

Friends of the St. Joseph River
Board Minutes May 27, 2021
Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Grace

Call to order by Matt Meersman 1:02 pm via zoom.

Introduction: Board Members Present:

Matt Meersman, Carolyn Grace, Danielle Meersman, Ron Niezgodski, Jeff Reece, Kim Sinclair, Jordan Shedd, and Grant Poole

Others in attendance: Amie Wentworth, Lisa Harris, Chris Temple, Doug McLaughlin, Jan McGowen, Kyle Tryan, and Don Stohler

Minutes: Ron Niezgodski, motioned to accept the board minutes from April, Jordan Shedd seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report: Kim Sinclair explained that there was two expenditures and some income from new membership for a balance of \$64,013.42 Reece motioned to approve the treasurer report as presented by Sinclair, Grace seconded. Motion passed

Old Business:

- **Board action:** No board action taken via email
- **GLRI request:** Meersman provided a very informational summary of the past two meetings and of a sub-committee meeting regarding the subject GLRI request made of the Friends by Carolyn Grace, through the Conservation District. Meersman read through, and provided a screen shot in the Zoom meeting of the final one -page summary of the GLRI grant funding support request that is being made to the Friends for all attendees and Board to review. Kim Sinclair motioned to approve the \$8,150.00, as shown on that summary page, on an invoice basis; Jordan Shedd seconded. Motion passed. It is understood that this money will be used to purchase equipment for the last 100 or so miles of the main stem of the St. Joseph River. A variety of data will be collected using the purchased equipment, and will not just be limited to just data points entered into the MISIN app. on a phone. Grace was very thankful to the Board for entrusting her team with such a wonderful opportunity, not only for the District and the watershed, but for the Friends as well.

New Business:

- **Support for the St. Joseph River Race:** Meersman explained his involvement with the race. Ron Niezgodski motioned to once again sponsor Meersman in the race on September 25th; Sinclair seconded. Motion passed.
- **WNIT Documentary sponsor spots:** Matt asked for 2 board members to help with the marketing of the Friends during the documentary film. Sinclair and Grant Poole will help Meersman with photos, promotion of the Friends and promotion of the River race in September which is a fundraiser for our group.

Other News:

- **Senate Bill 389: Wetland regulations.** WNIT's Political Speaking show contacted Meersman and asked him to speak on their show about importance of the wetlands and water.
- **Kyle Tryan:** Kyle shared his screen to show the winning sign from his poster contest, that students could enter. It is placed on the St. Joseph River near the I94 bridge. Matt thanked Kyle for continuing to involve students in his educational programs.
- **Task Force:** Meersman will be part of a task force to discuss the Wetland regulations.
- **Constantine Dam:** Reece received a letter from the electric company about the renewal of the Constantine Dam license for hydroelectric power. He will check into and keep the board informed as more information becomes available.
- **June 24th meeting:** Ron Niezgodski, motioned to have Grace find a park centrally located in Three Rivers for the upcoming June meeting and skip the July meeting. Reece seconded. Motion passed.
- **River Basin Committee** Meersman will send out an invite to attend the next Basin meeting. It will be held in person at Schrock Pavilion in Goshen.

Adjournment: Sinclair motioned to adjourn, and Grace seconded. Motion carried. Meersman adjourned & concluded meeting at 1:52 pm

Next meeting will be June 24th IN PERSON!! At TBD park in Three Rivers.