



BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 2, 2020
Blackman Township Hall and ZOOM

The meeting was called to order by President Kenny Price at 7:16 P.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Kenny Price, Jack Ripstra, Kurt LaFrance (Zoom), Kay Brown, Dan Kaser (Zoom), Jeff Lolkus (Zoom), John Minar (Zoom), Kurt Rudolph (Zoom), and Benji Ward (Zoom)

Absent: Jon Hoyle, Cathy Jehnzen, Deb Snell,

Guests: none

AGENDA REVIEW:

There was a motion to accept the emailed agenda by Kurt Rudolph, seconded by John Minar, and approved by all

MINUTES:

There was a motion to accept the emailed August minutes as e-mailed by Jack Ripstra, seconded by Benji Ward, and approved by all.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

No report. Jack noted that there were no new members since August.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Balance Sheet, Budget Comparison and Profit & Loss reports were emailed out. Jack reported that at the end of August 2020 there was a total in cash (restricted and checking) of \$15,169.27. The P&L Statement shows that we are short \$229.57 for the year and we were \$975 to the good last year at this time.

RIVER MASTER'S REPORT:

Jack, Kay, Cathy, and Dan spent 5 hours clearing Lions Park to Stonegate in preparation of the September Clean-up. There were lots of jams North of Parnall Rd and a big jam North of I-94 with a Willow tree in the River.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Kenny had the following discussion items:

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- August Paddle – The August 8 Paddle at Thorn/Watkins Lake had 14 total paddlers. It went well and all had fun. Most stayed on the East side Lake.
- September River Clean-up – We are all set for the event. We will need two trailers of canoes from the Girls Scouts. Kurt and Jack will pick up at South Stoney Lake entrance to the camp. We should easily fill 11 canoes.
- October Paddle – The Put-in and Take-out will all be at Trestle Park on Dixon Rd beginning at 11AM. The paddle will be out and back from that point. Dan and Jack will clear prior.
- Planting Trees or Grass / Working with Conservation District – Kenny noted that GREAT has helped him better understand the history of Jackson County. Kurt noted that the planting with the Conservation district might fit with similar work performed by the Pokagon Band of the Potawatami (<http://www.pokagonband-nsn.gov/government/departments/natural-resources>) on the St Joseph

River as described in the Detroit Public TV film “The Seven Generation River”.

- Newsletter – The Newsletter was sent out August 25.

- Ideas for Next Year–

Continue to work with Upper Grand River Watershed – Kenny missed the meeting.

Something similar to the River Rouge Virtual Tour (John Minar)

Family Lake Paddle – performed once a year and rotated annually around area lakes (Grass Lake, Swains, Vineyard, etc.).

Grand River Trip Paddles – continue with 3 per year rotated to complete the entire Upper Grand over the course of 3-4 years. Would still have one paddle outside of Upper Grand and one family paddle and clean-up.

Consider having extra paddles like the Thursday Evening Rookery Tour and the Moonlight paddle.

Consider passing the ideas out for comment and request input at the October Paddle. Can also ask for input on the membership form.

Standing Committees:

Communication/Newsletter: see above.

Finances: No report.

Activities & Calendar: No report

Education & Advocacy: No report.

Annual Cleanup: No report.

Nominations: No report.

GREAT Equipment: No report.

River Debris Removal: No report.

GREAT land and building: No report.

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 8:24.

The next monthly meeting will be October 7, 2020 at Blackman Township Hall at 7:00 P.M. and 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.