



BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 12, 2018
Blackman Township Hall
1990 West Parnall Road, Jackson, MI

The meeting was called to order by President Kenny Price at 7:03 P.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Kay Brown, Kurt LaFrance, Don Nelson, Kenny Price, Jack Ripstra, Kurt Rudolph, Deb Snell and Benji Ward

Absent: Pam Brown, Jon Hoyle, Dan Kaser and John Minar

Guest: none

AGENDA REVIEW:

Motion to accept amended agenda: Don Nelson

Second: Jack Ripstra

Approve: all

MINUTES:

Motion to accept minutes: Jack Ripstra

Second: Kay Brown

Approve: all

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

We have 131 paid memberships at this point. The “we miss you” letters have not yet been sent out and there was some discussion about if it matter at this time in the season.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Statements had been emailed to the board for their review, no discussion. Jack noted that we are \$3000 up compared to this time last year.

RIVER MASTER’S REPORT:

Cutting for the October outing will be starting in the next week or so, weather permitting.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT/DISCUSSIONS ITEMS:

- Kenny shared with the Board that Pam Brown has submitted her resignation letter. It was with regret that it has been accepted. Pam will still be a member and will continue working on the newsletter and intends to take over as GREAT’s historian for Barb Anderson. Kenny also told us that Andrew Hodges (?) was interested in being on the board.
- There were several board members at the funeral of former GREAT President, Andrew LaFaive. There was some discussion about some kind of memorial plaque on the GREAT land, maybe a future trail named after him.
- The sign up sheet was passed around for duties during the October paddle.
- The newsletter has just gone out and we are looking into articles for the last one of the season.
- The Adopt-a-stream outing is scheduled for the 29th of September. Meet at the Jackson Conservation District offices, goes from noon to 4:00 PM.
- The household hazardous waste collection day is Saturday, September 22 from 9-2 at the Jackson County Fair Grounds. Fee of \$5 per vehicle.
- There was a good deal of discussion about Wild Apricot software and all of the things we feel it can do for GREAT to improve are ability to reach out to more people, manage our membership and generate more interest and participation. Printing our newsletter, postage, and other subjects.

Standing Committees:

Communication/Newsletter: Newsletter articles due November 1st, articles about the Invasive species clean Dec. 1st as well as other. Deb shared that we received a letter from the Non Profit Membership offering discounts at the Office Depot for members. Deb continues to share emails as they come in.

Finances: No report.

Activities & Calendar: Covered previously.

Education & Advocacy: The Paddle Clinic held in August was an effective educational out reach and Deb mentioned that she has had some positive feed back about it. The attendance was low and it was mentioned that to reach out to younger people that we need to do more with social media. This sparked a discussion about our web page, Wild Apricot software and our media presence. Should we set up a Twitter and Instant Gram accounts, keep our Face Book page more active. To be continued.

Annual Cleanup: It went well. Kenny mentioned that next year he is looking for more people to solicit food sponsors, but he was pleased to report that there has always been a little left over to donate to the needy. Jack told us that we cleaned up 6.2 miles of river, collected 10 Cubic Yards of trash, about 6 tires and had 76 people come out to help.

Nominations: Kenny suggested Andrew Hodges would be interested.

GREAT Equipment Inventory: We have gotten a new 24” chain saw, similar to the unit we have

River Debris Removal: No report.

GREAT land: The lights and solar components have arrived, Jack is working with contractor. He also mowed the grass again. He would like to purchase some shelving units for the barn for storage. Don Nelson moved that we authorize the expenditure, not to exceed \$75. The motion was seconded by Kurt LaFrance and approved by all. We have the invasive species clean up December 1st from 9-noon on GREAT’s Land.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Grand River Trail Map and Booklet: No report.

Water Trail: No report.

RELATED GROUPS:

Watershed Alliance: Coming up in soon, report in October.

JAOC: no report.

JCCD: no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Don Nelson

Second: Kurt Rudolph

Approve: all

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 P.M.

The next monthly meeting will be October June 10th, 2018 at the Summit Township Hall at 7:00 P.M.,

Don Nelson, Recorder of Minutes

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