



**RIVER RAISIN WATERSHED COUNCIL**

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**River Raisin Watershed Council  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
July 20, 2021 - 10:30 AM**

**Via Zoom/320 Springbrook Avenue, Suite 102 Meeting Room  
Adrian MI 49221**

**1. Roll Call**

Chairman Calhoun called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

Executive Committee members present: John Calhoun, Phil Kittredge, Harry Sheehan, Sybil Kolon (Zoom), KZ Bolton, and Trudi Cooper

Executive Committee members absent: David Hoffman

Others present: Stephen May – RRWC Executive Director, Angel Hoffman - On behalf of David Hoffman, Danielle Grosse - Blissfield Village Administrator, Meija Knafel (arrived late, stayed 20 minutes) – RRWC Outreach Coordinator, Lydia Lopez (arrived late, stayed 20 minutes) - RRWC Water Stewardship Coordinator

**2. Approval of Agenda - July 20, 2021**

Motion by Kittredge, second by Cooper to approve the agenda. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

**3. Approval of Minutes - June 15, 2021**

After a brief discussion of updates needed before being approved, including; changes to roll call to list Phil Kittredge as present, but arrived late; motion surrounding June staff increase in 12.b. to include a statement that staff left the room during discussion of performance; and discussion of grant agreement in 6.b.ii "to: 1. Support the River Raisin Upper Watershed Stream Restoration and Connectivity Project and: 2. Serve as administrator of the USFWS, National Fish Passage Grant as outlined in the handout dated May 18, 2021" ; motion by Kittredge to table the June 15 Minutes until properly amended, second by Kolon. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

**4. Treasurer's Report**

- a. The Treasurer's Report for the period June 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021 was distributed and reviewed by Bolton. Revenue – **\$432.66** - Expenses - **\$3,566.12** – Balance to date: **\$74,836.82**. Motion by Cooper, second by Kittredge to accept and file the June Treasurer's Report. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**
- b. 2021 Budget YTD – revenue: \$54,876.60; expenditures: \$41,490.35.
- c. Approve Disbursements for Outstanding Bills: New bills reported June 16, 2021 – July 20, 2021: Meija Knafel: Mileage Reimbursement RRWC - \$327.22; Printing and Purchasing - \$65.83, Lenawee County Printing - \$57; Erb Family Foundation Farmer-Led Group - \$16,802; Lenawee County Fair Booth - \$250; Artalicious Fair Booth - \$15; Total of \$23,871.26. Motion by Cooper, second by Sheehan to authorize payment of these bills. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**

## **5. Public Comments**

Jacob Mann, eagle scout installing mile marker signs in Manchester, went out with a group of 15 of his peers and installed 6 signs along 3 miles of the River Raisin above the dam in downtown Manchester on July 11. This concludes his eagle scout project.

Sybil Kolon noted that there are still mile marker signs available to install downriver of the dam, and is hopeful that future eagle scouts may consider further mile marker projects in the future.

Angel Hoffman and Dave Hoffman would like to volunteer for the county fair, and plan to reach out via email to confirm their dates of attendance.

## **6. Executive Director Updates (See Report – on file)**

- a. Updated giving:
  - i. All 52 municipal memberships are accounted for.
    1. Hillsdale plans to join, but membership cost as dictated by River Raisin Watershed Council by-laws need to be reviewed before membership status is determined
  - ii. 2 corporate memberships; the Erb Family Foundation and Kroger
  - iii. 17 individual memberships, primarily paid through Paypal
- b. Watershed Support Grant Update
  - i. Grant contains \$40,000 to hire a Development Director to increase capacity and develop sustainable revenue sources. Grant to be spent in 1 year
  - ii. Sub-committee met Thursday July 15 to confirm language for Development Director position posting
  - iii. One inquiry has come in from Bonnie Peters, former delegate, for the Marketing Director position. Application pending.
  - iv. Hoyden Marketing has also offered a proposal from their company for the Marketing Director position
  - v. MI Works Southeast, Facebook, Instagram, the volunteer email list, and newspapers in Monroe, Brooklyn, and Adrian have all had the posting distributed.
- c. Upper Wolf Creek Watershed Management Grant
  - i. Consultant is currently waiting for contractual language to come back.
  - ii. Will meet for updates upon consultant's return from vacation
  - iii. Bob Sweet from EGLE is reviewing the 2020 Audit
- d. MSU Sea Grant - Water School Update
  - i. We plan to host Representative Yousef Rabhi, Representative Sarah Lightner, and Representative Bronna Kahle in September and October for Water School via Zoom
  - ii. Will present a powerpoint that includes information about our watershed and highlights emerging issues
  - iii. Emerging issues may include; hydro-electric dams that are not currently in operation; funding barriers for the River Raisin Watershed Council; nonpoint source nutrient run-off.
- e. Brooklyn Dam Removal
  - i. Mussel survey has completed, and is currently in review. Early reports suggest that high mussel diversity above the dam may spread downstream, where mussel diversity is greatly reduced.

- f. Shop Talk - Conservation Update for Farmer-Led Watershed Conservation
  - i. Thursday July 22 from 8 a.m. to noon at Sunrise Farms.
  - ii. Thad Cleary from EGLE will attend to discuss DAP and AMP; representative from Heidelberg University will present on sampling; Alaina Nunn from MSU will discuss tile monitoring in the watershed; legislative update on the MAEAP program
- g. RRWC Credit Card
  - i. Paperwork has been successfully submitted. Old balance has been paid, and any relevant late-fees have been waived
- h. Lenawee County Fair Kayak Update
  - i. One kayak was purchased from Dunham's Sporting Goods for 20% savings
  - ii. One kayak was donated by Family Farm and Home with the request that the kayak host signage crediting Family Farm and Home for donating
  - iii. One Yeti Cooler was purchased at Dunham's for 20% savings

## **7. Outreach Updates**

- a. Budding Naturalist Program in partnership with the River Raisin Institute in Monroe, kids ages 5 - 9, camp size averaged around 12 - 15 per day from July 19 to the 22
- b. River Raisin Water Festival in Blissfield on July 9 and 10, sold about 9 t-shirts and had lots of great engagement
- c. River Clean Up in Monroe July 17 in partnership with the Monroe Committee on the Environment (COTE), had about 30 participants
- d. Had multiple camp programs in Saline on July 12, totalling engagement with about 50 kids and a half dozen saline Parks and Recreation Staff
- e. Upcoming recycling program in Blissfield at the Schultz-Holmes Memorial Library on July 20
- f. Lenawee County Fair is coming up July 25 through the 31
- g. Boat Wash at Hayes State Park on August 5
- h. Hike at the Ives Road Fen with the Tecumseh Boy Scouts on August 5 in the evening
- i. Sierra Club Hike in August on indeterminate date, follow-up to hike on July 18
- j. Saline Hike on August 26
- k. Lots of Paypal donations in June! Could have come from Facebook push, Rotary engagement, meetings with residents, or any number of smaller interactions from within the watershed

## **8. Programs/Partnership Updates**

- a. Water Stewardship Coordinator Update
  - i. Lots of engagement with youth at the above outreach updates. Plans are in place to purchase more swag, including stickers, shirts, and patches, and outreach equipment such as books in the near future and as necessary
- b. Family Farm and Home
  - i. Gifting t-shirts at Family Farm and Home in return for kayak donation
- c. ERB Grant - Farmer Led Watershed Conservation
  - i. Agriculture Update planned for Thursday, July 22 at Sunrise Farms from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

## **9. Committee Reports**

Outreach – None.

Technical – None.

Development – A note that there are further nonpoint source grants available if a partner indicates that they are interested.

Administrative – None.

Financial – None.

**10. Old Business**

None

**11. New Business**

a. Watershed Support Grant Update

i. Grant contains \$40,000 to hire a Development Director to increase capacity and develop sustainable revenue sources. Grant to be spent in 1 year. One inquiry has come in from Bonnie Peters, former delegate, for the Marketing Director position. Application pending. Hoyden Marketing has also offered a proposal from their company for the Marketing Director position

b. Ron Elleson, resident of Manchester Township, would like to provide access to the river and donate to help prevent developing issues along the river on his property.

**12. Next Meeting - August 17, 2021 from 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

Meeting location to be announced.

**13. Adjournment**

Motion by Kittredge, seconded by Cooper to adjourn at 12:00 PM. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**

Respectfully submitted by Meija Knafel - Outreach Coordinator - August 17, 2021

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_