



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 6, 2022

ASTI ZOOM

The meeting was called to order by Treasurer Kenny Price at 7:06 P.M. A special thanks to ASTI for the use of their Zoom account.

ATTENDANCE:

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

Absent: No one was absent.

AGENDA REVIEW:

There was a motion to accept the amended emailed agenda by Jack Ripstra, seconded by Dan Kaser, and approved by all.

MINUTES:

There was a motion to accept Cathy Jehnzen's March minutes as emailed by Dan, seconded by Cathy Jehnzen, and approved by all.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Deb Snell reported that there are 49 paid memberships which is seven more than at this time last year. It is especially notable that we have many more sponsorships. There are also 2 memberships that have not completely gone through due to payment glitches.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer mailed out a Balance Sheet, a Budget Comparison, and a Profit & Loss sheet. Jack reported that all financial information has been submitted to Jeff Gund for filing with the IRS. Jack reported that we have cash assets of \$22,360.02 and Net Income of \$1,735.00, both are better than last year at this time. There is still a little money left from the Andy Lefave gift.

RIVER MASTER'S REPORT:

Jack reported that we will start cutting for the first paddle from 127 to Vandercook Lake. There was discussion that weekdays work well for many Jack and Dan will work out some times and send out a note to all to join, if available. Jefferson Seaver will also be looking to cut from the headwaters at Grand Lake to Liberty to 127 in preparation for a Grand River Expedition. Jack noted that the City plans to be working on a number of bridges over the River, so some areas may not be passable at times this summer. The City of Jackson is also to clear the area within the City limits, which is essentially Meridian Rd to I94.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Kenny reported that he will be having knee replacement surgery, so that will interfere with his ability to assist as much as normal.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **Great Phone** – The Board discussed lower cost options for the GREAT phone which must be replaced this year because it will cease to function due to its 3G design. We will likely move to a prepay by the minute type phone or other cheaper plan. We are now paying \$40/month and are paying for solely the retrieving of calls.
- **2022 Event Roster** – The Events Roster needs to be filled in. The board dealt with the first two events as noted below.
- **Earth Day April 23** – There was discussion of logistics. We will staff a table in the tent and launch kayaks only in the pond with the pop-up near the launch for waivers and life jackets. Kenny, Cathy, Jack, Kay Dan and Kurt will be there. The Conservation District will have a meeting noon tomorrow at Cascades Park to go over the plans.
- **May Paddle May 14 (127 South to Vandercook Lake)** – There was a desire to have a speaker from

Liberty Landfill to discuss their environmental stewardship. Jack will be Trip Leader. Dan Assistant, Cathy will be in the middle boat, John will be sweep boat, Kenny and Deb will shuttle. Kurt R will write up shuttle protocol.

- **Monthly Meetings** – The monthly meeting will return to in person and the normal location rotation.
- **JTV Request** – JTV has requested an appearance by GREAT. Kurt R and Dan will work to see when they can appear.
- **Annual Meeting**– The Annual Meeting will be held at Vandercook Lake Park on June 15 in the Big Pavilion. The board decided on the menu for the annual meeting. Kenny will contact Kyle Lewis, Jackson County Parks to speak. Kurt R will provide a Covid Protocol write-up.

Standing Committees:

Communication: City of Jackson Active Aging Group (Julie Weisbrod) is looking to arrange another date. Jackson Pride (Rebecca Caukins) is looking for equipment (canoes) to help clean the River. They have been referred to the Annual Clean-up and other paddles.

Newsletter: Deb reported the newsletter is done in a format similar to the Jackson County Conservation District with links. She reviewed the contents Some adjustments were made and she will send to the board prior to distribution.

Finances: No report.

Activities & Calendar: No report.

Education & Advocacy: No report.

Annual Cleanup: Need to see where City is with the bridge work.

Nominations: Kenny Price did not get with Brandon Goyings. Kurt R. will contact Brandon.

GREAT Equipment: No report.

River Debris Removal: No report.

GREAT land and building: No report.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Grand River Trail Map and Booklet: Kurt would like to join Jefferson Seaver on his paddle from the headwaters in order to map that portion of the river.

Water Trail: No report.

RELATED GROUPS:

Watershed Council: No report.

Earth Day: see above.

JCCD:. No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was discussion of topics for the next meeting:

- Restoration after invasive species removal,
- Scavenger type activity during paddles (fairy doors, wildlife cutouts, etc.)
- Meet-up discussion with Loretta Crum, LOAP via Zoom.

The next monthly meeting will be on be May 2 at 7:PM at Blackman Township Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

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.

Past Meeting(s) To Do List

- **2022 Meeting Schedule** – ~~John Minar~~ to send schedule to Rasin River Paddle group. complete
- **2022 Paddling Schedule** – **Kenny** to ask Kyle Lewis about speaking at the June 15 Annual Meeting.
- **Open Board Positions** –
 - **Kurt Rudolph** to contact Brandon Goyings about an open board position.
 - **Other Board Members** should look to identify other individuals who might be willing to serve on the board. An ideal candidate would be tech savvy to assist with items like: Wild Apricot, Meet-up, Wix, and Chimp-Monkey.
- **Marketing** –
 - **Kay Brown** and **Deb** will provide a write-up of their findings thus far on the topic as performed by the Lansing Oar and Paddle Club. The write-up will include the various software/apps used by LOAPC and their costs.
 - **Kay** and **John** will take the lead on placing information on Meet-up
 - **Kay** to invite Loretta Crum to May meeting.
- **Safety** – The topic of Safety is scheduled for the February Board Meeting.
 - ~~Kurt R~~ will provide a list of Contents of the 3 Trip bags and confirm the First Aid Kits are updated. see February 9 email
 - ~~Kurt R~~ will also provide a summary report on this topic to date. See February 9 email for draft
 - ~~Cathy~~ will research options for board members to attend CPR and First Aid training. Complete April 6, class being arranged.
- **Newsletter** – **Deb** to complete newly formatted Newsletter to be distributed via email and issue by April ??.
- **JTV** – **Kurt R** will arrange an appearance on JTV with Dan and himself.