



BOARD MEETING DISCUSSION

September 6, 2023

Blackman Township Hall

The meeting was called to order in record time by President, Kenny Price at 7:12 P.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Kenny Price, Jack Ripstra, Cathy Jehnzen, Kay Brown, Brandon Goyings, Dan Kaser, and Kurt Rudolph

Absent: Kurt LaFrance, John Minar, Deb Snell, and Benji Ward

AGENDA REVIEW:

There was a motion to accept the emailed agenda by Kenny Price, seconded by Kurt Rudolph, and approved by all.

MINUTES:

A motion to accept the amended minutes from the August meeting was made by Cathy Jehnzen, seconded by Brandon Goyings, and approved by all.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Cathy reported that we have 58 paid active memberships (21 individual, 15 Family, & 22 Sponsors per Wild Apricot). There may be a discrepancy of 1.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer mailed out a Balance Sheet, a Budget Comparison, and a Profit & Loss sheet. Jack also provided a Reconciliation Summary of our Flagstar and PayPal accounts. Jack reported that we have Total Current Assets of \$19,757.78 and Total Liabilities and Equity of \$102,032.66.

RIVER MASTER'S REPORT:

Jack Ripstra reported that he and Dan Kaser put in at Enterprise and paddled to RA Green Park on Saturday, September 2. They encountered jams at Ganson and North streets and several around I-94. They then paddled up toward Stonegate and were halted by jams at about the oxbow adjacent to the GREAT property. Jack reported the information to the City of Jackson. The City cleared all of the Grand River within the City limits on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Sunday Jack and Jim Seitz cleared two jams North of RA Green Park. The remaining jams will be cleared by Jack, Jim and others on Friday, prior to the clean-up.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

No report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **Sign-up Sheet** – The Sign-up sheet was passed around to fill in open spots for the October Paddle.
- **GREAT T-shirt** – The T shirts were distributed and look great. At \$10 they are a GREAT deal.
- **GREAT Clean-up** – Jack distributed a Clean-up Event Timetable with assignments. The details were discussed, and some open spots filled in. We will likely have 30-50 JROTC cadets assisting. We plan to have 16 canoes in the water. Eight staged at RA Green to head North (Jim Seitz & Dan Varney), Three staged at Lions Park (Brandon and Kay Brown), and 5 at Enterprise Cathy and Sarah Saucedo). Dan and Kurt R will stage canoes and equipment and assist where needed.
- **August 2023 Paddle Kalamazoo River** – This was the best attended paddle of the year with 30+ paddlers. There were many positive comments. The group met at Dark Horse in Marshall

afterwards. It appears that our Grand River paddles do not do as well as our paddles outside of the Grand River. This could be because GREAT covers the headwaters of the Grand River which results in shallower water and more dead falls. Both of which do not make for easy paddles.

- **GREAT Barn for Winter Storage** – There is a desire to store a camper in the barn for the winter months. The owner is willing to pay \$50/month. The discussion was tabled while insurance matters are investigated.
- **Potential Asphalt Plant in Summit Twp** – There was discussion on the proposed Asphalt plant at M-50 and Meridian Rd. It appears that the site will not be close enough to the Grand River to impact any concerns by GREAT. Will continue to monitor.
- **Non-Profit Network Meeting** – Kenny proposed going to the Non-Profit Network meeting to invite groups to events. Dan Kaser volunteered to go with Kenny.
- **October Paddle- October 7** – Most of the spots are filled for this paddle on the Grand around Eaton Rapids., a sweep boat position is needed. Jack is not sure of his availability.

Standing Committees:

Communication: Cathy had several items to report. 1) She asked for feedback as she distributes electronic correspondence (she is cognizant of everyone's email overload.) 2) She will pass on the EGLE report on grants recently awarded. 3) She passed around cards for Betty Desbiens (get well), and Gina Mae (sympathy).

Newsletter: No report.

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: No report.

GREAT land and building: No report.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Grand River Trail Map and Booklet: on hold.

Water Trail: There was discussion of the proposed combined Water Trail and /Non-motorized Trail combined trail head location in Blackman Township on the North Side of Parnall Road near Cooper.

RELATED GROUPS:

Watershed Alliance: No report.

Earth Day: No report.

JCCD: No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 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.