

Two Rivers Coalition

December 10, 2008

Call to order: 7:00 p.m.
Geneva Township Hall

Attendance: Erin Fuller, Marcy Colclough, Al Baerren, Joe Parman, Thomas Howe, Dave Foerster, Chris Shaw, Steve Peterson, Richard Curtis, Sam Ewbank, Larry Nielsen, John O'Connell, Bob Richardson, Kathy Richardson, Deb Berkey, Nancy Edwards, Pete Ter Louw, Kevin Haight

Motion: Larry Neilson made motion to approve November 12, 2008 minutes as presented, 2nd by Al Baerren-all ayes

Discussion – Dave Foerster discussed issues/problems with the on-line registration for membership and the program not excepting some forms. Dave motioned having honorary members for the first year for those individuals on the compiled list. Dave withdrew is motion after discussing options.

Discussion-Freshwater Future: Two Rivers Coalition received a \$1,500 grant from Freshwater Future along with support and consulting from the group. TRC is also signed up with there Mentor Program.

Discussion-Incorporation update: The \$1,500 grant money does not cover fees for non-profit status/incorporation and legal fees. Coalition can apply for mini-grant with Freshwater Future that would cover fees. Roman Plaszczak, Paw Paw Village President and a Lawyer offered to review incorporation status and grant documentation.

FYI: 501 c3 status allows groups to lobby but cannot spend money doing so.
501 H status allows groups to lobby but limits spending to 20 % of total budget

Discussion-Phosphorus Committee Update: A bill was introduced at the state level to ban/limit phosphorus and did not pass. Lobbyist from the fertilizer company's fought the bill and the main supporter of the bill was on vacation during the public hearing.

Motion: Marcy Colclough motioned for TRC to sign endorsement letter supporting a state bill for a phosphorus ban, second by Larry Nielsen. All ayes.

Addition: Try to get the County to pass a resolution in favor of bill and endorse the letter of support.

Discussion-319 Grant Status: No update on status at this time.

Motion to open nominations for Board Members

Discussion-Introduction of Board Members and Election: Nominations were herd for Board Members and individuals gave a short speech on there strengths and passions.

Motion to close nominations for Board Members-carried

Election held for Board Members-paper vote.

Newly Elected Board: Al Baerren, Bob Becker, Nancy Edwards, Sam Ewbank, Dave Foerster, Kevin Haight, Thomas Howe, Amy Lockhart, Matt Meersman, Joe Parman, and Chris Shaw

Discussion-Miscellaneous:

Dave Foerster talked to Hendricks Septic concerning pumping in the county. Hendricks does 60 % of septic pumping in the County and receives 3-4 emergency calls a week resulting in pumping. Hendricks would offer a coupon to encourage pumping as an endorsement of TRC.

Drain Commissioner will offer a reduction in drain assessments for property owners who have buffer strips on county drains. He is looking for minimum standards and he will work with Amy Lockhart on the details.

Members are looking to put together a list of contacts for Lake Associations within the watersheds.

Next meeting January 14, 2008 at the Geneva Township Hall and Board Members will meet early to elect officers.

Motioned by Al Baerren and 2nd by Deb Berkey that meetings would be held at Geneva Township all; all ayes.

Ted Thar, County Land Services offered \$5.00 donation to TRC for each plat book and/or county lakes book sold if individual mentions TRC fundraiser.

Motioned by Marcy to accept Ted Thar's offer for fundraiser involving county plat and lakes books, seconded by Peter; all ayes.

Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy to be one of four environmental organizations that could receive \$1,500 as part of a promotion with Patagonia. Go to <http://www.gazellesports.com/vote.html> and click "Click Here To Vote" and vote for SWMLC.

SWMLC is contracted with Van Buren County to write the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Adjourn: 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Joe Parman

