



BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
May 4, 2022  
Blackman Township Hall

The meeting was called to order by Treasurer Kenny Price at 7:04 P.M leading with some bad jokes.

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Present:** Kenny Price, Jack Ripstra, Deb Snell, Kay Brown, Dan Kaser, Cathy Jehnzen, John Minar, and Kurt Rudolph.

**Absent:** Kurt LaFrance and Benji Ward.

**Guests:** Jared Harmon, Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy  
Loretta Crum, Lansing Oar and Paddle Club (LOAPC) via Zoom & phone

**AGENDA REVIEW:**

There was a motion to accept the amended emailed agenda by Kurt Rudolph, seconded by Dan Kaser, and approved by all.

**MINUTES:**

There was a motion to accept April minutes as emailed with a slight correction under Communication by Cathy Jehnzen, seconded by Jack Ripstra, and approved by all.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:**

Deb Snell reported that there are 50 paid memberships.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Treasurer mailed out a Balance Sheet, a Budget Comparison, and a Profit & Loss sheet. Jack reported that we have total assets of \$19,699.15. Jack has transferred \$5000 from Checking to Savings.

**RIVER MASTER'S REPORT:**

Jack reported that the water is too high to begin the May paddle from 127 and therefore the put-in will be Loomis Rd. and on to Vandercook Lake (VCL).

**GUEST SPEAKER**

Jared Harmon, Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy (MMLC) discussed his organization and provided written materials. MMLC would like to partner on events. They are similar to the Legacy Land Conservancy. His organization will be a good resource for the continued development of the GREAT property as we move from invasive species removal to restoration of the natural habitat and river contour. They appear to have both institutional knowledge and access to grants and other funding.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Kenny had no report.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- **Meetup** – Loretta Crum described LOAPC's use of "Meetup" for their communication and enrollment in their activities. It appears to be a good option to improve GREAT's outreach to a broader demographic along with lowering costs. There will need to be some discussion of what level of Meetup to use. The events are posted for all to see, but communication gets limited to those who join the closed group. Dues are collected through the app. They use a separate member management software. Their Newsletter is driven by the membership at large.
- **2022 Event Roster** – The Events Roster was circulated to signing up for responsibilities.
- **Earth Day April 23** – There were 67 paddlers at the event.
- **May Paddle May 14 (Loomis Rd to Vandercook Lake)** – We will meet at 9:30 AM. Masks will be required in the shuttle.
- **First Aid Training** – The group felt the CPR and First Aid training went well. It was requested to print the Trip bag/First Aid kit contents using a plastic sheet protector.
- **Children's Lifejackets/Organization of Storage Tubs** – There was concern about the lack of children's life jackets at Earth Day. There may be more in the Barn and we should go through the

plastic storage containers and reorganize and separate by size. That way at the next Earth Day we can be sure to bring enough.

- **Senior Paddle** – The City of Jackson Active Aging Group will paddle on Wednesday, June 22 1-3PM from Hague to VCL using only kayaks. Requests were made for assistance with this activity.

#### **Standing Committees:**

**Communication:** Deb reported that Region 2 Transportation Committee requested input. There is an invasive species webinar upcoming. Ben Dandrow, Dahlem asked for assistance with Strategic Planning.

**Newsletter:** Deb reported the newsletter still has to go out.

**Finances:** No report.

**Activities & Calendar:** No report.

**Education & Advocacy:** No report.

**Annual Cleanup:** Need to see where City is with the bridge work.

**Nominations:** Kurt has a call into Brandon Goyings to see if he has interest.

**GREAT Equipment:** No report.

**River Debris Removal:** No report.

**GREAT land and building:** There was some discussion of utilizing the Jackson County Conservation District tree sale to obtain materials for restoring the understory with native plants. Grant assistance might be beneficial from MMLC. Jared recommended the use of the USDA soils survey web site.

#### **AD HOC COMMITTEES:**

**Grand River Trail Map and Booklet:** No report.

**Water Trail:** No report.

#### **RELATED GROUPS:**

**Watershed Council:** No report.

**Earth Day:** see above.

**JCCD:.** No report.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There following was some unfinished business from the April meeting:

- Scavenger type activity during paddles (fairy doors, wildlife cutouts, etc.)

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

There was no new business.

The next monthly meeting will be on be June 1 at 7:PM at Summit Township Hall.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04.

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.*

## Past Meeting(s) To Do List

- **2022 Paddling Schedule** – ~~Kenny~~ to ask ~~Kyle Lewis~~ about speaking at the ~~June 15 Annual Meeting~~. Per John posted by Sybil GRCC (Hidden Lake Gardens) calendar
- **Open Board Positions** –
  - **Kurt Rudolph** to contact Brandon Goyings about an open board position.
  - **Other Board Members** should look to identify other individuals who might be willing to serve on the board. An ideal candidate would be tech savvy to assist with items like: Wild Apricot, Meet-up, Wix, and Chimp-Monkey.
- **Marketing** –
  - **Kay Brown** and **Deb** will provide a write-up of their findings thus far on the topic as performed by the Lansing Oar and Paddle Club. The write-up will include the various software/apps used by LOAPC and their costs.
  - **Kay** and **John** will take the lead on placing information on Meet-up
  - ~~Kay~~ to invite ~~Loretta Crum~~ to ~~May meeting~~. Complete
- **Safety** –
  - **Kurt R** will update the list of Contents of the 3 Trip bags and the First Aid Kits and place in plastic sleeves
  - **Kay and Cathy** will reorganize Lifejacket storage bins.
- **Newsletter** – **Deb** to complete newly formatted Newsletter to be distributed via email and issue by ??.
- **JTV** – **Kurt R** will arrange an appearance on JTV with Dan and himself.