



BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 3, 2023
Blackman 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, Kay Brown, Cathy Jehnzen, Dan Kaser, John Minar, Kurt Rudolph, and Benji Ward.

Absent: Kurt LaFrance, and Deb Snell

Guest: Brandon Goyings

Brandon Goyings was introduced to the board. Brandon has interest in joining the board. He will be speaking with Kenny about the position.

AGENDA REVIEW:

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

MINUTES:

A motion to accept the amended minutes from the April meeting was made by Jack Ripstra, seconded by Kurt Rudolph, and approved by all.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Jack emailed a membership report prior to the meeting indicating that we had one new membership since April. We are currently down 12 individual memberships, and 3 family memberships, and 2 sponsorships since this time last year for a total \$530 shortfall.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer mailed out a Balance Sheet, a Budget Comparison, and a Profit & Loss sheet. Jack reported that we have \$9,553.56 in the checking account and Total Current Assets of \$20,829.29

RIVER MASTER'S REPORT:

Jim Seitz and Jack cut the area for the first paddle. A few of other board members helped with lopping. Kenny stressed that all board members need to participate in clearing the river and that the duty should not rest on Jack's shoulders.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

No report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **2023 Earth Day, April 22** – Jack, Kenny, Kurt LaFrance, Benji, Brian Ennis, Jim Seitz, and Dan Varney helped with Earth Day. 7 adults and 20 kids paddled. The new dock worked well.
- **May 2023 Paddle Sutfin to Liberty Mill Pond** – see Rivermaster's report.
- **Debit/Credit Card** – Jack has interest in utilizing a Credit or Debit card for some of our regular bills like Wild Apricot and US Mobile. It was recommended to use a debit card issued by our bank (Flagstar). Jack will investigate.
- **Trip Schedule Sheet** – The trip schedule sheet was passed around for board members to sign up for positions on event.

- **Cutting and Cleaning for Trips** – see Rivermaster’s report.
- **PO Box** – Cathy provided an update on the PO Box. It will be cheaper at Rives Junction, but we should have 2-3 months overlap on the changeover to avoid problems. The Downtown Post Office should automatically forward the mail to Rives. We should also make a list of normal correspondence received, so that we don’t miss anything.
- **Chuck Pierson Native Plant meeting at GREAT Land** – Chuck has to reschedule the planned meeting for June 12. The new date is to be determined.

Standing Committees:

Communication: Deb still needs to transfer files to Cathy.

Newsletter: No report.

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: No report.

GREAT Equipment: Phone – see above.

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:

- **T Shirts** – We should check with LGROW to see if they have problems with using their design. John will check into prices of the shirts.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Legacy Land Conservancy** - will meet at noon on May 19 at the Cascades
- **Betty Desbiens** – It was noted that May 20 is Betty’s 103rd birthday.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13.

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.