



BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
October 5, 2022  
Summit Township Hall

The meeting was called to order by President, Kenny Price at 7:10 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Present:** Kenny Price, Jack Ripstra, Kurt LaFrance, Cathy Jehnzen, John Minar, Kurt Rudolph, Deb Snell, and Benji Ward.

**Absent:** Kay Brown, and Dan Kaser

**AGENDA REVIEW:**

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

**MINUTES:**

The minutes from the September meeting were not available for review. Deb Snell will look to send those out. Cathy Jehnzen may be able to provide it from her notes, if needed.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:**

There have been no new members since last month (67 paid). We are down 8 Family memberships, down 5 Sponsors, and up 5 Individual memberships for a reduction of \$640 in income from memberships. A renewal letter still needs to go out.

**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 \$18,674.92. There was a question on an \$80 expense for the website. The expense was for a 5-year registration for our domain name. Our expenses for the River clean-up was high due to the larger number of pizza's that were purchased.

**RIVER MASTER'S REPORT:**

Jack, Dan Kaser, and Jim Seitz are getting worn down by the clearing of the river. There will be more discussion under GREAT in the Future.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Kenny had no report.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- **Annual Clean-up** – The Clean-up generated about 12 cu yds of trash and 4 tires. We had 46 participants (30 JROTC, 10 members of the public and 6 board members). Dan Kaser repaired 2 Camp Storer canoes. Jack has a friend that will do a needed aluminum weld repair on another one. Therefore, they will have 8 good canoes after the weld repair.
- **Resident Desire for Trail to River** – A McConnel Dr resident would like to clear a trail across the GREAT property to get to the river to allow for kayak launching. Jack will check into insurance issues. Jack is currently working with Blackman Township on their park and launch in the same neighborhood.
- **October Paddle** – The Tompkins-Onondaga paddle assignments were reviewed. The meet-up time at the Pole Barn will be 8AM and Tompkins at 9AM.
- **GREAT In the Future** – There was discussion of ways that we can deal with clearing demands and our paddles. Discussed options include:

- reducing Upper Grand River clearing demands by reducing the number of local river paddles,
- increasing lake paddles,
- increasing river paddles outside of Jackson County (like LOAP), and
- finding ways to co-opt others to assist in clearing and paddling.

This matter will be discussed further next month.

- **Grand River Water Trail** – There has been a great deal of difficulty in keeping the river clear of debris. This has been driven by diseased trees and storms. This is a common problem with river headwaters where the branches are rather narrow. A river that kept clear is a key to a water trail.

### **Standing Committees:**

**Communication:** Deb reported that the Middle Grand River Watershed (Lorette Crum) is looking for a Grand River Expedition 2025 consisting of 2-day weekend trips and is wondering if GREAT would like to participate. If GREAT is interested what would that mean?

**Newsletter:** No report.

**Finances:** No report.

**Activities & Calendar:** No report.

**Education & Advocacy:** There was discussion of our need to promote our partnership with the Grand River Watershed Alliance and our successes.

**Annual Cleanup:** see above

**Nominations:** No report.

**GREAT Equipment:** There was a vote to authorize Jack to procure a new phone to replace the existing obsolete 3G phone. The motion was made by Kurt Rudolph, seconded by Kenny Price and approved by all.

**River Debris Removal:** No report.

**GREAT land and building:** No report.

### **AD HOC COMMITTEES:**

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

**Water Trail:** see Discussion Item above

### **RELATED GROUPS:**

**Watershed Council:** No report.

**Earth Day:** see above.

**JCCD:** No report.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Kay wants to continue to pursue the Meet-up option of communicating and promoting GREAT events.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

There was a question about the administration changes at Dahlem.

The next monthly meeting will be on be November 2 at 7:00 PM at Blackman Township Hall. Kenny will not be in attendance due to knee surgery. Kurt LaFrance will lead the meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36.

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

- **Open Board Positions** –
  - **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
- **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.