



RIVER RAISIN WATERSHED COUNCIL

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**River Raisin Watershed Council
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2025 - 10:00 a.m.
RRWC Tecumseh Office - AJ Smith House
804 North Evans Street, Tecumseh MI 49286
In Person/Google Meet/Conference Call**

Roll Call

Chair Harry Sheehan called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Executive Committee members present: Harry Sheehan, Sybil Kolon, John Calhoun, Phil Kittredge, Stella Kirby.

Executive Committee members absent: Mike Ayre, Dave Hoffman.

Others present: Sean Dennis – RRWC Executive Director, Benny Woith - RRWC Administrative Coordinator (Virtual), Ivy McClelland - RRWC Administrative Assistant, Timothy Miles - Dundee Township Representative (Virtual), David Rhoads - City of Saline Representative, Morgan and Rosa Ringel - Blissfield residents (virtual)

1. Approval of Agenda - June 17, 2025

- a. Motion by Calhoun, second by Kittredge, to approve the June 17, 2025 agenda with the addition of 5 c. Other and moving up Public Comment after approval of agenda. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

2. Approval of Minutes - May 20, 2025

- a. Motion by Calhoun, second by Kittredge, to approve the May 20, 2025 Minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

3. Treasurer's Report

- a. The Treasurer's Report for the period May 1 - May 30, 2025 was distributed and reviewed by Dennis. At County National Bank: Revenue – **\$133,636.54**; Disbursements -**\$53,027.33**; balance: **\$113,299.59**. At Premier Bank, Revenue - **\$2,383.38**; Disbursements - **\$25,000.00**; balance - **\$13,478.03**. Dennis explained there are two statements for the Premier Bank account because Premier has become WesBanco. Dennis reviewed the statement of activity for May and for the year through May. The Treasurer's report was received and filed.
- b. Approve Disbursements for Outstanding Bills - Report on File. Dennis reviewed the check detail for bills in the amount of **\$10,251.12**. Motion by Kirby, second by Calhoun, to pay these invoices. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**

4. **Public Comment** - Discussed immediately after approval of agenda

- a. Timothy Miles gave an update on the Dundee log jam removal. There has been some preliminary assessment work. They are looking at \$30,000 to \$35,000 in fuel and maintenance for the machinery they are using. Sheehan indicated that RRWC does not have the resources to financially support a project of this scale. We recognize the need and hope to be able to offer some assistance in the future. Sheehan reviewed how a drain project could be established to be funded by a special assessment. There is little support by property owners for funding such projects. Miles indicated they have started a Go Fund Me Page. RRWC will put a social media posting out about the work.
- b. Morgan Ringel and her daughter, Rosa from Blissfield, were popping on virtually to say hello and get acquainted with the group.

5. **Business**

- a. Final Draft - Strategic Plan
 - i. The draft master plan is complete. Dennis worked with Megan Motil and Woith to create a one-page Together for the River, which summarizes key points from the strategic plan. Motion by Kolon, second by Kirby, to approve the strategic plan as presented. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**
- b. 2024 Audit Report
 - i. Dennis provided the Audit Report with the meeting attachment. The audit was reviewed and cleared. There are some recommendations for policies that Dennis will work with Kolon on to implement. Dennis will add the document for each transaction to that item in our accounting software, which will aid the auditor for future audits. The audit report was received and filed.
- c. Other
 - i. Camp Liberty
 1. Kolon and Dennis, with Carley Kratz of GRCC, visited Camp Liberty to meet with Melinda Schwyn on May 22. We had a wide-ranging discussion about how we can partner and possibly apply for grants. We asked them to survey their membership to determine how much interest there is in the type of information and assistance RRWC and the Stewardship Network could provide.
 2. Fundraising Event on June 28, Kolon, Dennis, Lopez unable to attend but Kolon and Woith sent out information to the Executive Committee.
 - ii. Sheehan reached out to Michael Sessions of the City of Manchester regarding the status of the long-discussed canoe livery for Manchester. Sessions referred him to Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation. Sheehan will meet with them next week.
 - iii. Saline Dam
 1. Rhoads had concerns about the RRWC strategic plan that seemed to imply the Saline dam would be removed. Based on public response, there is little support for removal.
 2. Sheehan indicated RRWC will not get involved in any proposed action without support from the City of Saline but would support dam removal if the time comes.

3. Rhoads shared that Saline has a new 45 acre preserve in Saline. Hopes are to one day connect the two preserves via a footbridge over the River.
- iv. Future of RRWC Banking
 1. Discussion about credit card use with change of staff and board members. Motion by Calhoun, second by Kittredge, to remove Steve May and KZ Bolton from the authorized credit card user list. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**
 2. Motion by Calhoun, second by Kittredge, to add Ayre, Dennis and Lopez as authorized users of the RRWC credit card. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**
- v. Beaver Activity
 1. Issue in Ann Arbor regarding Beavers impacting a golf course. The DNR allows for kill traps to deal with nuisance issues, install a tube that prevents the water from being dammed up or leave them alone. Washtenaw County contracted to have a beaver trapped, which resulted in controversy. Sheehan would like to propose a standard response for Beavers from the River Raisin Watershed Council. We could provide information

6. Executive Director Updates

- a. 2025 Membership Updates
 - i. We received an individual membership and one municipality membership (Jackson County) over the last month. Dennis is getting input from Motil on seeking corporate supporters.
- b. Brooklyn Dam Removal Update
 - i. Still looking at construction in 2026, no major updates.
- c. Monroe #4 Dam Removal Update
 - i. In early stages, have a contract for \$25,000 to do public outreach with them over the next three years.

7. Water Stewardship Coordinator - Updates

- a. Adopt-A-Stream
 - i. Went very well this year with Lopez taking on new leadership roles and with the additional funding from Washtenaw County, MiCorps and Monroe Environmental Fund.
- b. EGLE Grant - Equity and Expanding Public Engagement Grant
 - i. Last month we wrapped up our fifth and final MRG class needed to meet our requirements for the grant.
 - ii. Native Plant sale was a great success, looking to possibly do one in the fall which would be one of the only ones in the area. We are looking for financial sponsors for this event.
- c. Monroe Environmental Fund
 - i. Nature Camp begins next week in Petersburg on various topics including water quality, macroinvertebrates, fishing, birding and native plants.
- d. Externships - Dr. Carley Kratz and Dan Nichols—
 - i. Two teachers from Lenawee county are working two weeks with us this summer. Their positions are paid for by a grant from the Align center.

8. Administrative - Update

- a. Woith completed In-Brand Strategic Plan Packet and Case for Support with the help of Megan Motil with Parallel Solutions.
- b. Woith completed annual report for final review from Sheehan before release.
- c. Woith assisted in adding bug data to the master spreadsheet from Adopt-A-Stream collections.

9. Committee Reports - None

10. Public Comment - 3 Minutes - Dundee Mayfly Festival June 20 & 21.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Calhoun, second by Kittredge, to adjourn at 11:33 a.m. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Next Meeting

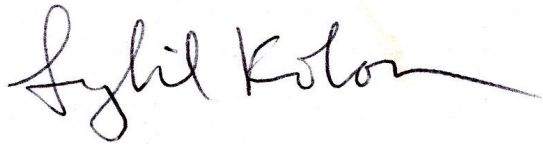
Executive Committee - July 15, 2025 - 10:00 a.m. - 804 N. Evans Street Tecumseh MI 49286

Action Items for Next Meeting

Respectfully submitted by Sybil Kolon - Secretary

Date: July 9, 2025

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sybil Kolon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Secretary:

Date: July 15, 2025