



BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 3, 2021
via ZOOM

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

ATTENDANCE:

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

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

Guests: none

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

AGENDA REVIEW:

There was a motion to accept the amended emailed agenda by Kurt Rudolph, seconded by Jack Ripstra, and approved by all

MINUTES:

There was a motion to accept the emailed September minutes as corrected by Jack Ripstra, seconded by Kay Brown, and approved by all.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Jack noted that we are 1 member ahead of this time last year.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Balance Sheet, Budget Comparison and Profit & Loss reports were emailed out. Jack reported assets of \$17,965.20 and Net Income of \$630.16 at the end of January. He provided a proposed 2021 Budget for review and comment. We will adopt a budget at the next meeting.

RIVER MASTER'S REPORT:

No report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Kenny discussed the Grand River Expedition 2020. The 2020 Expedition was delayed due to Covid-19. The Middle Grand wishes to have a virtual Expedition during 2021. The Lower Grand will not participate. With Paul Rentschler's upcoming retirement there is a need to add a member to the Upper Grand River Partnership. The group meets 3-4 times per year during the day. Geoff Snyder will retain his place on the group. Kurt Rudolph will represent GREAT. Kenny noted Earth Day on April 24 and the Conservation District Tree Sale.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Annual Meeting – The Annual Meeting/Report for 2021 was discussed again (see January minutes for organization). The Annual Report will be posted on the Website (banner) with a link. If we have videos they can be linked as well. Michele, Jackson County IT can assist in stitching videos together. Videos might include: key spots of the Upper Grand like Holton Dam, GREAT property, an oxbow, historical items North of Berry Rd, Put-ins and Take-outs, and the covered bridge.
- 2021 Schedule – The 2021 Activities Calendar was sent out by Jack and will likely be fluid depending on Covid-19 status. Common put-in/take-out options can be used as needed.

- New Phone Service – Jack is looking at signing up our phone service with Consumers Cellular for text and data, and saving \$200/year. Jack will get a Samsung smartphone for \$100.
- Barn Sign and Yard Signs – Kenny Price emailed options for signage. The Board voted and adopted the “G.R.E.A.T.” option versus the “GREAT” option for both the pole barn sign and the logo.
- Meet-Up – Kurt Rudolph will place the Activities Calendar on Meet-Up.
- 2021 Paddle Schedule– The paddles will be typically on the second Saturday of the month and the make-up date will be the following Sunday. A detailed list will be provided at the next meeting.
- Newsletter – The newsletter is posted on the Website. Pam Brown has resigned from the Newsletter development. Deb is look at filling in for Pam within someone from her family.
- Webinars – Cathy Jehzen attended several Wild Apricot webinars on growing and surveying membership. We can do more to utilize the functionality of the Wild Apricot website
- Tree Planting – Benji has expressed an interest in how we might plant more native trees in the watershed. Blackman Township’s Canary Lane property might offer an option for a location. Jackson Audubon’s, Gary Siegrist or MGROW’s Ron Hicks might be good consultants on this.

Standing Committees:

Communication/Newsletter: see Newsletter discussion above. Current due dates are TBD.

Finances: No report.

Activities & Calendar: see above.

Education & Advocacy: No report.

Annual Cleanup: No report.

Nominations: No report.

GREAT Equipment: No report

River Debris Removal: No report.

GREAT land and building: see above discussion item on Barn Sign.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Water Trail: No report.

Grand River Trail Map and Booklet: on hold.

RELATED GROUPS:

Watershed Council: Paul Rentschler is retiring in June.

Earth Day: Status unknown due to Covid-19 but being planned for April 24, 2021.

JCCD:. There will be no January Annual Dinner.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36.

The next monthly meeting will be in March 3, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. 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.