



Two Rivers Coalition April 8, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Call to order: 7:13 p.m.
Geneva Township Hall

Attendance: Bob Becker, Sam Ewbank, Tom Howe, Kevin Haight, Kathy Dorr, Jean Ketchum, Joe Parman, Joe VanWahlde, Erin Fuller, Dave Foerster, Deb Berkey, Brian Boyer, Jim Lisowski, Tom Rock, Tom Barzack, John Mitchell, Nina Consolatti, Lynn Fleming, Steve Peterson, Matt Meersman

Agenda: Bob Becker motioned to approve agenda, Matt Meersman 2nd, all ayes

Motion: Motion by Bob Becker to approve March 11, 2009 minutes, 2nd Matt Meersman, all ayes.

Treasurer's Report: Matt Meersman, handout provided – Current Balance is \$2,206.25

Discussion: 319 Grant status – Erin Fuller, nothing new at this time.

Project Reviews, Committee Leaders - handouts provided

Discussion added to handouts:

1. Incorporation – Dave Foerster: Review from attorney is delayed and Dave asked for an extension to June 30th for Grant Funds toward incorporation.
2. Membership – Tom Howe: Committee decided to **not** make dues an absolute requirement to become a member. Suggest fees for individual, family, students, seniors, etc.... Matt Meersman will be tracking membership digitally and setting up database on Google Docs and developed an online digital membership form.

Motion: Matt Meersman motioned to set dues at suggested amounts but not a requirement to become a member of Two Rivers Coalition, 2nd by Bob Becker, all ayes.

3. Fundraising – Sam Ewbank: “Paddle Trip” fundraiser planned partnering with Black River Group and Heritage Trail to raise awareness and money. Committee working to set-up an on-line store that can maintain and sell TRC logo items – green products.
4. Media/Communications – Bob Becker: Bob will issue press releases in order to notify the public before TRC’s monthly meetings and other events. Board will review press release policies and procedures in by-laws.

The Two Rivers Coalition is a citizen-based group working to protect the health of the Black River and Paw Paw River watersheds through conservation education, and advocacy.



Motion: Deb Berkey motioned to secure **tworiverscoalition.org** and **.com** domain names for future use, 2nd by Bob Becker, all ayes.

4. Phosphorus Ban – Joe Parman: Amy Lockhart completed and submitted Grant Application to Freshwater Future for \$3,500 toward Phosphorus Fertilizer ban and awareness.
5. Septic System Ordinance and Outreach – Jean Ketchum: committee working on “point of sale” inspections for septic systems and developing list of Lakes and Lake Associations.

New Business:

Discussion: Jean Ketchum and Dave Foerster received a reply letter from Tonya Schuitmaker, State Representative in response to TRC’s letter of support on keeping the wetland program with the MDEQ. Tonya agreed with idea of keeping the wetland program with the MDEQ and her office is monitoring the issue.

Discussion – Summer Event: Black River Paddle event will be scheduled in July/August in efforts to raise awareness for TRC, Land Conservancy, and Black River Heritage Trail. Additionally, a canoe launch is under construction to the Black River on CR 384, Geneva Township by the County Road Commission and may be used for the summer event.

Discussion: Amy Lockhart, Conservation District resigned from the TRC Board and Phosphorus Ban Chair and will be moving to England in late summer. The Conservation District will still support TRC efforts, Buffer Strip Program, and continues being the website host. Amy will train an individual to maintain TRC’s website through the Conservation District.

Motion: Deb Berkey made motion to accept Amy Lockhart’s resignation and offer TRC’s thanks and appreciation for all of her hard work and dedication, 2nd by Matt Meersman, all ayes.

Note: TRC has 40 members to date

Next meeting schedule for May 13, 2009 7:00 at Geneva Township Hall

Motion to adjourn: 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Joe Parman, TRC Secretary

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