



BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 11, 2018
Blackman Township Hall
1991 West Parnall Road, Jackson, MI

The Meeting was called to order by Kenny Price at 7:14 PM.

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Kay Brown, Dan Kaser, Kurt LaFrance, Kenny Price, Jack Ripstra, Kurt Rudolph, Deb Snell, Benji Ward

Absent: Jon Hoyle, John Minar, Don Nelson, Pam Brown

Guests: none

AGENDA REVIEW:

Motion to accept agenda: Kurt LaFrance

Second: Jack Ripstra

Approve: all

MINUTES:

Motion to accept minutes from June as amended to correct spelling changes to Parnall Rd and Geoffrey Snyder in the Water Trail section: Kurt LaFrance

Second: Jack Ripstra

Approve: all

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

There were 128 members as of March 13. One hundred six of those have paid for 2018, with the remaining 22 unpaid so far.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

GREAT has \$3100 more than last year at this time. Jeff Gund has completed the 2017 taxes (an extension had been filed). There was \$50 received from the Network for Good (Facebook).

RIVERMASTER'S REPORT:

Don provided a report via e-mail. "A path has been cleared to the Waste Water Treatment Plant. At the jam just down stream from the Rail Road bridge there is still a large branch of the willow tree still in the way, but can be gotten beneath. I am aware of a few more jams between the WWTP and Stonegate, but we have not made it beyond there." Don had a health incident and is out of commission for a while.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

County Fair – The Board approved a recommendation by the President to spend \$100 to support a booth at the Fair with the Jackson County Conservation District. We will be able to distribute information and show a banner with the JCCD. We also still need to pay \$30 to JCCD for the Earth Day activity.

June Trip – The trip went well however, John Minar flipped at the Dam and another participant went over.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Trip Sign-up: The Trip Sign-up sheet was circulated.
- July Paddle: There was a motion to cancel the July Paddle due to the river debris condition (Kurt R, 2nd Dan). There was a great deal of debate on options and a call made to Jim Seitz. In the end there was to be a concerted effort to continue clearing and creating a route with the adjustment of the starting and end points.
- July 7 Bill Dunphy Paddle: Kenny reported on this trip.
- Consumers thoughts on River Trails: Kurt L reported on the two meetings with Consumers (Geoffrey Snyder, County Drain Commissioner & Pat Burtch, City Manager) on the River Trail. Consumers will reach out to the City Manager to try and affect a change in the City's approach.
- August Event: The August 19 event at Vandercook Lake was discussed. The event will include boating safety, kayaking techniques, and Clean Boats/Clean Water..

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Communication/Newsletter: Deb Snell is tweaking the brochure newsletter distribution.

Activities & Calendar: see under President's Report and Discussion Items

Environmental Education & Advocacy: no report

Annual Clean-up: We are looking for food donations.

Nominations: no report

GREAT Equipment: Pop-up tent appears to have more damage to side stays. Will need a new one for next year.

River Debris Removal: see Rivermaster Report and July Trip Discussion.

GREAT Land/Building: Lights to be installed in the next couple weeks at the Pole Parn

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

GR Jackson County Paddle Trail Map & Booklet: no report

Water Trail: see Rivermaster report. There is also a lack of notice on the Website under the Trip tab that the trails are maintained by volunteers and clearance is attempted on a multi-year basis. Therefore, water trails may have clearance issues.

RELATED GROUPS:

Watershed Alliance: no report.

Jackson Conservation District: There was some discussion of algae, cyanobacteria and 1,4 Dioxane.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Kurt Rudolph

Second: Dan Kaser

Approve: all

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM. The next Meeting will be held August 8, 2018 at the Summit Township Hall at 7:00 PM.

Kurt Rudolph, Recorder of Minutes

The mission of GREAT is to promote the protection of the Grand River Watershed through activities and educational programs,