



RIVER RAISIN WATERSHED COUNCIL

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**River Raisin Watershed Council
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
December 16, 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 10:05 a.m.

Executive Committee members present: Harry Sheehan, Sybil Kolon, Stella Kirby, Phil Kittredge, John Calhoun (arrived at 10:32am)

Executive Committee members absent: Dave Hoffman, Mike Ayre

Others present: Sean Dennis – RRWC Executive Director, Lydia Lopez - RRWC Water Stewardship Coordinator, Benny Woith - RRWC Administrative Coordinator (Virtual), Ivy McClelland - RRWC Administrative Assistant, Matt Knoblauch - Blissfield Township Representative, Leslie Blackburn (Member of the Public - Lodi Township Trustee), Micaela Bougie (Dundee).

1. Approval of Agenda - December 16, 2025

- a. Motion by Kolon, second by Kirby, to approve the December 16, 2025 agenda with Public Comment as 3., Treasurer's report as 4 and with the addition of Staff Payroll, Erb Foundation and Data Centers as items c, d and e to Executive Director Updates, with bylaws discussion under Committee Reports, Administrative. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

2. Approval of Minutes - November 18, 2025

- a. Motion by Kirby, second by Kittredge, to approve the November 18, 2025 Minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

3. Public Comment

- a. Micaela Bougie reported on her effort to facilitate a major log jam removal in July near Bigelow and Stowell Roads in Dundee Township. It had caused flooding for many years. This was the same log jam that Tim Miles had brought to our attention. Details on this effort will be shared separately as an example of what can be done by committed individuals.
- b. Sybil Kolon - Norvell Township got an application for Sand and Gravel mining adjacent to Watkin's Lake State Park. Kolon is part of a new group, Friends of Watkins Lake State Park, that is working on an MOU with the DNR regarding their role at the park. Still in the early phases but the township has hired GEI consultants to review. Kolon is in the early stages of trying to gather partners to see if they can obtain some of the 900 acre property and expand the park.

4. Treasurer's Report

- a. The Treasurer's Report for the period November 1 - November 30, 2025 was reviewed by Dennis in Ayre's absence. At Wesbanco Bank: Revenue – **\$221.18**; Disbursements -**\$731.40**; balance: **\$1,640.24**. At County National, Revenue - **\$98,484.42**; Disbursements -**\$83,936.36**; balance: **\$34,852.71**. The Treasurer's report was received and filed.
- b. Approve Disbursements for Outstanding Bills - Dennis provided an updated list of bills. Report on File. Dennis reviewed the check detail for bills, bringing the amount of the bills to **\$56,682.11**. Motion by Calhoun, second by Kittredge, to pay these invoices. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**

5. Business - None**6. Executive Director Updates**

- a. 2025 Membership Updates
 - i. Received dues from Adrian Charter Township.
- b. Brooklyn Dam Removal Update
 - i. Dennis is reviewing the draft Newsletter on the Brooklyn dam; once approved it will be put up on the RRWC website. EGLE did not receive any public comments on the permit and will issue their technical review soon. The permit is expected to be issued in early 2026. Tree clearing related to the replacement of the Mill Street bridge is going to happen during the winter to avoid impacts to the Indiana bat during breeding season. We are awaiting SHPO MOU finalization. It is doubtful EGLE will hold a public hearing and we can arrange a public information meeting about two months before construction would start.
- c. ERB Foundation
 - i. Dennis worked with Nat from the Erb Family Foundation to create an operating reserve fund for the council for \$155k. The goal of this fund is to have funding to be able to pay bills while we are waiting for incoming funds to come in from grant reimbursements. This would also include an amendment to the bylaws to establish best practices on management of those funds.
- d. Data Center
 - i. Sheehan acknowledged much interest in RRWC's position on several proposed data centers in the watershed. Our interest is mainly on the volume of water needed for cooling and potential impacts on wetlands and water quality. Townships have the ability to enact regulations on wetlands of two acres or more, allowing protection on wetlands smaller than the state minimum of five acres. There is a template for that on the EGLE website that we can make available.
- e. Staff Payroll - Discussed at the end of meeting after guests and other staff departed
 - i. Dennis provided a handout of suggested pay rate increases for staff in 2026. Report on file. Our 2026 budget accommodates these increases. Motion by Calhoun, second by Kirby, to approve the increases proposed in the handout. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**

7. Water Stewardship Coordinator - Updates

Grant Updates:

- i. EGLE Equity and Engagement
- ii. Farmer - Led Group
- iii. Grants in Queue
 - 1. NFWF Conservation Partners - waiting to hear back
 - 2. Wolf Creek Watershed Management Implementation Plan - Continuing to work on submitting a proposal for this plan; the requested funding is expected to be about \$300,000.
 - 3. Regen Ag Farmer Network RFP - Going to work with local FLG partners to create a proposal for this grant.
- iv. Events:
 - 1. RECAP - Fall Forest Adventure: From Bare Trees to Living Soil on November 23rd, Taylor Road Park in Tipton, 11 am
 - a. It was a full class and our new intern Blake, did a great job planning the event and executing it.
 - 2. Owl Prowl on December 20th, Stubnitz Center in Adrian, starting at 4 pm
 - a. Lopez asked board members to consider volunteering for the event and handed out flyers for distribution by board members.

8. Administrative - Update

- a. Woith still working on FLG website updates, and creation of a new handbook for the group.
- b. Woith created multiple new helpful pages on the website: a Delegate informational page, a household hazardous waste page and made updates to the resources page.
- c. Woith met with our new Volunteer Coordinator Morgan Ringel and Lydia Lopez about our Volunteer group plan. Woith creating a Volunteer Welcome Packet.
- d. Beginning January 1st, 2026, Woith to take over Social Media.

9. Committee Reports

- a. Administrative - By-Laws - A few updates are needed. Dennis, Sheehan, Kirby, Kittredge and Kolon agreed to serve on the committee to work on these updates.

10. Public Comment - 3 Minutes - None

11. Adjournment

Motion by Kittredge, second by Kirby, to adjourn at 11:32 a.m. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Next Meeting

Executive Committee - January 20, 2026 - 10:00 a.m. - 804 N. Evans Street; Tecumseh MI 49286

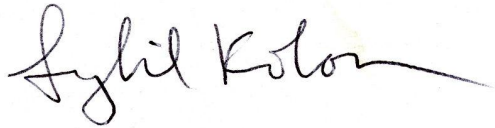
Action Items for Next Meeting

Respectfully submitted by Sybil Kolon - Secretary

Date: December 31, 2025

APPROVED:

Secretary:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lylil Kolor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Date: Jan. 20, 2026