees to focus on POS ordinance and Sampling.

F] **VSMP-** Spring collection Sunday May 7, 2017, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Lawrence River Park

G] **Paw Paw River Water Trail (PPRWT)** – Hagar Twp is requesting a letter of support for grant request for Twp park on river in Riverside. Presentations: Lawrence Village/Twp meeting 1/24, VBC supervisors 2/23, Lawrence/other fire departments 3/2.

The Berrien & Van Buren County Road Commissions questioned the use of right-of-ways for access to PP River. Kevin Haight found case law on Road Comm. right-of-ways to access to Rivers.

Motion by Paul Vanden Bosch, seconded by Kevin Haight for TRC to provide a letter of for Hagar Township Park on PP River in Riverside, all in favor, motion carries.

New Business:

A] **Michigan Watershed Summit**, March 29, 2017, Lansing: Board held discussion on possible Members attending event and paying \$25.00 registration fee.

B] Board discussed whether to endorse **Sierra Club resolution re Palisades**: Board tabled support of Sierra Club Resolution until March Board meeting in order to hear comments/info from board Member Bette Pierman.

C] Board held discussion on **proposed letter to Public Service Commission re Palisades**

Motion by Dave Foerster, seconded by Paul Vanden Bosch for TRC to submit a letter of support (Kevin's draft letter via email) to the Michigan Public Service Commission on the shutdown and decommissioning of Palisades Nuclear Power Plant, all in favor, motion carries.

D] **DEQ E. coli TMDL presentation on Wed Mar 15, 2017**

E] **Paw Paw Village 5 year Recreation Plan**: Submit comments, Board members to review Rec Plan Village of Paw Paw is asking for letter of support for grant proposal for universal launch on Maple Lake.

Motion by Paul Vanden Bosch, seconded by Colleen Forestieri for TRC to provide letter of support for the Village of Paw Paw's universal launch on Maple Lake, all in favor, motion carries.

F] **Fundraising**: Community Pint Night at The Livery on Thur May 18, 2017. Board also discussed a pint night fundraiser at Arlight, Watervliet in the summer and paddle. Still need to submit additional info to SOM to be qualified for raffle license.



G] **Annual Meeting:** date for 2017 confirmed w/ VBCC: Wednesday 12/13/17

H] **Freshwater Future grants:** \$500-\$3,500. Spring cycle deadline March 31st.

I] **River Rally 2017 by River Network;** May 8-11 at Amway Grand in GR. Member rate: \$449 or \$225/day (not including lodging). Member Scholarship will cover 26 percent, up to \$200.

Motion by Paul Vanden Bosch, seconded by Dave Foerester to approve expenses for TRC board member(s) to attend the 2017 River Rally, Amway Grand, Grand Rapids MI for full amount of \$449 and apply for River Network scholarship, all in favor, motion carries.

J] **Speakers:** DEQ E. coli TMDL, Spring event w/ BCCD?, Wetland field day w/BCCD (Matt Meersman?), Palisades decommissioning issues?, Fall Speaker: Palisades shut down?

K] **Other projects?** PJ Chmiel willing to work on art/logo for T-shirt design.

L] Nate Fuller organizing training session for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid-interest?

Motion to adjourn by Paul Vanden Bosch, seconded by Joe Parman, all in favor, motion carries.

Adjourn. 8:01 p.m.

Respectively submitted:
Joe Parman, Secretary