



RIVER RAISIN WATERSHED COUNCIL

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RIVER RAISIN WATERSHED COUNCIL
2023 Semi-Annual Spring Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2023 6pm-8pm
AJ Smith Recreation Center
Via Zoom/810 N. Evans St
Tecumseh, MI 49286

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Harry Sheehan called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

2. **Introductions:** Staff and others in the audience were introduced.

3. **Roll Call:**

Roll call by Secretary Sybil Kolon:

MUNICIPALITY

NAME

Jackson County

Village of Brooklyn

Bob Jenson

Columbia Township

John Calhoun

Norvell Township

David Lamb

Woodstock Township

Marilyn Kremer

Lenawee County

Lenawee County

Karol "KZ" Bolton

Adrian Township

Michael Herr

Blissfield Township

Al Navarro

Cambridge Township

Phil Kittredge

Village of Clinton

Bonnie Peters, alternate

Macon Township

Ed Scheffler

Madison Charter Twp.

Matt Carpenter

Palmyra Township

Jim Isley

Tecumseh Township

Gerry Donaldson

City of Tecumseh

Sarah Gilmore

Monroe County

Frenchtown Charter Twp.

David Smith

City of Milan

Josh Kofflin

City of Monroe

Robert Clark

Washtenaw County

Washtenaw County

Harry Sheehan

Bridgewater Township

Laurie Fromhart

Freedom Township	Rudy Layher
Manchester Township	Sybil Kolon
Village of Manchester	Pat Vaillencourt
Pittsfield Township	Sabrina Gross
City of Saline	David Rhoads
Sharon Township	Bill Lewis, alternate
York Charter Twp.	Amy Tesolin

Others Present: Stephen May, RRWC Executive Director; Meija Knafel, RRWC Outreach Coordinator; Lydia Lopez, Water Stewardship Coordinator; Benny Woith, Administrative Coordinator; Pam Benzing, Tiny May, Brittany Santure, Andrew Mullins, Alyiah Fife, Jim Martin, Carley Kratz, Kathy David (EGLE) , Rebecca Carlisle-Healy, Ray Griffin, Larry Feldpausch

With 26 municipal member representatives or alternates, a quorum was present.

4. **Agenda:** Motion by David Rhodes, second by Bob Jenson, to approve the agenda as presented. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

5. **Approval of Semi-Annual Fall October 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes**
 - a. Motion by John Calhoun, second by Ed Scheffler, to approve the minutes of the Spring semi-annual meeting of October 22, 2022 as presented. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

6. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - a. KZ Bolton reviewed the January - March 2023 budget to date and explained the new format. See Budget breakdown with meeting packet.
 - b. Chair Harry Sheehan stated that the Executive Committee had discussed with the municipalities about the fees being overdue for increase and would like to state that the issue is indefinitely tabled after feedback from the municipalities.

7. **Chairman Update**
 - a. Chair Harry Sheehan provided a brief update on RRWC activities, including an update about the Brooklyn Dam Connectivity Project and the next moves on removing it from the Historical Registry to continue the process.
 - b. Chair Harry Sheehan also talked about current grants RRWC has been awarded from Erb Foundation and EGLE which has helped with operational support, which has allowed for expansion in Social Media to get RRWC's mission to a further audience.
 - c. The poll for Executive Committee officers opened and was conducted by David Rhoads. The nominations of officers will continue the terms of Executive Committee Chair Harry Sheehan, Vice Chair John Calhoun, Treasurer KZ Bolton,

and Secretary Sybil Kolon, as well as Trudi Cooper and Phil Kittredge as members of the Executive Committee. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

8. Executive Director/Outreach/Stewardship/Administration Update

- a. Executive Director Steve May -
 - i. Current Municipalities Fees Paid: 50, will have 54 after some checks come in.
 - ii. Strategic Planning Grant which RRWC has applied for in the amount of \$50,000. If received, RRWC will hire a consultant for one year to help with growth for the council.
 - iii. Brooklyn Dam Connectivity Project - Delayed because of previously mentioned hold up. Work on the dam should be continuing in 2024-2025
 - iv. Base of Operations - RRWC has completely moved in at 804 N Evans St. and is currently open to the public on certain days. Also hoping to continue lease with the building for another couple of years.
 - v. Farmer-Led Group - Received grant from Erb Foundation for \$550,000 for three years. Which allowed FLG to hire a project manager.
- b. Water Stewardship Coordinator Lydia Lopez provided an update on current programs like the Poster Contest for students and schools, with the theme is “Do Your Part Be Water Smart”, Discover the Raisin for which provides teachers a \$200 grant to enhance education of the watershed with their students, and future Summer internships that RRWC will be hiring. And community outreach programs in the Summer called Wild Ones for ages middle school and up that will focus on outdoor activities and Family Fun Evenings for children to engage and learn. She also completed the 2022 Annual Report which is currently up on the River Raisin website.
- c. Administrative Coordinator Benny Woith provided an update on what she’s done since she was hired in December. She redesigned the website www.riverraisin.org, has updated and posted past meeting minutes and is in charge of meeting minutes for future meetings. Photographed updated headshots & group photos of the RRWC team. Moved RRWC over to the fundraising platform GiveButter.com which brought many benefits like unlimited contacts and \$1k+ money saved. She also redesigned the newsletter. And is in charge of updating and verifying current contacts, delegates, alternates, etc.
- d. Administrative Assistant Isabelle Uganski provided an update on Social Media: From January through March, RRWC’s Facebook page reach has increased 350.7% reaching 7.1K people. Instagram reach has increased 69% reaching over 400 people. The Facebook page visits have increased 92.3%, Instagram page visits 425.8%. Facebook page likes has increased 158.3% and Instagram follower count has increased 333.3%. RRWC is working to expand social media engagement and outreach, hopefully scheduling a post once a day by summer.

- e. Outreach Coordinator Meija Knafel provided information on the activities she has been working on, including:
 - i. University of Maryland Watershed Report Card - which will provide a lot of information and data around the watershed and should be done by the next Semi-Annual meeting
 - ii. Upper Wolf Creek Watershed Management Plan - Phil Kittredge gave an update. The grant will be completed this year. Will begin sampling shortly.
 - iii. Other activities Meija has been a part of are Master Rain Gardener Classes, River Clean-Ups in partnership with Wacker, Anderson Development, and others, Monitoring vernal pools and aquatic macro-invertebrates. As well as future presentations to classrooms, libraries, scouts, garden clubs, and more.

9. Program:

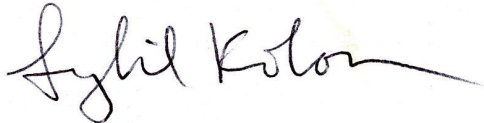
- a. Dr. Carley Kratz and Dr. Jim Martin with 5 students from LISD presented 20 years of Adopt-a-Stream data.

10. Old Business: None

11. New Business: None

12. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Bill Lewis, second by David Rhoads. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.** The meeting concluded at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Sybil Kolon, Secretary, May 23, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sybil Kolon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.