



BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 8, 2019
Blackman Township Hall
1990 West Parnall Road, Jackson, MI

The meeting was called to order by President Kenny Price at 7:06 P.M.

ATTENDANCE:

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

Absent: Kurt LaFrance

Guest: none

AGENDA REVIEW:

There was a motion to accept the emailed agenda by John Minar

Second: Jon Hoyle

Approve: all

MINUTES:

There was a motion to accept the emailed April minutes by Jack Ripstra.

Second: Kurt Rudolph

Approve: all

Kenny took a break from the regular agenda to shamelessly promote the Downtown ArtWalk. He encouraged all to attend and especially to stop by JTV.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Deb reported that there are still 124 memberships (but with 104 paid & 20 unpaid).

There was some general discussion of GREAT and various pollution issues similar to the 1,4 Dioxane plume from Pall Corp (formerly Gelman Life Sciences) in Ann Arbor. There was discussion about the Blackman Township long term sewage spill due to a disconnect of a combined sewer pipe to the City of Jackson sanitary system in the 1970s. This was discovered during the current I-94 construction project. It involved 3 houses and one gas station. There was also discussion of impacts of a proposed power generator in Rives Junction.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Jack reported on the April 30 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 still positive so far for the year by \$2,281.54. We are about \$1,600 behind in income YTD compared to 2018.

RIVER MASTER'S REPORT:

Deb Snell, Kay Brown, John Minar, and Jack Ripstra spent 4 hours clearing the river for the May paddle. Jack noted that the river is currently too to cut for the June or July trips.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Earth Day – Earth Day was a great success! 153 people ventured out in a kayak or canoe. Kenny noted that some homes in the Cascades area continued to have flooding problems

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Sign for GREAT Barn – The board discussed two signs one graphic of a Cardinal and one with the GREAT logo after seeing what NW Schools can do. Kay to go back and discuss with NW Schools.
- Paddling Event for JROTC – The event will be held the day after the Clean-up (September 8) at Vandercook Lake Park. John Minar will oversee.
- Cutting for 2019 - June and July Trips – May cutting is complete. GREAT will be responsible for the June trip cutting in Hillsdale on the St Joseph River.
- Wild Apricot – Jack asked board members to look at the Wild Apricot website and give Jack feedback, especially the boat sign-up and dues payment area. We will revisit in June.
- Next Newsletter – The electronic version is due out on May 15. 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.

Standing Committees:

Communication/Newsletter: Deb has not received much in the way of communications. Betty Desbiens was invited to come visit the Pole barn at the Earth Day event. The new list of Board members was distributed.

Finances: No report.

Activities & Calendar: The Activities calendar was circulated in order to obtain sign up for the various events. Kenny wanted to see new faces for the Trip Leaders.

Education & Advocacy: No report.

Annual Cleanup: Jack reported that he has the permits into the City and is looking to find dumpsters. Kenny asked others to try and find sources for donated food for the event.

Nominations: No report.

GREAT Equipment: We are waiting for one plug for a kayak and two canoe seats need to be repaired.

River Debris Removal: This was covered in the Rivermaster's report.

GREAT land: Jack reported that we are waiting for prices on the downspouts.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Water Trail: It was noted that Kyle Lewis, Jackson County Parks has taken the lead on the Grand River Jackson County Water Trail project.

Grand River Trail Map and Booklet: There was some discussion that this might be done by the Jackson County Parks Department since they have taken over the Water Trail.

RELATED GROUPS:

Watershed Alliance Council: Kenny noted that the group can no longer be considered an Alliance due to the membership of County and Township representatives has lapsed. Therefore, it has reverted back to a council. An Alliance is defined in Michigan Law (Act 51 Part 312) and has defined powers and the ability to collect and expend funds.

Earth Day: It was noted that Nichole Vanderploeg did a great job arranging the Earth Day event.

JCCD: The Plant Sale at the Fairgrounds on May 18 was highlighted and the Tree Sale went well. Adopt-a-Stream will be on Saturday, May 11. The Tire Collection will be August 17.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

There was some discussion of flooding around Wamplers Lake and Mud Lake. It is most likely caused by too much rain and too small of a culvert

ADJOURNMENT:

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 by Kurt Rudolph, seconded by Jack and approved by all.

The next monthly meeting will be June 12, 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.