



BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
January 5, 2022  
Blackman Twp ZOOM

The meeting was called to order by President Kenny Price at 7:03 P.M. A special thanks to Blackman Township for the use of their Zoom account.

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**Absent:**, Dan Kaser

**AGENDA REVIEW:**

There was a motion to accept the amended emailed agenda by Kurt Rudolph, seconded by Kay Brown, and approved by all.

**MINUTES:**

There was a motion to accept the emailed November minutes by Jack Ripstra seconded by Benji Ward, and approved by all.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:**

Deb Snell reported that paid year end membership was 102. She will be sending a year end statement and renewal out this month.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Treasurer mailed out a 2022 Budget, a Balance Sheet, a Budget Comparison, and a Profit & Loss sheet. Jack reported that we ended the year \$3,289.68 to the good. This could not have been possible without the generous year end support of Betty Desbiens.

**RIVER MASTER'S REPORT:**

Jack reported that he was able to connect with the person about the flooding and that it involved the Portage River. This area of the Watershed is bad throughout.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

No report.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- **2022 Meeting Schedule** - There was a motion to accept the emailed Meeting Schedule by Kurt Rudolph, seconded by Jack, and approved by all. John Minar will send schedule to River Raisin Paddling group.
- **2022 Paddling Schedule** – The group discussed the proposed schedule and specifically the June 15 Annual Meeting. It was agreed that at this time holding the meeting outdoors is a good idea and that asking Kyle Lewis, Jackson County Parks to speak about the new Parks plan is a good idea especially at the Vandercook Lake Park which has the new handicapped kayak launch ramp. The group discussed actively participating in the Quiet Adventure Symposium, but since it is virtual and we had minimal referrals from it in the past it was decided to forgo it this year. There was a motion to accept the emailed Paddling Schedule by John seconded by Jack, and approved by all.
- **Two Open Board Positions** – There was discussion of the two open board positions (replacing Jon Hoyle and Jeff Lolkus).
- **Words to Promote Paddle** – There was a suggestion to use some catchy language in our communications such as: “Come and paddle with GREAT and see what the Potawatomi saw...”. We might look to see if we can co-opt some one like Ken Wyatt to assist with the history of some of our paddles.
- **Marketing & Meet-up** – There was discussion of Marketing and specifically the use of the Meet-up app. Since there is overlap in the function of Meet-up and Wild Apricot, and the fact the Wild

Apricot needs to be renewed at this time, there was a motion made by Kurt Rudolph and seconded by Kay to renew Wild Apricot for a 1 year period. Everyone approved. Benji suggested placing Paddle information in the Ann Arbor Observer. Others suggested Experience Jackson's website and in the Jackson Blazer.

### **Standing Committees:**

**Communication/Newsletter:** Deb is working on the new version of the Newsletter to be emailed out by the January 15 with hyperlinks for more detailed information. The format will be similar to the Jackson County Conservation District monthly email.

**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:** see above

**GREAT land and building:** No report.

### **AD HOC COMMITTEES:**

**Grand River Trail Map and Booklet:** No report.

**Water Trail:** No report.

### **RELATED GROUPS:**

**Watershed Council:** No report.

**Earth Day:** No report.

**JCCD:.** No report.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There was no unfinished business.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

There was no new business.

The next monthly meeting will be on be February 2 at 7:PM and likely via Zoom.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 and Kenny wanted it noted that the meeting was held in record time.

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.*

## Meeting To Do List

- **Year End Statement and Membership Renewal** – **Deb Snell** to send out these items by the end of the month.
- **2022 Meeting Schedule** – **John Minar** to send schedule to Raisin River Paddle group.
- **2022 Paddling Schedule** – **Kenny** to ask Kyle Lewis about speaking at the June 15 Annual Meeting
- **Open Board Positions** –
  - **Kenny** 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
- **Safety** – The topic of Safety is scheduled for the February Board Meeting.
  - **Kurt Rudolph** will provide a list of Contents of the 3 Trip bags and confirm the First Aid Kits are updated.
  - **Kurt** will also provide a summary report on this topic to date.
- **Newsletter** – **Deb** to complete newly formatted Newsletter to be distributed via email and issue by January 15.