



An alliance of the Black River
and Paw Paw River Watersheds

TWO RIVERS COALITION
August 16, 2017 MINUTES
Kevin Haight's home, 61158 48th Ave Hartford MI 49057

Meeting called to order at 6:15 PM

Attendees: Kevin Haight, Dave Foerster, Paul VandenBosch, Bette Pierman, Marcy Hamilton

Kevin Haight moved to amend the August Agenda to move Marcy Hamilton from #5 to the top of Old Business. Paul VandenBosch 2nd.

Approval of Minutes: After review of the July Meeting Minutes, Paul VandenBosch asked that the spelling of his name be corrected. Dave Foerster moved to approve the amended version; Kevin Haight, 2nd. These need to be corrected as posted on the website.

We had minutes from November 2016, February 2017 and March 2017 to review and approve. Bette Pierman moved to approve the November 2016 minutes as presented; Kevin Haight, 2nd. Paul VandenBosch moved to approve the amended February minutes to correct the typo for the year changing to "February 2017"; Kevin Haight, 2nd. These needed to be corrected on the website. Paul VandenBosch moved to amend the March Minutes to read "Meeting Summary" since we did not have a quorum of board members in attendance, Kevin Haight, 2nd. The posted website version needs to be corrected.

Kevin Haight talked about the announcements of upcoming events.

Sep 16- household chemical waste/latex paint/ recycling/tire pick up/ S. Haven 9-1

Sep-17- Van Buren4All Fall Bash at Camp Ronora "Camp Gumption"- TRC display on tables

The board members present though it was a good idea to have TRC display at this event.

Oct 1- Fall macro VSMP event, identification on Oct 2.

Oct 14- joint paddle on Black River w/ SWMLC and B/SHHWTA

Oct. 17- Dr. Ann St. Amand, "toxic algae and our water", VBCC 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 13- TRC 9th Annual Meeting

Treasurer's Report: Kenneth Nesbit was not present but sent an Email that there was no financial activity in July to report. TRC received a \$40 donation from Chris Tracy. After discussion, Bette Pierman moved that we use that money to be spent toward either business cards or signs for the Paw Paw River Water Trail (PPRWT); Kevin 2nd.

Old Business:

A. Marcy Hamilton has obtained a grant for update of both the PPR and BR Watershed Management Plans. \$37,000 with \$10,000 match, and \$3625 in kind. She signed a contract with DEQ. Bette Pierman raised the question about Freshwater Future Grant options and whether we need to look into a possible grant from their available money for assistance with the watershed management plans for both the PPR and BR. We also need to look at area farms and tillage practices. TRC will need a steering committee to look at these plans and review.

We have 2 years to work on Water Management Plans and can extend for one. Some of the things that we need to review:

- Mapping updates
- Data collection updates
- Wetlands—functional?

- Achievements over the time of the current plan
- Prioritized needs now

TRC committed to inventory/document erosion on the rivers, get GPS and urban inventory GIS identifying large parking lots. We need to hold to public meetings—one with draft plans.

- B. Kevin Haight met with the Great Lakes Scientific Lab owner and now has the sample bottles and freeze packs. He and Paul VandenBosch will discuss after the meeting and finalize where they will be going to collect samples and give Paul what he needs to do the sampling. Bette Pierman asked about the “Ecoli Sampling Protocol” (revised version) that Kevin had previously sent out. Discussed rain events and dry events sampling requirements. Marcy Hamilton says that she has a data sheet that she can share for use with the collections.
- C. PPR/Ox Creek with SWMLC and SWMPC update. The grant period does not end until mid-2018. The project has been met so TRC basically is done. Now we are waiting for the official grant closure notice.
- D. Sam Ewbank was absent so we tabled the update on T-shirts.
- E. Kevin Haight reported that the Paw Paw River Water Trail (PPRWT) pathway is cleared in over 40 miles of river and now there is discussion of a MOU between SWMPC and municipalities to handle payments for future maintenance, etc. Information can be found on the website. <http://www.michiganwatertrails.org/trail.asp?ait=cv&cid=154>
Kayak Kenneth and Kevin Haight are in discussion regarding a possible Pokagon Band paddle along their property on the Paw Paw River on Monday, Aug. 28.
- F. Marcy Hamilton reported that the 319 Grant has been submitted; NOI stage. She is working with the Berrien County Drain Commissioner. TRC is still a partner. A Letter of Support will be due in October.
- G. Bette Pierman reported that they collected 6 bags of trash and a tire during River Rescue from Coloma to Water Treatment Plant this year and then picked up another 5-6 bags on another paddle that was supposed to be a fun paddle the following Monday between 67-1/2 and Watervliet. Hopefully, next year we’ll look at what other events are scheduled in a community prior to scheduling River Rescue.

New Business:

- A. Kevin Haight reported that there will be an action for the Line 5 Shutdown Campaign connected with the Bridge Walk on Labor Day. He and Mindy are planning to go.
- B. Bette Pierman did not have any current activities to report regarding the Sierra Club, BCCD or MSEF. She did remind that there is still time to submit letter to the MPSC regarding the Palisades shutdown by September 28. MPSC will accept public comments in the case.
The mailing address is Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, 7109 West Saginaw Street, Lansing, Michigan, 48917. Or you can email your comments to mpscdockets@michigan.gov. **IMPORTANT: Letters and emails should reference MPSC Case No. U-18250.**
- C. Maple Lake drawdown/sediment issues still need to be investigated further.
- D. Dr. St. Amand of Phycotech will be our program speaker on October 17 at the VBCC re: Toxic Algae. We are still looking at possible speaker on Line 5 and scheduling time for AJ Brucks to do a summary of data from the 3 year VSMP project. Kevin Haight is pursuing whether we can get Pokagon Band speaker to talk re: history/culture/water for our TRC annual meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 8:15 PM.

Bette Pierman, submitted