



## BOARD MEETING DISCUSSION

July 5, 2023

Summit Township Hall

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

### **ATTENDANCE:**

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

**Absent:** Kay Brown.

**Guests:** Brandon Goyings

Kathy David, Michigan Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE)

### **AGENDA REVIEW:**

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

### **MINUTES:**

A motion to accept the amended minutes from the May meeting was made by Deb, seconded by Jack, and approved by all.

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT:**

Cathy reports that we have 48 members (18 individual, 12 Family, & 18 Sponsors).

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Treasurer mailed out a Balance Sheet, a Budget Comparison, and a Profit & Loss sheet. Jack reported that we have Total Current Assets of \$19,146.82. Jack reported that we now have a debit card to pay the Wild Apricot and US Mobile bills.

### **RIVER MASTER'S REPORT:**

Jack reported on the pre-paddle of Clinton – Tecumseh trip. The river is high, murky, running fast, and is technical due to tight openings in deadfalls/logjams. It will be a challenging paddle and when in doubt stay right when presented with a choice.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

No report.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- **2023 Paddle Vandercook to Ella Sharp** – Kurt Rudolph reported that the day was beautiful and the trip went well in spite of low water. There were 4 board members paddling and 7 from the public.
- **Trip Schedule Sheet** – The trip schedule sheet was passed around for board members to sign up for positions on event.
- **Post Office Box** – The decision to move the PO Box to Rives Junction will save us over \$100/year. Cathy and Kenny will keep the two keys to the PO Box. Cathy is completing USPS form and Address Change notifications.
- **July 2023 Paddle Clinton- Tecumseh** – Arrive at Clinton at 8:45.
- **Facebook Questions** – It was recommended that we use Survey Monkey to identify Volunteer Interest and Paddle Interest since it is a simple process and is limited to a few questions.
- **GREAT T-shirt** – All are board with dry weave material and Brandon offered another option for sourcing.

### **Standing Committees:**

**Communication:** There was discussion of Invasive Species activity and the 3 page summary of recommendations for the GREAT land. Deb and Cathy still need to discuss transition. Deb and Kenny will provide an Outreach Table on Senior Day at the Downtown Farmers Market Friday, July 7.

**Newsletter:** Deb noted that Katie has continued to do a great deal of work on the web site. The group reviewed the changes thus far and there was consensus that it looks great. The model is Paddle Antrim.

**Finances:** No report.

**Activities & Calendar:** The activities calendar was circulated to sign-up for event positions.

**Education & Advocacy:** No report.

**Annual Cleanup:** No report.

**Nominations:** Kenny introduced Brandon Goyings provided a brief resume and felt that he might be able to connect with some we have not been able reach. He is a single Blackman Twp resident with a degree in Public Administration. He works in QA at MACI, volunteers for the Knights of Columbus and enjoys cycling and fishing.

Cathy moved and Kurt LaFrance seconded a motion to add Brandon to the board. All voted to approve Brandon to a term effective immediately and ending March of 2024.

**GREAT Equipment:** No report.

**River Debris Removal:** No report.

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

### **AD HOC COMMITTEES:**

**Grand River Trail Map and Booklet:** on hold.

**Water Trail:** see Discussion Item above

### **RELATED GROUPS:**

**Watershed Alliance:** No report.

**Earth Day:** No report.

**JCCD:** No report.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Senior Paddle:** The City of Jackson Recreation Department Senior Paddle is scheduled for August 16 at Vandercook Lake.

**August Paddle:** Deb is the Trip Leader and bringing one trailer. Jack and Cathy will not be present.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**State of Michigan Grant Opportunities:** Kathy David, MI EGLE, reported that GREAT can apply for [grant money](#) to support the Mission of GREAT. Other Watershed Support groups have requested and received funding (up to \$40K) for expanding membership and for supporting watershed quality. There appears to be several areas this might fit and benefit both the organization and the watershed. River Raisin has received funding for staff to increase membership and sponsorship. They are applying for funding for programming. Grants require minimum 25% matching funding, but this can be in terms of labor. Pre-paddles can help identify areas of erosion, contamination, and other potential issues. The Annual River Clean-up can qualify for education and general watershed improvement. Kurt LaFrance noted that we had a potential individual who offered to develop a marketing plan for \$600.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 PM.

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.*