



GREAT ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
March 13, 2019
Gene Davis & Sons, Banquet Center
Jackson, MI

The meeting was called to order by Kenny Price at 7:07 PM

MINUTES:

The Minutes from the 2018 Annual Meeting were presented by Kurt Rudolph.
Motion to accept the minutes from GREAT's 2018 Annual Meeting: Roxanne Phillips
Second: Jon Minar
Approve: all

RECOGNITIONS:

Deb Snell recognized the efforts of the GREAT board members past and present as well as:
Rodolfo Zuniga – The Nature Conservancy
Dana Ashlock - Jackson Community Foundation,
Lori Fitzgibbons – Jackson County Conservation Office,
Jeff Lolkus – Natural Resources Conservation Service,
Ken Toll – United Way,
Bill Strohaber & Diana Kern – Legacy Land Conservancy, and
MSG Michael Nichols – JACC Army JROTC.

ANNUAL REPORT OF 2018:

President Kenny Price gave the Annual Report, please refer to that report. Kenny went over some of the highlights and thanked the board and all the members for their continued support. Kenny expressed his thanks for the continued assistance by the JROTC in the Annual River Clean-up.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Jack Ripstra presented the group with the Financial Reports and noted that the Photo Voltaic lighting system has been installed along with the office area for records storage and work space.
There were no questions and a motion was made to except the budget by Jim Seitz
Second: Ray Snell
Approved by: all

ACTIVITIES 2019:

Kay Brown went over the upcoming Activities Calendar.

April 27th (Saturday) 1:00-4:00 PM Earth Day (Jackson Area Outdoor Coalition)

May 19th (Sunday) 11:00 A.M. Grand River Paddle (2.6 Mile Trip for 2 to 3.5 Hours)
Sutfin Road (Culvert 1 Mile South of Liberty Road) to Liberty Township Hall (101 W. Liberty Road).

June 16th (Sunday) 11:00 A.M. St. Joseph River Paddle in Hillsdale County (4.4 Mile Trip for 2.5 to 4 Hours) Fayette St., off M-99, Hillsdale to US 12, Jonesville (park next to State Farm Insurance)

July 21st (Sunday) 11:00 A.M. Grand River Paddle (4.6 Mile Trip for 2.5 to 4 Hours)

Vandercook Lake County Park Access (Floyd/Avenue C St.) to Ella Sharp Park (Maplewood Dr.).

August 18th (Sunday) 12 Noon to 4:00 PM Paddling Clinic (Bring your boat or use a GREAT boat to learn safety, techniques, first aid) Avenue C, Vandercook Lake, Jackson.

September 7th (Saturday) 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM Annual Grand River Clean-up CMS Energy band shell, Cooper St., Downtown Jackson. Dress to be in or near the river. Tools and lunch provided.

October 6th (Sunday) 11:00 A.M. Grand River Paddle (5.4 Mile Trip for 2.5 to 4 Hours)
Maple Grove DNR Access (Maple Grove Rd.) to South State Rd. (adjacent to US 127).

December 7th (Saturday) 9:00 AM to 12 Noon Annual Invasive Species Removal on GREAT's 25.3 Acres in Birdland Subdivision, Blackman Township, Jackson County, Michigan.

2019 Goals and Vision: Deb Snell reviewed the 2019 Goals and Vision for GREAT of

1. Implement new web site.
2. Create Boat Replacement Plan.
3. Increase GREAT visibility in community.

Deb also requested input from those in attendance on what GREAT can do to improve and strengthen its impact on the community. Suggestions included:

- Follow up with those who paddle to join (Barb O'Kelly) and
- Provide a Thank you Paddle for the JROTC (Charity Steere).

New Web Site and Expedition 2020: Deb noted that we are missing the Millennials. Jack Ripstra then stated that it is hoped that with the update of the Web Site and Expedition 2020 we will encourage a younger membership. Jack asked about what the significance of the year 1990 was to GREAT. It was the year that GREAT was formed and it was the first Grand River Expedition from the headwaters to Lake Michigan.

BOARD ELECTIONS:

Kurt Rudolph conducted the elections with a slate of four returning board members and opened nominations from the floor. There were two new nominations from the floor for Directors to fill two year terms (Cathy Jehnzen and Jeff Lolkus). A motion was made to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the nominees by Barb O'Kelly and seconded by Karen Mitchell to accept the following nominated slate to hold office for the next two years, ending their term in 2021. Motion approved by all;

Jack Ripstra, Treasurer
Jon Holye, Director
Jon Minar, Director
Kurt Rudolph, Director
Cathy Jehnzen, Director, and
Jeff Lolkus, Director.

INTRODUCTION OF FEATURED SPEAKER:

Kenny Price introduced Rodolfo Zuniga from The Nature Conservancy. Rodolpho discussed the Southern Michigan Fens and Savannas. He provided a brief bit of personal background and the purpose of the Nature Conservancy and its work. He went on to provide an understanding of the geology and topography of the Southern Michigan Fens and why they are both unique and threatened. He further described the unique flora and fauna of these specific fens.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Kenny Price opened the meeting to comments from the audience, there were none. A Motion to adjourn was made by: not recorded.

Second: not recorded.

Approve: all

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 P.M.

The next monthly meeting will be April 10, 2019, at the Summit Township Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Kurt Rudolph, Recorder of Minutes

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