



BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 8, 2020
Blackman Township Hall
1990 West Parnall Road, Jackson, MI

The meeting was called to order by President Kenny Price at 7:07 P.M.

ATTENDANCE:

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

Absent:, Jon Hoyle, Kurt LaFrance, and Jeff Lolkus

Guest: Phil Preston, Treasurer, Blackman Township

AGENDA REVIEW:

There was a motion to accept the emailed agenda as amended by Jack Ripstra.

Second: Deb Snell

Approve: all

MINUTES:

There was a motion to accept the emailed November minutes by Kenny Price

Second: Jack Ripstra

Approve: all

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Deb is working on the year end tax letters, and Membership Renewal letter.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Balance Sheet, Budget Comparison and Profit & Loss reports were emailed out. Jack reported that at the end of 2019 there were assets of \$15,398.84. He noted that we ended 2019 at a loss of \$397.79 which would have been less of a loss with the checks that were in the PO Box did not get deposited in 2019.

RIVER MASTER'S REPORT:

Jack provided a list of cutting needs in preparation prior to the July 6 2020 Expedition start. It was noted that there will be a meeting with Jackson County Parks on January 22 at 10 AM at the Blackman Township Hall to discuss the maintenance of the Grand River Trail in Jackson County. Jack had provided a report of the work contracted by the County Drain Commission to clear jams in the river from I-94 to Maple Grove. This year we will ask the membership to sign up as cutters, movers, and cleaners in an attempt to increase the numbers taking care of the river maintenance. There is a concern with liability in this concept.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Kenny had the following discussion items:

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- GREAT River Trails Maps – Seven maps for the 12 trips that GREAT normally makes are complete in a pdf format. We need the others completed. We will likely not be able to do it to the level that Don Nelson was working on due to his use of up to date GPS location data and his Microstation software program. However, that level of accuracy and detail may be more than is required for the average paddler. The key is to have something that can be used as a laminated guide indicating roads, landings, and other landmarks.
- 2020 Annual Dinner – The Annual Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday March 11 at the Gene Davis Conference Center. A list of assignments was routed around the table. The speaker has yet to be determined. Deb Snell and John Minar will continue to pursue a speaker. There will be an

Expedition 2020 speaker, but the real discussion of the 2020 Expedition will take place next year. The “Make-it-Happen Award” was discussed.

- Wild Apricot – The Wild Apricot web site will go live in 2-3 weeks.
- The Next Newsletters – Kenny noted the important of getting the article in on a timely basis. Deb reported the due dates for the newsletters this year.:
 - Feb 15 Newsletter – Articles due January 31
 - May 15 Newsletter – Articles due April 30
 - Aug 15 Newsletter – Articles due September 30
 - Nov 15 Newsletter – Articles due October 31

Deb listed the articles for February:

Annual Meeting – Kenny	Facts & History – Kenny	Expedition 2020 - Deb
River Cleaning – Jack	Earth Day - unknown	1990 Expedition Brian Ennis
Quiet Adventures Expo – Jack	New Web Site - Jack	

- 2020 Paddle Schedule – The paddle schedule was distributed. All paddles will be on Saturdays in hopes of increasing attendance and allowing for Sunday in case Saturday is cancelled due to weather. There is an extra 5PM Thursday, June 4 “Mystery Paddle” this year. There was discussion of an August Full Moon Paddle (Monday, August 3rd?) at either Vandercook Lake or Lime Lake.
- 2020 Earth Day – This will be the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. The location is being shifted slightly to the Cascades Fish Pond. The lagoons are shallow and have a high E.coli level. The Fish Pond has fresh water constantly flowing into it.
- New Blackman Park – Phil Preston, Blackman Township Treasurer discussed the acquisition, clean-up and future development of the land between Canary Lane, the river, the GREAT Land to the North and Northwest Schools to the South. Blackman is applying for a NRTF grant, which the township will match to fund development. Blackman is looking for assistance and coordination with the adjacent land owners to some sort of mutual benefit.
- 2020 Goals. – The board discussed goals for 2020. (1) Increase membership and participation, (2) Implement & improve website, (3) Continue with boat replacement plan.

Standing Committees:

Communication/Newsletter: Two cards were received from Dr Hand and Betty Desbiens. Newsletter see above

Finances: No report.

Activities & Calendar: No report.

Education & Advocacy: No report.

Annual Cleanup: No report.

Nominations: No report.

GREAT Equipment: The road and shuttle sign discussion was tabled until February.

River Debris Removal: No report.

GREAT land and building: We should see the new building signage by the next meeting.

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:. No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Vests are still needed for Cathy and Jeff.

NEW BUSINESS:

The board approved participating in the Quiet Water Symposium at MSU on February 29 for \$25.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59.

The next monthly meeting will be February 5, 2020 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.