



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

## TWO RIVERS COALITION BOARD MEETING MINUTES JUNE 10, 2009

### GENEVA TOWNSHIP HALL

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dave Foerster at 7:08 PM

#### Attendance

Al Baerren; Chris Bauer; Marcy Colclough, Nina Consolatti; Nancy Edwards; Dave Foerster; Lou Gibson; Tom Howe; Frank Jurenka; Jean Ketchum; Amy Lockhart; Matt Meersman; John Mitchell; Guest - Rachel Dennis (St. Joe CD)  
Board members names are underlined

#### Agenda

Motion by Nancy Edwards to approve the agenda was seconded by Lou Gibson and approved.

#### May 13 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Matt Meersman to approve the minutes was seconded by Jean Ketchum and approved.

#### Treasurer's Report

Matt Meersman's report was displayed overhead for the group to discuss. Nancy Edwards motion to approve the report was seconded by Al Baerren and approved.

#### 319 Grant Proposal

Amy Lockhart reported there had been no new information on the status of the grant application.

1 | *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.*



## Committee Reports

### *Incorporation/ 501c3 status*

Dave Foerster reported that TRCs filing for incorporation in Michigan had been submitted and was approved 05/13/09.

Dave also reported it was now time to file for 501c3 status and that the cost will be \$300. Moved by Matt Meersman and seconded by Nancy Edwards to approve payment of \$300 to the U S Treasury for the 501c3 application and that the funds should come from the Freshwater Futures grant money. A roll call vote (all Yes) approved the motion - Al Baerren, Nancy Edwards, Dave Foerster, Tom Howe, Jean Ketchum, Matt Meersman.

Lou Gibson pointed out that TRC will have to meet a new IRS annual filing requirement for 501c3s with gross income less than \$25,000.

### *Fundraising*

Matt Meersman and Marcy Colclough reviewed plans for the August 1 fundraiser and social at Black River Park in South Haven. The event, which is co-sponsored by the Heritage Trail Association, the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy and TRC, will include tours on either the Kalhaven Trail or the Black River followed by a cookout and social.

### *Membership*

Tom Howe reported that membership goals have been set for 2009 (100), 2010 (125) and 2011 (150). Matt Meersman is developing an online application form which will auto-populate the membership data base. When this is complete in one or two weeks, Matt will ask existing members by E-mail to "re-apply" so he doesn't have to enter everyone's data.

### *Media/ Communication*

Due to personal reasons, Bob Becker has resigned from the TRC Board. Marcy Colclough agreed to be on the Media committee.

After a discussion of the pros and cons of the three website management choices (Freshwater Futures Tech Services, LIAA and TRC prepared website), Matt Meersman moved that TRC contract with LIAA for website management



services. The contract will be limited to \$1000 with the money to come from Freshwater Futures grant funds and this will depend on Media Committee approval. The motion was seconded by Nancy Edwards. A roll call vote (all Yes) approved the motion - Al Baerren, Nancy Edwards, Dave Foerster, Tom Howe, Jean Ketchum, Matt Meersman.

#### *Annual Meeting*

There was no report

#### *Community Connections*

Al Baerren conducted a slide-by-slide review of the draft power point presentation developed for use as a slide show or as an outline for informal talks. The outline had already had one trial use. Members were asked to provide additional comments before a final version is E-mailed out to the membership.

#### *P-Ban Outreach*

TRC has ordered 50,000 copies of the flyer which describes the new Van Buren county phosphorus ban ordinance. These will be received by July 1 so they can be included in resident summer tax bills.

After considerable discussion about which approach that will reach the most people, Al Baerren moved that phosphorus ban information be temporarily posted on the Van Buren Conservation district website with linkage to the TRC website until the TRC website is established. Seconded by Jean Ketchum and approved.

#### *Septic System Outreach*

Jean Ketchum reported the committee is making connections with lake associations to obtain information and develop partnerships. 400 more copies of the MSU Extension document, "Managing Your Septic System" have been obtained.

#### *Buffers*

There was no report



### New Business

Due to the resignation of Bob Becker from the Board of Directors, Dave Foerster opened the floor to nominations for a replacement. Frank Jurenka accepted a nomination and there were no others. Matt Meersman's motion to appoint Frank to complete the remainder of Bob's one year term was seconded by Tom Howe and approved.

### Old Business

There was no old business

### Announcements

Due to continuing high concentrations of E. coli, MDEQ has established a TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) for Pine Creek and Mill Creek in Van Buren and Berrien counties. MDEQ will conduct a public review meeting at the Van Buren Conference Center in Lawrence. The meeting will begin at 7 PM on June 16.

### Program

Rachel Dennis of the St. Joseph Conservation District presented a slide show on the Rocky River Watershed management plan. The program included pictures from some of the latest activities and a review of watershed goals and objectives.

### Adjourn

Matt Meersman moved that the meeting be adjourned. Dave Foerster declared the meeting adjourned at 9:32 PM.

Al Baerren,  
Acting scrivener