



**TWO RIVERS COALITION
BOARD MEETING, OCTOBER 14, 2009
GENEVA TOWNSHIP HALL**

Call to order 7:10 p.m.

Attendance: Dave Foerster, Joe Parman, Same Ewbank, Chris Bauer, Matt Meersman, Kevin Haight, Nancy Edward, Bob Becker, Al Baerron (Board Members names are underlined)

Motion by Matt Meersman to approve Agenda, seconded by Nancy Edwards, all ayes

Motion by Sam Ewbank to approve September 9, 2009 minutes, seconded by Nancy Edward, all ayes

Treasurer's Report, Matt Meersman – Hand-out provided, no expenses and a net income of \$4,078.77 with a \$25.00 membership donation.

Motion by Kevin Haight to approve Treasurer's Report, seconded by Sam Ewbank, all ayes

Project Reviews – New Business:

Fundraising – Ewbank: The Fundraising Committee set a goal of raising \$10,000 for 2009 and is approximately \$4,000 from meeting that goal. Committee will compile a list of Foundations for possible donors to TRC.

Motion by Nancy Edward to renew membership with Freshwater Future for \$100, second by Al Baerron, all ayes

Media/Communication – Foerster: Deb Berkey stepped down as committee chair and Dave Foerster is interim chair. The color scheme for the website was chosen, "harbor" from Microsoft Publisher.

Annual Meeting – Foerster: Location for the annual meeting will be at the ISD in Lawrence on December 9, 2009. Possible key-note speakers: John Legge, Larry Nelson, Rob Zbiciak, Chuck Nelson, and Nate Fuller. Budget of \$400 for meeting and RSVP's will be encouraged.

Motion by Nancy Edwards to first contact Rob Zbiciak, Larry Nelson, and Nate Fuller for key-note speakers at 2009 annual meeting, second by Matt Meersman, all ayes



Community Connections - Baerron: TRC members attended Heritage Water Trails Annual Meeting and commented on its success. The committee will be compiling a list and informational sheet concerning reporting guidelines and agencies for water/creek/lake/river violations.

P-Ban Outreach: Dave Foerster will be sending a letter to Townships concerning the P-ban ordinance and it's approaching effective date of January 1, 2010.

New Business:

Nominations will be made by the nominating committee for three Board member terms that expire in December 2009. Nominations and voting will be held at the December 2009 Business Meeting.

Chris Bauer, MDEQ: TMDL "Total Maximum Daily Load" Development for the Ox Creek in Berrien County is in the process of being developed by the MDEQ. A public meeting will be held on November 4, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., at the Benton Charter Township Hall, 1725 Territorial Rd. Benton Harbor, MI.

MEAP grant application: **Motion** by Al Baerron to send in MAEP Grant Application for water resource education, seconded by Nancy Edwards, all ayes

Letters of Commitment and Support:

The Two Rivers Coalition is offering a letter of commitment for the 319 Watershed Implementation Grant by the Calhoun Conservation District, attached.

TRC offered a letter of support for the Prospect Park Plan, City of South Haven proposal to the Parks Department by the Celery Pond Advocates, attached.

Adjourned: 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Joe Parman
TRC Secretary



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

October 15, 2009

Board of Directors

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Matt Meersman
Treasurer

Joe Parman
Secretary

Dr. Debra Berkey

Nancy Edwards

George L Ewbank

Kevin Haight

Thomas Howe

Frank Jurenka

Jean M. Ketchum

Ms. Tracy Bronson, Executive Director
Calhoun Conservation District
13464 Preston Drive
Marshall MI 49068

RE: St. Joseph River watershed implementation project grant application

The Two Rivers Coalition is writing this letter of commitment for the 319 Watershed Implementation Grant being submitted by the Calhoun Conservation District for the St. Joseph River watershed implementation project in south western Michigan. If this proposal is approved for funding, the Calhoun CD, working with other key conservation partners, will help implement the comprehensive watershed management plans for these critical tributaries of the St. Joseph River. The plans identify and propose solutions to the non-point source pollutants and their sources currently impacting water quality in these critical watersheds. The Two Rivers Coalition feels the selection of these particular watersheds is important because portions of these streams are on the non-attainment list of MDEQ and this is a priority for MDEQ and EPA. Moreover, the St. Joseph River system is the most substantial contributor of atrazine to Lake Michigan. The Paw Paw River watershed here in the northern reaches of the St. Joseph has three TMDL listed waterbodies: Pine Creek, Mill Creek and South Branch. Targeted AWEF funding will ensure successful implementation of identified, critical bmp's.

In this letter of commitment, the Two Rivers Coalition will help in any way it can to promote and sustain this worthwhile effort. We will offer project promotion and outreach. These services, with consideration for meeting and prep time, can conservatively be valued at 100 hours per year x \$25.00 per hour, equaling \$2500.00 per year of local match toward the grant.

This grant for these watersheds grew out of the locally led process of the Conservation District identifying key natural resources problems and opportunities to be addressed. The Conservation District and its key partners have over 50 years experience in successfully addressing water and land natural resources problems. Based on these facts, the Two Rivers Coalition strongly urges the Michigan Dept. of Environmental *Quality* to review and approve this implementation grant application.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dave Foerster
President

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.



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and Paw Paw River Watersheds*

September 28, 2009

Board of Directors

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Dr. Debra Berkey

Nancy Edwards

George L Ewbank

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Thomas Howe

Frank Jurenka

Jean M. Ketchum

South Haven City Council
City of South Haven
539 Phoenix Street
South Haven, MI 49090

Re: Celery Pond / Prospect Park Plan

Dear Council Members,

There is no doubt the Black River is an extremely valuable natural and economic resource for the City of South Haven. Significant wetland loss has, however, already occurred in the Black River Watershed. Further loss should be prevented, and any wetland restoration or reconstruction is to be encouraged. From the City of South Haven Municipal Plan of 2004: "Failure to consciously protect sensitive natural resources exposes a community to the risk of destruction of those resources which are often the foundation for an area's character and quality of life. Sensitive natural resources include wetlands, sand dunes, areas supporting an abundance and diversity of wildlife, and unique wooded lands. Poorly planned development in or near these areas can not only destroy the resource and the natural character of the area, but can also result in higher public service costs and gradual degradation of an area's tourism potential."

How true this is! Two Rivers Coalition, Inc. applauds the Prospect Park Plan proposed to the Parks Department by the Celery Pond Advocates. It provides not only the means to protect a valuable natural resource but an opportunity to educate the public about the importance of protecting water quality so necessary to their health, safety, and welfare. Interpretive signage can show community residents, tourist and local schools the important role that wetlands play in providing that protection. Using lands owned and maintained by the community for this purpose will demonstrate the level of importance the City places on its most precious asset: clean water.

Two Rivers Coalition believes that Prospect Park, with the proposed overlook of Celery Pond and the wetland perimeter trail, would perfectly link and complement the Black River linear parks, the Kal-Haven bike trail and the downtown area orienting them to both water-based and land-based visitors.

Sincerely,

Dave Foerster
President

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.

219 Paw Paw Street, Suite 301, Paw Paw, MI 49079
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