

Friends of the St. Joe River Association Board Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 18, 2016—2:00 PM
Sturges-Young Auditorium—Sturgis, MI

IN ATTENDANCE:

Directors: Melanie Stoughton, Bob Jones, Ron Niezgodski, Ray Leising, Matt Meersman, Danielle Meersman, Bruce Barton, Eric Kerney, Daragh Deegan

Watershed Council: none present

Visitors: Jennifer Krauser, Hoosier RiverWatch

President Matt Meersman called the meeting to order at 2:03pm, welcomed everyone to the meeting and called for introductions.

Minutes of the February 2016 board meeting were reviewed to approve. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ron Niezgodski, and seconded by Bob Jones. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Danielle Meersman. Danielle noted that she broke out the report by class since FotSJR was close to the end of their Fiscal Year. Danielle also noted that she attempted to estimate what the annual meeting profits would be for this year, but stated that she did not have last year's invoice for the costs to FotSJR to hold the meeting at the auditorium. Danielle reported that 79 registrations for the event generated income of \$2975. After taking into consideration the costs to hold the event, an estimate of profits from the annual meeting was reported at \$1900. Danielle also noted the small income generated during the autumn St. Joe River Races again this year (\$236), and the \$1000 donation from AEP to sponsor this year's annual meeting. Total General Fund was reported to be at \$61,800 for the year, with the organization overall net positive at \$1800. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Bob Jones, and seconded by Ron Niezgodski. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Meeting Final Planning— Matt went through a checklist of last minute items that needed to be taken care of before the start of the annual meeting. Ron Niezgodski offered again to organize the silent auction items, and help Danielle and Melanie once the silent auction closed before the start of the keynote speaker. Matt updated the board members on the change in keynote speaker due to emergency illness. Melanie and Danielle will put together folders for tonight's event during the evening setup.

NEW BUSINESS

Healthy Waters Consortium Grant—Matt noted that he submitted an application on behalf of FotSJR for the project discussed at February's meeting while he was in Florida last week with Bruce Barton. Matt reported that he will be discussing an overall scope of the project at tonight's meeting.

Election of New Directors. Daragh Deegan reporting as nominating committee member--Five terms are expiring this year (Melanie Stoughton, Bruce Barton, Ron Niezgodski, Jim Coury, and Ray Leising). Ray is the only person not term limited out of the five people leaving the board at this time. Jeff Reece, Dona Hunter, Bill Courliss, Grant Poole, and Roxanne Barton were approached by the nominating committee for consideration as new board members and all agreed to serve. A motion to accept the slate of candidates as presented was made by Bob Jones, and seconded by Ron Niezgodski. Motion carried. As Daragh mentioned, Ray is not term limited, and could run for another three year term; however, he was asked to fill the remainder of Zac Martin's term (expiring next year) at this time. A motion to accept the appointment was made by Bob Jones, and seconded by Daragh Deegan. Motion carried.

Matt noted that this year is the first year that a board member who serves as an officer will be term limited, and asked the board to nominate a new secretary to complete a one year term as Secretary. A motion to nominate Bob Jones for a one year term as Board Secretary was made by Melanie Stoughton, and seconded by Ray Leising. Motion carried. New officers will go into effect at the April meeting.

OTHER

- Matt announced a potential new RSS feed type of organization (CurrentCast) that puts out a daily water related blog to any participating organization's website. Matt noted that there is no charge for the service, but some work by a board member to update the FotSJR website. Upon review of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of CurrentCast by the board members, a decision will be made via email vote to participate with CurrentCast.
- Matt pointed out the awesome shirt that Bob Jones was wearing with a very nice embroidered FotSJR logo. Bob Jones noted that he took it upon himself to provide a logo to a local shop in LaGrange, and that he could pass along any information to those that would like to purchase a shirt themselves. Bob noted that the business is Wear Haus Designs. A motion to reimburse Bob Jones out of FotSJR General Funds for the initial cost of starting the embroidery and design work for the shirts was made by Ray Leising, and seconded by Ron Niezgodski. Motion carried.
 - Melanie Stoughton reported that there are groups within Kalamazoo County that are working to put together a Farmland Preservation Ordinance for a Commissioner's vote in June, and will update the board later this summer.

Motion to Adjourn at 2:48 pm was made by Ron Niezgodski, seconded by Bob Jones.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday April 28, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at Three Rivers Public Library.