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## **Black River & Paw Paw River Watershed Transition Team August 13, 2008 meeting notes - Submitted by: Amy Lockhart**

Call to order: 7:03 pm  
Bangor City Hall

**Attendance:** Amy Lockhart, Sam Ewbank, Marcy Colclough, Matt Meersman, Tom Howe, Rita Bradtke, Jack Bradtke, Deb Berkey, Jan Petersen, Mike Rainey, Linda Miller, Mike Cronin, Joanne Cronin, Frank Jurenka, Chris Bauer, Rosemary Insidiososo, Dave Foerster, Al Baerren, Geoffrey Cripe, Doug McLaughllin, Joe Kuiper.

### **Discussion:** Van Buren County Phosphorous Ordinance

Amy Lockhart provided an update of the Van Buren County phosphorous ban ordinance. The County Planning Commission had prepared at the request of the Board of Commissioners, a draft ordinance which was reviewed at the Committee of the Whole meeting on August 12. The Board of Commissioners is in favor of the ordinance and has moved the item to the Board of Commissioners meeting on August 26.

Mike Rainey provided an overview of farm use of Phosphorous and reasons why farms are exempt from the ordinance.

Dave Foerster & Marcy Colclough suggested the formation of a committee to assist with the education efforts related to the phosphorous ban. **Phosphorous ordinance committee members:** Amy Lockhart, Tina Clemons, Dave Foerster, Frank Jurenka, Ted Thar (or another representative of the Van Buren Co. Planning Commission). Lockhart will arrange a conference call sometime in September/October to begin work on the educational materials.

### **Discussion:** Setting up the organization framework

Sam Ewbank opened discussion about 501c3 formation and what steps the group would need to take. Also mentioned was a grant opportunity from *Freshwater Future* for technical assistance to establish a new organization.

Matt Meersman provided the *Friends of the St. Joe River* By-laws for example. Before we can file for incorporation, the group needs to consider membership, create by-laws, establish officers and decide on a name & mission statement.

A **By-law committee** was formed to draft by-laws and mission statement. Committee members: Sam Ewbank (lead contact), Matt Meersman, Geoffrey Cripe, Deb Berkey and Julie Pioch (recommended).

### **Discussion:** Mission statement and organization name

Al Baerren, Marcy Colclough and Dave Foerster supplied example mission statements. Chris Bauer supplied a list of example names. Deb Berkey commented on strategic words that should be included and suggested that the by-laws committee take the examples which the group likes the best and work on creating a mission statement to be decided upon at the next meeting. Matt Meersman suggested that the group wait to decide on a name until he hears back from Mark Parish about the potential of a Native American name that can be used for the organization. Chris Bauer will also work on coming up with more name ideas.

**Discussion:** Rita & Jack Bradtke led discussion regarding the proposed gravel mine in Texas Township and its potential effects on the Paw Paw River watershed. A citizen's group has been formed to gather information and oppose the approval of the mine. Potential environmental effects that the group is concerned about include destruction of valuable wetland acreage across the road from the proposed mine, the well levels of neighboring homes and the effects of watershed acres downstream of the site. Marcy Colclough suggested that the group draft a letter to be submitted by the *Friends of the St. Joe River* group to Texas Township, expressing views against the approval of the gravel mine.

### **For the next meeting:**

- Look at draft by-laws
- Decide on name and mission statement
- Al Baerren agreed to work on the grant application to Freshwater Future

**Next meeting: September 10 @ 7:00 pm Bangor City Hall**

Adjourn 8:44 pm