



TWO RIVER COALITION MEETING MINUTES, May 13TH, 2009

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

Attendance: Dave Foerster, Bob Becker, Frank Jurenka, Steve Petersen, Jan Petersen, Chris Bouer, Joann Johnson, Beth Clawson, Dick Curtis, Al Baerren, John Mitchell, Jean Ketchum, Jim Lisowski, Tom Howe, Shannon Towne, Kevin Haight, Jack Bley, Kathy Dorr, Matt Meersman, Deb Berkey, Roman Plaszczak

Motion by Matt Meersman, seconded by Dave Foerster to approve agenda, all ayes.

Motion by Bob Becker, second by Bob Matt Meersman to approve minutes from April 8th, 2009, all ayes.

Treasurer's Report: Matt Meersman, handout provide – Current Balance \$2,200.87
Total reflects contributions and grant monies.

Motion by Matt Meersman and seconded by Al Baerren to adopt the following resolution
RE: Two Rivers Coalition, Inc account(s) with Chemical Bank Shoreline:
Board Members listed below shall be authorized 1) to open any deposit, checking or shares account(s) in the name of the Corporation, and 2) to endorse checks and orders for the payment of money or otherwise withdraw or transfer funds on deposit with Chemical Bank Shoreline in accordance with the current by-laws of the Corporation: Dave Foerster, President, Al Baerren, Vice President, Matt Meersman, Treasurer, and Joe Parman, Secretary.

Role call vote: Al Baerren-yes, Bob Becker-yes, Dave Foerster-yes, Kevin Haight-yes, Matt Meersman-yes, Joe Parman-yes, motion carries.

By-laws: Dave Foerster, bylaws need to protect Coalition and members from liability, indemnification clause. The “Two Rivers Coalition” title on official documents needs to include “Inc.” so as to notify the public that TRC is incorporated. Incorporation and by-law changes were assisted by attorney Roman Plaszczak whom volunteered his time.

Motion by Joe Parman, seconded by Frank Jurenka to replace the TRC Bylaws adopted November 12, 2008 with the proposed version of April 29, 2009 which had been submitted to the Board in writing and posted on the TRC website 14 days prior to the meeting as required by section IX. Amendments, of the current bylaws. Notice to membership was also provided by email attachment.

The motion carried by unanimous vote of the membership.

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.



Board Open Seat: Jean Ketchum interested in seat and no other members came forward.

Motion by Matt Meersman, seconded by Al Baerrens to appoint Jean Ketchum to the Two Rivers Coalition, Inc. Board of Directors. This appointment is for completion of the one year term vacated by Amy Lockhart which extends through December 2009.

319 Grant Update – Nothing at this time

PROJECT REVIEWS, handouts provided – additions to handouts:

Incorporation - Dave Foerster: According to attorney Roman Plaszczak, TRC lobbying for any specific issues must limit itself as “not a substantial part of its activities” and no campaigning on behalf of a candidate.

Membership/Recruitment - Tom Haight: Membership committee still planning on “paddle event” for TRC and partners. Committee is also looking to develop “Rack Card” for membership form and brochure – 5,000 copies, 2-sided for \$250.

Motion by Matt Meersman, second by Tom Howe to adopt voluntary fee structure set-up by the Membership Committee of \$10 – Student, \$25 – Individual, \$100 – Businesses/Associations, and minus the recommendation of \$50 for families.

Role call vote: Al Baerren-yes, Bob Becker-no, Dave Foerster-yes, Kevin Haight-yes, Tom Howe-yes, Matt Meersman-yes, Joe Parman-yes, Jean Ketchum-yes; motion carries.

Media/Communication – Becker and Berkey: Proposals for website management, proposal email to board members.

- a. John Phillips – information by Bob Becker
- b. Fresh Water Future Tech Services – information by Dave Foerster
- c. LIAA website – information by Matt Meersman

There was membership and Board consensus for the communications committee to pursue a solution allowing web based editing so that committees could be given password entry to maintain web pages to do with committee business.

Discussion: Presentation of Logo that was “cleaned-up” and sharpened for a better quality look, by Sam Ewbank. Membership suggested reversing image color so that letters of the word “Coalition” lapping into the shield design would show up better. All thought the presented artwork offered a vast improvement to the logo design. With the color change, the logo was adopted by consensus. (See final logo design in header of this document).

Community Connections – Al Baerren: Al to give slide show presentation he developed to inform people of TRC and what the group represents. Members need to go to public meetings to raise awareness for TRC and specific issues they are passionate about.

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P-Ban Outreach – Parman: Dave Foerster finished final brochure informing the public of Van Buren Counties Phosphorus Fertilizer Ban Ordinance to be inserted into Summer Tax Notices.

Motion by Tom Howe, seconded by Joe Parman to authorize the phosphorus ban committee to expend but not to exceed \$800 for printing up to 50,000 copies of public informational notice on the recently adopted Van Buren County lawn fertilizer phosphorus ban ordinance to be included with the County summer tax notices. These funds shall be charged against the Freshwater 2000 fall grant as authorized by Jill Ryan on May 11, 2009. Role call vote: Al Baerren-yes, Bob Becker-yes, Dave Foerster-yes, Kevin Haight-yes, Tom Howe-yes, Matt Meersman-yes, Joe Parman-yes, Jean Ketchum-yes; motion carries.

Discussion: Joe Parman to send out notices to applicators, retailers, and golf courses of the Phosphorus Ordinance as part of the County Drain Offices function.

Septic Outreach – Ketchum: Developing brochure for septic system education and awareness.

Announcement: MDEQ is hosting a stake holder meeting for the Pine and Mill Creeks E-coil TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) on June 16 at the Lawrence Conference Center 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Presentation was done by John Mitchell, President of the Bangor/South Haven Heritage Water Trail Association on the water trail, volunteer work, and goals of the organization.

Adjourn 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Joe Parman, TRC Secretary