



BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
January 6, 2021  
via ZOOM

The meeting was called to order by President Kenny Price at 7:08 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Present:** Kenny Price, Jack Ripstra, Deb Snell, Cathy Jehnzen, Dan Kaser, Jeff Lolkus, Kurt Rudolph, and Benji Ward

**Absent:** Kay Brown, Jon Hoyle, Kurt LaFrance, John Minar,

**Guests:** none

Special thanks to Blackman Township for the use of their Zoom account.

**AGENDA REVIEW:**

There was a motion to accept the amended emailed agenda by Kurt Rudolph, seconded by Benji Ward, and approved by all

**MINUTES:**

There was a motion to accept the emailed September minutes as corrected by Jack Ripstra, seconded by Kurt Rudolph, and approved by all.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:**

Deb noted that there were 17 2021 Membership renewals and one new member. Deb also noted that a \$2000 gift was received from Betty Desbiens at the end of the year. Deb is interested in improving our year end appeals and improving our development of membership interests.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Treasurer's Balance Sheet, Budget Comparison and Profit & Loss reports were emailed out. Jack reported that at the 2020 year end the organization ended \$1987.40 to the positive compared to (\$397.79) for 2019.

**RIVER MASTER'S REPORT:**

Jack reported that the 2020 Grand River Expedition delayed until 2021 has now been changed to a virtual event.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Kenny reported that the Quiet Adventures Symposium will be virtual for 2021:

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- Annual Meeting – The Annual Meeting for 2021 will be cancelled. In its place the organization will create a more formal Annual Report by the end of February or early March for distribution. It will include: A Letter From the President, the 2020 Financials & 2021 Budget, a Look Back (at 2020 paddles, Clean-up, & Invasive Species Removal), a Look Ahead (2021 paddles, increased environmental activities, improved communication, and better understanding of member interests) and a Donation Appeal. There was discussion of including a virtual guest speaker as part of the distribution of the document.
- Barn Sign – Jack Ripstra a mailed out a quote for a new sign of the GREAT Pole Barn. A motion was made to purchase the aluminum sign for \$585 which includes the necessary graphics. The motion was moved by Dan Kaser and seconded by Cathy Jehnzen and approved by all.

- 2021 Meeting Schedule – The organization will continue to hold meetings on the first Wednesday of the month.
- 2021 Paddle Schedule– The paddles will be typically on the second Saturday of the month and the make-up date will be the following Sunday. A detailed list will be provided at the next meeting.
- New Phone Service – It was suggested that our phone service be moved from Verizon to Consumers Cellular for a significant savings and procure a new phone that allows for text and data. Jack will provide options at the next meeting.
- Publicity – There was discussion of using some alternative online newspapers to publicize events. These will be looked at further. It was recommended to use “Meet Up” to improve communication of events to the general public, as has been discussed previously.
- JJ Keely Park Project – Kenny proposed to join with the Jackson County Parks Department to improve the Riverfront in Keely Park from the American One Events Center to the Gumper building through the clearing of some trees and vegetation. The project will likely be conducted during June and July, but require some planning prior to then and maybe tree clearing prior to the spring leafing.

### **Standing Committees:**

**Communication/Newsletter:** see QAS not in the President’s Report and the Annual Report discussion in the Annual Meeting discussion.

**Finances:** No report.

**Activities & Calendar:** see above.

**Education & Advocacy:** No report. Last Newsletter had article on Winter salt use.

**Annual Cleanup:** No report.

**Nominations:** No report.

**GREAT Equipment:** No report

**River Debris Removal:** No report.

**GREAT land and building:** see above discussion item on Barn Sign.

### **AD HOC COMMITTEES:**

**Water Trail:** No report.

**Grand River Trail Map and Booklet:** on hold.

### **RELATED GROUPS:**

**Watershed Council:** Paul Rentschler is retiring in June.

**Earth Day:** Status unknown.

**JCCD:.** There will be no January Annual Dinner.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

There was no new business.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42.

The next monthly meeting will be in February 3, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. via ZOOM.

Kurt Rudolph, Recorder of Minutes

*The mission of GREAT is to promote the protection and preservation of the Grand River Watershed through activities and educational programs.*