



BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
April 10, 2019  
Summit Township Hall  
2121 Ferguson Rd, Jackson, MI

The meeting was called to order by President Kenny Price at 7:15 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Present:** Kenny Price, Kurt LaFrance, Jack Ripstra, Deb Snell, Kay Brown, Cathy Jehnzen, John Minar, Kurt Rudolph, and Benji Ward

**Absent:** Jon Hoyle, Dan Kaser, and Jeff Lolkus

**Guest:** none

**AGENDA REVIEW:**

The emailed agenda was reviewed and a number of additions made. There was a motion to accept the emailed agenda by Kurt Rudolph

Second: Jack Ripstra

Approve: all

**MINUTES:**

There was a motion to accept the emailed March minutes, the emailed Annual Meeting Minutes (as amended by Benji Ward) and the emailed Organizational Meeting Minutes made by Kay Brown

Second: Deb Snell

Approve: all

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:**

Deb reported that there are 124 memberships with 4 new since the Annual Meeting (101 paid & 23 unpaid). The new members include: Dave & Carolyn Balogh, Barry Blaisdale, William & Deb Strohaber, and Mstr. Sgt. Michael Nichols

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Jack reported on the March 31 Balance Sheet, March Year to Date Profit/Loss Statement and 2018/2019 P/L Comparison that had been emailed to the board for their review. Jack highlighted some items: We are about \$2,400 behind in net income YTD compared to 2018. We are still positive so far for the year. There is \$2,141 for Andy Lefaive Memorial and \$1,509.73 remaining in Pole Barn funds.

**RIVER MASTER'S REPORT:**

There was no report.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT/DISCUSSIONS ITEMS:**

- Cutting for May & July trips – The May trip just needs some lopping. The July trip needs some major log removal just South of Probert Rd. There will be a mid day Saturday work party to try and address the deadfalls across the river. An email will be sent out to the general membership.
- New Kayaks – Jack and Don are looking at thermoplastic kayaks in the \$700 range with molded handles.
- Consumers Energy Earth Day Volunteer Activity – Consumers has requested GREAT involvement in a small river shoreline clean up from Cooper St. to MLK/Francis St. on Monday, April 22 11A to noon. Board members volunteered to come and assist.
- Earth Day – There were discussions of assignments for the April 27 Event at the Cascades. We will only use City docks. Jack will bring the canoes and Kay will bring the kayaks.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- Spring Newsletter – Assignments were made for articles which are due on May 1.
- Paddling Event for JROTC – there was a great deal of discussion on the timing of such an event. John Minar will get with Sgt. Nichols about various options and when it might work best for the JROTC students. .
- Wild Apricot – There is a desire to “go live” in September in order to take advantage of the system for 2020 registration.
- Conflict of Interest Forms – All board members Conflict of Interest forms were circulated for review.
- 2019 Visibility Goal – There was some discussion of this new goal and it was suggested that Kenny invite Jackie Austin (Laura Dwyer Schlechte’s daughter) from the Jackson Young Professionals to attend the next meeting.

## **Standing Committees:**

**Communication/Newsletter:** Deb noted that there is a trip scheduled for the Raisin River. Also, that there will be a two day chain saw safety class offered by the Raisin River Watershed.

**Finances:** No report.

**Activities & Calendar:** No report. The Activities calendar was circulated in order to obtain sign up for the various events.

**Education & Advocacy:** Deb noted that PFAs article in the paper was worth reading.

**Annual Cleanup:** Jack reported that he has completed the forms and paid the fees for the use of the City property for both the clean up and the July Paddle (Ella Sharpe Park pull-out).

**Nominations:** No report.

**GREAT Equipment:** There was discussion of the new State boat cleaning requirements to prevent the spread of invasive species. Jack noted that new struts have been ordered for the tent.

**River Debris Removal:** There was no report, but there was discussion on DNR requirements on cutting in the river.

**GREAT land:** Kay reported that NW Schools can make the sign, but they need the design to program into the machine.

## **AD HOC COMMITTEES:**

**Grand River Trail Map and Booklet:** on hold.

**Water Trail:** no report.

## **RELATED GROUPS:**

**Watershed Alliance:** No report.

**JAOC:** no report.

**JCCD:** Cathy Jehnzen will take responsibility for this area and she mentioned the CISMA and Adopt-A-River activities.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 P.M.

The next monthly meeting will be May 8, 2019 at Blackman 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.*