



RIVER RAISIN WATERSHED COUNCIL

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**River Raisin Watershed Council
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
July 15, 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 10:30 a.m.

Executive Committee members present: Harry Sheehan, Sybil Kolon, Mike Ayre, Stella Kirby.

Executive Committee members absent: Phil Kittredge, Dave Hoffman, John Calhoun

Others present: Sean Dennis – RRWC Executive Director, Benny Woith - RRWC Administrative Coordinator (Virtual), Ivy McClelland - RRWC Administrative Assistant, Lydia Lopez - Water Stewardship Coordinator, Carley Kratz - LISD, Morgan Ringel - Blissfield Resident, Dan Nickols - RRWC Extern, Marcus McNamara from OHM Engineering

1. Approval of Agenda - July 15, 2025

- a. Motion by Kirby, second by Kolon, to approve the July 15, 2025 agenda with the addition of Watkins Lake State Park & County Preserve under Business. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

2. Approval of Minutes - June 17, 2025

- a. Update 2.a. to replace Ayre, who was not at that meeting, with Kittredge. Motion by Kirby, second by Ayre, to approve the June 17, 2025 Minutes as amended. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

3. Treasurer's Report

- a. The Treasurer's Report for the period June 1 - June 30, 2025 was distributed and reviewed by Ayre. At Wesbanco Bank: Revenue – **\$1,534.46**; Disbursements -**\$0**; balance: **\$15,012.49**. At County National, Revenue - **\$227.65**; Disbursements - **\$107,010.17**; balance - **\$6,517.07**. The Treasurer's report was received and filed.
- b. Approve Disbursements for Outstanding Bills - Report on File. Dennis reviewed the check detail for bills in the amount of **\$4,474.48**. Because the utility bill for last month has not yet been received, Dennis requested the addition of up to \$150, in addition to the monthly rent of \$550.00, to the utility bill, adding \$700.00 to the bills. Motion by Sheehan, second by Ayre, to pay these invoices in the amount of **\$5,174.48**. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**

4. Public Comment

- a. Ayre praised the improvements to our social media accounts done by McClelland.
- b. Kirby mentioned the successful kids camp in Petersburg, resulting in a discussion of offering children's programming to municipalities for a fee.

5. Business

- a. AJ Smith Building Lease Agreement Proposal
 - i. RRWC's rental of this building from the City of Tecumseh, of \$550 per month, has been extended to the end of the year to match our fiscal year. Sarah Gilmore, with the City, indicated they would like the rent to increase to \$750 by 2028. Dennis proposed an increase of rent of \$50 in 2026, \$125 in 2027 and \$200 in 2028, bringing the rent at that time to \$750.00 per month, with the option of reopening the amount each year. This would allow the City to continue sharing the space for specific events. Upgrades to the building were discussed, including to the floor. Deed restrictions prevent certain modifications to the building, so refinishing the floor is an option he will discuss with the City. The use of the parking lot will also be discussed with the City. Motion by Ayre, Second by Kirby. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**
- b. Watkins State Park & County Preserve
 - i. Kolon is involved in forming the Friends of Watkins Lake State Park group. Kolon hopes to reach out to many non-profits to help notify members of local gravel pit concerns. Discussion of RRWC's possible role.

6. Executive Director Updates

- a. 2025 Membership Updates
 - i. Niswander Environmental donated with a \$750 level of support.
 - ii. Somerset township has sent in their dues.
- b. Brooklyn Dam Removal Update
 - i. Working through current grant reporting for this grant. Currently awaiting permits from EGLE for work expected to begin in 2026.
- c. Monroe #4 Dam Removal Update
 - i. RRWC to meet with Chris Bobryck next month to formulate an Engagement Piece. RRWC has been allocated \$25,000 from the grant toward outreach and engagement. There should be more movement in the coming months.
- d. NFWF Grant Proposal Update
 - i. NFWF Conservation Partners - writing a \$750,000 grant with the partnership of Michigan Conservation Districts and LCD to fund design plans for BMP implementation projects and a part-time coordinator to lead a FLG group under RRWC.

7. Water Stewardship Coordinator - Updates

- a. EGLE Equity and Engagement Grant
 - i. Following up with students from all 5 of the classes
 - ii. Rain Garden 101 presentation this week!
- b. Monroe Environmental Grant
 - i. Just completed our first ever River Raisin Nature Camp - it was SPECTACULAR.

- c. MiCorps
 - i. This grant is now closed- all bugs for this year's AAS have been identified and data has been reported.
- d. Partnerships
 - i. Working on some great partnerships with Lenawee Conservation District and Monroe Conservation district with new programming.
- e. *Grants in Queue*
 - i. NFWF Conservation Partners - Discussed under Executive Director report. To be submitted July 15.
 - ii. NFWF Sustain the Great Lakes - we wrote a \$275,000 grant to fund a full - time individual who will handle Master Rain Gardener programs and Native Plant Sale Events/Plant Swaps. - currently being reviewed by NFWF.
 - iii. Wolf Creek Watershed Management Implementation Plan - \$120,000 grant to fund implementation practices as a part of the management plan and part-time position to oversee the project itself.

8. Administrative - Update

- a. Woith finished, sent out and posted the Annual Report to the website.
- b. Woith updating the website with new Membership page layout per Dennis and Megan Motil's guidance. As well as updating the website with new photos taken by Lora Kasik.

9. Committee Reports -

- a. Administration - Discussion of annual meeting. Targeting October 28 or 29 depending on venue. We will need to appoint a nominating committee. David Rhode and Pat Vailiancourt have served in this role before. One other municipal representative is needed.

10. Public Comment - 3 Minutes - None**11. Adjournment**

Motion by Ayre, second by Kirby, to adjourn at 11:37 a.m. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Next Meeting

Executive Committee - August 19, 2025 - 10:00 a.m. - 804 N. Evans Street Tecumseh MI 49286

Action Items for Next Meeting

Respectfully submitted by Sybil Kolon - Secretary

Date: August 15, 2025

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sybil Kolon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Secretary:

Date: August 19, 2025