



RIVER RAISIN WATERSHED COUNCIL

320 Springbrook Avenue, Suite 102

Adrian, MI 49221

517-264-4754

rrwc@lenawee.mi.us

www.riverraisin.org

**RIVER RAISIN WATERSHED COUNCIL
2022 Semi-Annual Spring Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2022
Hidden Lake Gardens
6214 Monroe Road (Highway M-50) Tipton, Michigan 49287**

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman John Calhoun called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM

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

3. **Roll Call:**

Roll call by Secretary Sybil Kolon:

| MUNICIPALITY | NAME |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| <u>Hillsdale County</u> | |
| Hillsdale County | Brad Benzing |
| <u>Jackson County</u> | |
| Village of Brooklyn | Bob Jenson |
| Columbia Township | John Calhoun |
| Napoleon Township | John Hummer |
| Norvell Township | David Lamb |
| <u>Lenawee County</u> | |
| Lenawee County | Karol "KZ" Bolton |
| Adrian Township | Michael Herr |
| Blissfield Township | Al Navarro |
| Village of Blissfield | Danielle Gross |
| Village of Clinton | George Service |
| Macon Township | Ed Scheffler |
| Madison Charter Twp. | Matt Carpenter |
| Tecumseh Township | Gerry Donaldson |
| Woodstock Township | Marilyn Kremer |
| Palmyra Township | Jim Isley |
| Raisin Charter Twp. | Mike Ayre |
| Cambridge Township | Phil Kittredge |
| Rome Township | Roxanne Sweet |

Monroe County

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Monroe County | Dave Hoffman |
| Dundee Township | Travis Horkey |
| Village of Dundee | Dave Uhl |
| Frenchtown Charter Twp. | David Smith |
| London Township | Pam Ackerman |
| Monroe Charter Twp. | Richard Jannsens |
| City of Monroe | Robert Clark |
| Raisinville Township | Zac Cooley |

Washtenaw County

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Washtenaw County | Harry Sheehan |
| Manchester Township | Sybil Kolon |
| City of Saline | David Rhoads |
| Sharon Township | Trudi Cooper |
| York Charter Township | Amy Tesolin |

Others Present: Stephen May, RRWC Executive Director; Meija Knafl, RRWC Outreach Coordinator; Lydia Lopez, Water Stewardship Coordinator; Gerry Schorin, Development Director; Jackie Calhoun, Aldo Zip, Gary R. Kirsh, Deborah Comstock, Bruce Neal, Dan Moilanen, Angel Rubel, Larry Feldpausch, Kim & Kay Hyde, Rick & Nancy Sahadi, Margaret Goodrich, Dale W. Zorn, Don Shoulders, Laurie Isley, Rudy T. Layher, Bill Blackerby, Nancy Miller, Linda Easley, Carley Kratz.

With 31 municipal member representatives or alternates, a quorum was present.

4. **Agenda:** Motion by Mike Ayre, second by Phil Kittredge, to approve the agenda with the addition of Election of representatives and officers following the Treasurer's Report.
MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

5. **Approval of Semi-Annual Spring and Fall Meeting Minutes**

- a. Motion by Bob Jenson, second by George Service, to approve the minutes of the Spring semi-annual meeting of April 22, 2021 and the minutes of the Fall semi-annual meeting of October 28, 2021, as presented. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Steve May reviewed the 2022 budget. Due to the receipt of recent grants, our total budget, revenue and expenditures, is \$300,986. Revenue as of March 31, 2022 is \$69,447.77, expenditures \$22,167.79 and the current balance is \$81,414.15. Due to not having a quorum at the fall meeting, the RRWC bylaws allowed the Executive Committee to approve the 2022 budget last year. With a quorum now present, motion by Jim Isley, second by Dave Lamb, to approve the 2022 budget as presented. **MOTION**

CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**7. Chairman Update**

- a. While Chair Calhoun was cleaning out his desk, he found our 2016 budget showing \$24,000 in assets and expenditures. It was recognized by all that the RRWC has come a long way since then.

8. Election of Member Representatives and Officers to the Executive Committee:

- a. Chairman Calhoun indicated he had served as Chair for six years, which is the limit set for officer terms in the RRWC bylaws. David Rhoads, for the nominating committee, nominated the following to serve as Delegates at large or officers of the Executive Committee: Harry Sheehan (Washtenaw County), Chair; John Calhoun (Columbia Township, Jackson County), Vice-Chair; Karol (KZ) Bolton (Lenawee County), Treasurer; Sybil Kolon (Manchester Township, Washtenaw County), Secretary; Trudi Cooper (Sharon Township, Washtenaw County), Delegate at Large; Phil Kittredge (Cambridge Township, Lenawee County), Delegate at Large; Dave Hoffman (Monroe County), Delegate at Large. It was noted that Lenawee, Monroe and Washtenaw county-appointed representatives automatically serve on the Executive Committee as specified in the bylaws as more than 15% of each county is in the River Raisin watershed. Nominations from the floor were called for. There being no other nominations, the nominations were closed. Rhoads moved that the above slate of nominations be accepted by acclamation. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.** The officers and delegates to the Executive Committee will serve until the first board of directors meeting in 2023.
- b. Harry Sheehan briefly took the floor as Chair, but had to depart, so Vice-Chair Calhoun resumed control of the meeting.

9. Executive Director/Outreach Update

- a. Executive Director Steve May presented Calhoun and his wife Jackie with a card of appreciation for their service. May provided a summary of activities in the past year. RRWC has continued working with the Farmer Led group with a grant from the Erb Foundation. We just received a grant for \$14,500 to allow us to find a bigger office. We have just received news of the award of two grants from the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for one million dollars to facilitate removal of the old Henry Ford Dam in Brooklyn, which is a high-risk dam. Additional funding will be needed to complete the project over several years.
- b. Development Director Gerry Schorin has drafted a development plan to help guide our fundraising efforts. A Corporate Advisory Committee has also been formed. We have acquired new software which will assist us in communications

and tracking of donations and other outreach activities.

- c. Outreach Coordinator Meija Knafel provided information on the activities she has been working on, including: working with the farmer led group, assisting with summer camps, managing our Adopt-a-Stream monitoring, bringing a chainsaw safety training program to the area, river cleanup and guiding nature walks.
 - d. Water Stewardship Coordinator Lydia Lopez reviewed our ongoing Discover the Raisin award program and our poster contest and indicated that we are looking for interns for the coming summer.
 - e. Secretary Sybil Kolon provided background and information about the RRWC bylaws, which was an item on the agenda. It had been suggested that the bylaws be amended to extend or remove term limits for officers on the Executive Committee. Kolon indicated that we need to recruit new and younger people to serve. The bylaws also require a quorum of 50% of member representatives to be present at our semi-annual meetings. Kolon does not believe it is appropriate to lower that amount. It is imperative that each appointed representative be committed to attending two meetings per year and to ensure their municipalities are aware of the important work RRWC is doing. Kolon requested anyone to contact her regarding other ideas, as the Administrative Committee will be meeting to discuss potential changes to the bylaws.
 - f. Program – Bruce Neal, with the Lenawee Historical Society, presented very interesting information about the history and natural resources of the River Raisin as it became inhabited over 200 years ago.
- 10. Old Business:** Marilyn Kremer, with Lenawee Lifelong Learning, mentioned the ongoing series of presentations by RRWC to inform the community about the watershed. The program has been very well received.
- 11. New Business:** Margaret Goodrich, who has lived on the River Raisin on the east side of Manchester for over 40 years, indicated there has been a major log jam there for many years and inquired about the possibility of RRWC assistance. Chair Calhoun indicated that we will be applying for an Americorps crew and can add this to the list of areas for them to work on.
- 12. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Bob Jenson, second by Mike Ayre. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.** The meeting concluded at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Sybil Kolon, Secretary, October 18, 2022

