

## Friends of the St. Joe River Association Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 25, 2015-1:00 PM

Pine Knob Park-Howe, IN

### IN ATTENDANCE:

- **Directors:** Matt Meersman, Bob Jones, Eric Kerney, John Law
- **Watershed Council:** Marcy Colclough, SWMPC; Dennis Bradley, Fabius Township
- **Visitors:** Barbra Frymier, retired Wood Land Lakes RC&D; Dona Hunter, retired LaGrange County SWCD; Patty Hoch-Melluish, Kieser & Associates; Jeff Reece, retired Indiana Michigan Power

President Matt Meersman called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and called for introductions. Jeff Reece informed us that Ed Brennan ([esbrennan@aep.com](mailto:esbrennan@aep.com)) would be the new representative for I&M Power.

**Minutes** of the May 28, 2015 meeting were reviewed by the board. A discussion of what constitutes a quorum ensued [*according to bylaws 5 Directors are necessary, so May minutes and June Treasurer's Report will have to be approved at the next meeting*]. John Law moved to accept the minutes as printed and Eric Kerney seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The **Treasurer's Report** was presented by Matt Meersman for Treasurer Danielle Meersman. John Law moved to accept the treasurer's report and Eric Kerney seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### OLD BUSINESS

**RCPP Update:** Matt summarized the program as a bi-state program similar to a grant in the sense that partners had to contribute match. The program provides additional cost share money to be allocated by NRCS. Marcy indicated Michigan had sign-ups due in two weeks but didn't know what time frame Indiana had. Some money needs to be spent this fiscal year (September 30, 2015). Jack Knorek and Marcy are working on ranking criteria as there is a time crunch for this. Sign-ups will be on a year-to-year basis. Some kind of reporting of partner contributions will be necessary.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Wetland Partnership Update:** On June 18, 2015, Matt and Marcy held an outreach event targeted toward municipal officials in Benton Harbor attended by around 40 to 50 people. Kate Chappel of WNDU television covered the event with a very impressive report aired on the morning and evening news.

**On-line Wetland Tool** will be available through the Michigan Wetland map viewer. This tool will include wetland functional data and the ability to generate reports for wetlands in both the

Indiana and Michigan portions of the St. Joe River Watershed. This tool is expected to be released this year.

#### **ITEMS FROM FLOOR/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Shoreline Restoration – Fabius Township – Saturday, June 27, 2015
- Matt paddled the St. Joe River from South Bend to Lake Michigan in about 9 hours. (Way to go Matt!!!)
- Michiana Paddlefest is Sunday, June 28, 2015

#### **NEXT MEETING**

No meeting in July. Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 27, 2015 at 1:00 PM at the Three Rivers Public Library, Three Rivers, MI.

Respectfully submitted by acting secretary, Bob Jones.