



BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 3, 2020
ZOOM Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Kenny Price at 7:09 P.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Kenny Price, Kurt LaFrance, Jack Ripstra, Deb Snell, Cathy Jehnzen, Dan Kaser, Jeff Lolkus, Kurt Rudolph, and Benji Ward

Absent: Kay Brown, Jon Hoyle, John Minar

Guests: none

AGENDA REVIEW:

There was a motion to accept the emailed agenda as amended by Kurt Rudolph, seconded by Cathy Jehnzen, and approved by all

MINUTES:

There was a motion to accept the emailed May minutes as sent by Jack Ripstra, seconded by Cathy Jehnzen, and approved by all.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Deb reported that she has been a bit behind because of the death of her mother. She also has a lot going on with wedding prep for her daughter on June 20 with lots of changes due to the Covid-19 restrictions, as well as her son's wedding.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Balance Sheet, Budget Comparison and Profit & Loss reports were emailed out. Jack reported that at the end of May 2020 there was a total in cash (restricted and checking) of \$10,501.95.

RIVER MASTER'S REPORT:

Jack reported that 4 trees are down on the South side of the river near Hague Rd. Jack and Kay plan to survey the damage on Wednesday, June 10 at 7:30 PM. Jack also noted that Geoff Snyder will defer the funding river clearing this year downstream from North Street due to the cancelation of Expedition 2020. It will likely be reinstated when the Expedition schedule is finalized.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Kenny had the following discussion items:

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

It was decided to rearrange upcoming paddles to lake paddles to avoid the problems associated with shuttling persons, while still being active in the community. The lake paddles might also be more family friendly, not requiring a commitment of hours. These paddles may require participants to disinfect canoes and kayaks with bleach solution in a Covid-19 concentration (this may be the same as one of the MDNR invasive species solutions).

- July Paddle – The July Paddle will be changed to Vandercook Lake to allow for a variety of paddling experiences (paddling upstream into the Grand River toward Jackson College and Hague Rd, or to Brown's Lake or other smaller lakes and streams off Vandercook.
- August Paddle – Thorn/Watkins Lake (our newest State Park) will be August replacement paddle. This location has restrictions during the spring and fall due to its use as a migratory bird stopover

preserve.

- September River Clean-up – The board discussed options for this annual event. It was decided to continue with it, because it is GREAT's major annual event. The board was asked to look into ideas for how to pull it off without the use of buses for shuttles and without the JROTC. Instead consideration is to be given to cleaning some high visibility shoreline areas, shorter out and back paddles from more easily launched and retrieved areas. We normally have 30-50 non JROTC people helping out. We may have issues with supplying a meal afterwards, because of financial constraints placed on restaurant businesses due to the shutdown. All are asked to return next month with some ideas on how to pull this off.
- October Paddle - Baw Beese Lake on the St Joseph River in Hillsdale will be the replacement lake paddle for this month. It offers a great deal of park land along the North shore.
- Money/Membership/Donors - Jack noted that we are currently down 26 members from last year at this time. Deb has not sent renewal notices out, and will reach out to stale donors.
- Vehicle and Event Signage – Cathy reported on a need to convert the GREAT logo into a better rendered pdf or EPS file format for the magnetic signs. Jack will assist. Deb will look into a relation redoing the logo electronically.

Standing Committees:

Communication/Newsletter: The May Newsletter did not go out, because of the social distancing restrictions and need to cancel much of what was planned. The next Newsletter will go out in June highlighting all of the changes.

Finances: No report.

Activities & Calendar: The Activities Calendar will be updated by Jack

Education & Advocacy: No report.

Annual Cleanup: No report.

Nominations: No report.

GREAT Equipment: Dan has purchased a 2-4 boat trailers for use in cutting activity. He is offering it to GREAT at his cost of \$500. Kurt Rudolph made the motion to purchase it from Dan, Cathy seconded and all approved.

River Debris Removal: No report.

GREAT land and building: Jack asked for copies of the insurance policy from the McCay Agency (Quiet Sports) dated October 2019, so that we can obtain a refund for our duplicate coverage.

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:

Nothing to review.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nothing new to review.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 . as moved by Jack, seconded by Kurt Rudolph and approved by all.

The next monthly meeting will be July 1, 2020 tentatively at Blackman Township Hall at 7:00 P.M. If necessary will be conducted via ZOOM.

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.