



BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 4, 2020
Blackman Township Hall and ZOOM

The meeting was called to order by President Kenny Price at 7:02 P.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Kenny Price (Zoom), Kurt LaFrance (Zoom), Jack Ripstra, Deb Snell (Zoom), Cathy Jehnzen (Zoom), Jeff Lolkus (Zoom), John Minar (Zoom), and Kurt Rudolph (Zoom), Benji Ward (Zoom)

Absent: Kay Brown, Jon Hoyle, Dan Kaser,

Guests: none

Special thanks to Blackman Township for the use of their Zoom account.

AGENDA REVIEW:

There was a motion to accept the emailed agenda by Benji Ward, seconded by Kurt LaFrance, and approved by all

MINUTES:

There was a motion to accept the emailed September minutes as corrected by Kenny Price, seconded by Cathy Jehnzen, and approved by all.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Deb noted that there was one new member (Jacob Jabkiewicz) and two renewed memberships in October. Deb reconciled the list with Wild Apricot. There was some discussion of the use of "Meet-up" by the AuSable and the Lansing Oar and Paddle clubs.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Balance Sheet, Budget Comparison and Profit & Loss reports were emailed out. Jack reported that at the end of October 2020 there was a total in cash (restricted and checking) of \$14,845.99. The P&L Statement shows that we are short \$552.85 for the year and we were \$3.00 to the good last year at this time.

RIVER MASTER'S REPORT:

No report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Kenny had the following discussion items:

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Water Trail/Kreuger Museum – There was a discussion of a desire of Geoff Snyder to potentially bring the Kreuger Museum (currently in Clare, Vern was a native of Portland, MI) to Jackson. Geoff wishes to have Todd Zeller be the representative from GREAT on investigating this effort. Since Todd is not currently a member Kenny will reach out to Todd to determine his interest.
- October Paddle – There were 22 adults and 2 children that participated. It was a lovely day and most paddled upstream to past the 138kV power line crossing, but did not get to the inverted notched felled tree or Youth Haven. However, it appeared that we approached the coordinates of (42°24'31.4"N 84°28'02.6"W).
- Ideas for Next Year– The Covid-19 pandemic will likely force paddles to be conducted from a common put-in take-out location. The ideas from the last meeting are still relevant and the planning

team will use that as guidance at the December Zoom meeting.

- Annual Dinner – There was some discussion of the Annual Dinner and the problems created by the Covid-19 pandemic. Other paddling groups are turning to virtual activities that allow for some fund raising like MGROW.

Standing Committees:

Communication/Newsletter: Articles and assignments were made for receipt by November 9.

Finances: No report.

Activities & Calendar: Reminder of the December Zoom meeting. Sadness was expressed with regard to the lack of tasty snacks.

Education & Advocacy: No report.

Annual Cleanup: No report.

Nominations: No report.

GREAT Equipment: No report

River Debris Removal: No report.

GREAT land and building: There was discussion of the type of bench to be purchased and its location. The bench selected as the Belson and the location will be determined at the December 5 Invasive Species Work Party. Kurt Rudolph made the motion, Kenny seconded and it was approved by all. Deb noted that she is taking a 6-8 week welding/metal working class and might be able to do the sign along the way or at the end.

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:

Jeff Lolkus reported of his conversation with Tom Burke of “Save Our Youth” (Tom a former Corrections Department employee and the group is housed with United Way). There is interest by this group in a paddling activity at some point.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 with a motion by Kurt Rudolph, seconded by Cathy Jehnzen and approved by all.

The next monthly meeting will be in January 6, 2021 at Blackman Township Hall at 7:00 P.M. and/or 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.