



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 Fall Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2022
Hidden Lake Gardens
6214 Monroe Road (Highway M-50) Tipton, Michigan 49287**

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
<u>Hillsdale County</u>	
Hillsdale County	Brad Benzing
<u>Jackson County</u>	
Columbia Township	John Calhoun
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
Madison Charter Twp.	Matt Carpenter
Tecumseh Township	Gerry Donaldson
City of Tecumseh	Sarah Gilmore
Raisin Charter Twp.	Mike Ayre
Cambridge Township	Phil Kittredge
<u>Monroe County</u>	
Monroe County	Dave Hoffman
Frenchtown Charter Twp.	David Smith
London Township	Anita Straub, alternate
Monroe Charter Twp.	Richard Janssens
City of Monroe	Robert Clark

Raisinville Township	Zac Cooley
<u>Washtenaw County</u>	
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, alternate
Sharon Township	Bill Lewis, alternate

Others Present: Stephen May, RRWC Executive Director; Meija Knafl, RRWC Outreach Coordinator; Lydia Lopez, Water Stewardship Coordinator; Gary R. Kirsh, ITC; Bonnie Peters, Jackie Calhoun, Angel Hoffman, Susan Layher, Pam Benzing, Carolyn Crane, Megan DeLeeuw, Pam Bunch, Sylvia Kay, Susan Bryan.

With 27 municipal member representatives or alternates, a quorum was present.

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

5. **Approval of Semi-Annual Spring April 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes**
 - a. Motion by Mike Ayre, second by Brad Benzing, to approve the minutes of the Spring semi-annual meeting of April 26, 2022 as presented. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

6. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - a. Steve May reviewed the 2022 budget to date. See Budget breakdown with meeting packet. Motion by George Service, second by Pat Vaillencourt, to accept and file the treasurer's report as presented. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**
 - b. Steve May reviewed the proposed 2023 budget recommended by the executive committee. Motion by John Calhoun, second by Mike Herr, to approve the 2023 budget as proposed. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

7. **Chairman Update**
 - a. Chair Harry Sheehan provided a brief update on RRWC activities.
 - b. Secretary Sybil Kolon reviewed the purposes in the bylaws for which the RRWC was founded, indicating that we are making good progress on all of them. She provided background on how RRWC municipal dues are structured. Each municipality has been assessed based on their population, at 10 cents per person

with a minimum of \$100 dues. This brings in about \$20,000 each year. The dues had been rolled back in 2012 from 21 cents per person. The executive committee is seeking feedback on a future increase. There was some discussion, with no consensus as to whether an increase in dues should be considered. The executive committee plans to provide an update in the spring of 2023.

8. Executive Director/Outreach Update

- a. Executive Director Steve May reviewed key programs and funding. The Erb Foundation has provided \$25,000 for general operations this year. The Michigan Association of Conservation Districts continues to fund our Farmer Led program with a contribution of \$62,000. Grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the US Fish and Wildlife Service are providing over \$1 million in funds for the Brooklyn dam removal/connectivity project. It is a high risk dam that qualifies it for this funding and will remove the risk of failure, as well as improve habitat for fish and other aquatic life.
- b. Outreach Coordinator Meija Knafl provided information on the activities she has been working on, including: working with the farmer led group, outreach to schools and summer camps, attending fairs and festivals, putting on a course for Lenawee Lifelong Learners program and guiding nature walks.
- c. Water Stewardship Coordinator Lydia Lopez provided an update on our new office next to the AJ Smith Recreation Center, with pictures of furniture donated by Wacker Chemical. There will be an open house on November 10.

9. Program:

- a. Susan Bryan with Washtenaw County presented information about rain gardens, which help keep stormwater out of our drains and waterways and help improve water quality.

10. Old Business: None

11. New Business: None

12. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Bill Lewis, second by John Calhoun. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.** The meeting concluded at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Sybil Kolon, Secretary, April 16, 2023