



BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 10, 2019
Blackman Township Hall
1990 West Parnall Road, Jackson, MI

The meeting was called to order by Treasurer Jack Ripstra at 7:04 P.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Jack Ripstra, Deb Snell, Kay Brown, Jon Hoyle, Dan Kaser, Cathy Jehnzen, John Minar, Kurt Rudolph, and Benji Ward

Absent: Kenny Price, Kurt LaFrance, & Jeff Lolkus

Guest: none

AGENDA REVIEW:

There was a motion to accept the emailed agenda by Kurt Rudolph

Second: Benji Ward

Approve: all

MINUTES:

There was a motion to accept the emailed June minutes corrected for the proper meeting date by Kurt Rudolph.

Second: Dan Kaser

Approve: all

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Deb reported that there are still 132 memberships; 12 new from last year, 112 paid and 20 unpaid. A follow up reminder will be sent this month to those who have not paid.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Balance Sheet, Budget Comparison and Profit & Loss reports were emailed out. Jack reported that we have an increase of 5 members in the January to June 3 period over last year for this same period. GREAT has \$17,211.74 cash on hand.

RIVER MASTER'S REPORT:

Cathy Jehnzen, Dan Kaser, Kurt Rudolph, and Jack Ripstra spent 4 hours clearing the river for the July paddle.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The Board expressed a deep sorrow for Kenny and Betty at the loss of their son Ken. Jack noted that there will be a memorial service at Art 634 in the future.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Paddling Event for JROTC – John Minar is making the arrangements and Deb suggested that more food be found for these volunteers who give so much..
- Cutting for 2019 - August – Jack is looking to cut from 127 to Stone Gate Farms in preparation for the September Clean-up.
- Wild Apricot – Benji put out the October kayak sign up for the board to try. It should be easy. Some have done it and it appears to work. There was some discussion on what the minimum content should be prior to the web site conversion to Wild Apricot. We should also meet with the Non-Profit Network to get their opinion and assistance.

- Next Newsletter – The electronic version is due out prior to the August Paddle Clinic on the 18th. Articles are due to Deb on August 1. The next quarter’s newsletter will come out prior to the Clean-up on August 15. Benji will write an article on “Buffer Strips” and Jack will have an article on the River clearing activity to date.
- Report on the June Trip – John Minar noted that there seemed to be a poor turn out in spite of the good weather. The pictures of the rapids were excellent. It was noted that one person tipped over. There was discussion of how to increase attendance. It was suggested that we survey members and reach out to the Jackson Young Professionals.
- August Paddle Clinic – Kenny has the lead for this and we can discuss at the August meeting.

Standing Committees:

Communication/Newsletter: Deb noted that things have been quiet. Two handouts on invasive species were provided and will be distributed with these meeting minutes. Rives is still working on a barge to use as a platform to chain saw from. Deb will need articles from Jack on the Clean-up, Kenny on the August Clinic, John Minar on the June Trip and Dan Kaser on the July Trip. Jeff might be able to provide an Ag article, Cathy might have a chain saw safety article.

Finances: Deb noted that the Water Trail Subcommittee is looking at obtaining funding for a “Stream View” of the River Trail. The cost to do this would be ~\$100/mi and there are 90 miles.

Activities & Calendar: No report.

Education & Advocacy: No report.

Annual Cleanup: Jack is recruiting team leaders.

Nominations: No report.

GREAT Equipment: No report.

River Debris Removal: I94 and Maple Grove will require large equipment to deal with the jams. This will likely occur after the September Clean up.

GREAT land: Dan has been mowing the grounds.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Water Trail: No report.

Grand River Trail Map and Booklet: on hold.

RELATED GROUPS:

Watershed Council: No report.

Earth Day: No report.

JCCD: The last free tire Collection will be August 17.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38.

The next monthly meeting will be August 18, 2019 at 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.