

Friends of the St. Joe River Association Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 22, 2018—1:00 PM
Three Rivers Public Library—Three Rivers, MI

IN ATTENDANCE:

Directors: Roxanne Barton, Bill Courliss, Dona Hunter, Bob Jones, Eric Kerney, Danielle Meersman, Matt Meersman, Ron Niezgodski, Kim Sinclair

Watershed Council: Carolyn Grace, St. Joseph County (MI) CD; Tara Lee, Steuben County SWCD

Visitors: Patty Hoch-Melluish, Kieser & Associates; Dallas Chester, Great Lakes Adventure Club; Sr. Theresa Strief, CSC, Sisters of the Holy Cross

CALL TO ORDER:

President Matt Meersman called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM, welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for introductions.

Minutes of the January 25, 2018 were reviewed. It was noted in Old Business, Bylaws Update, the seventh line, "where are mailbox" should be "where OUR mailbox". Kim Sinclair moved to accept the minutes as corrected, Ron Niezgodski seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

The **Treasurer's Report** was presented by Treasurer, Danielle Meersman. Income reflected Event income for the Watershed Council Celebration and membership dues totaling \$425.19. Expenses of \$11.25 for Bank Service Charges left a balance of \$413.94 for January 25, 2018 to February 21, 2018. The balance for Fiscal Year April 1, 2017 through February 21, 2018 is -\$1,717.76. The total Assets and Equity Balance is \$65,627.47. Ron Niezgodski moved to accept the treasurer's report as printed, Bill Courliss seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Bylaws Update for 2018

Bob Jones presented the revised Bylaws reflecting the changes suggested at the January meeting. The most significant change was adding to Article I. Organization, Sections B, C, and D that addressed the FotSJR being a Michigan non-profit corporation, the registered office of the FotSJR be located in Michigan and be the office of the Registered Agent, and the FotSJR may establish a business office within the watershed, either within or without the State of Michigan, as the Board of Directors may determine. There were a couple other verb changes to be consistent. All present agreed the changes were acceptable. Bob Jones then submitted the proposed Revised Bylaws to the Board to be sent to all members with this meeting's minutes for the next meeting in March which is our annual membership meeting as per the Bylaws Article XIV Amendments. Matt Meersman will also put the proposed Revised Bylaws on our website. Bob thanked committee members Ron Niezgodski, Jeff Reece, Grant Poole, and Matt Meersman for their contributions to the bylaws revisions.

2018 Watershed Council Celebration – March 16th

Matt Meersman said he will send out Silent Auction donation forms and Exhibitor/Display forms to everyone. Those who are providing items for the silent auction will need to get those forms back to Matt so he can prepare the bid sheets for the auction. Exhibitors also need to let Matt know so we can have enough tables available for the displays. Kim Sinclair will prepare the certificate for the Al Smith Stewardship Award. Ron Niezgodski will set up the silent auction items. Bob Jones will have all the AV equipment. Kim Sinclair and Danielle Meersman will have registration materials ready. Dona Hunter will help stuff folders for the evening. Several board members will plan on being at Sturges-Young Auditorium around 3:30 PM to set up.

2018 Annual Membership Meeting

Our next board meeting on March 22, 2018 will be our Annual Membership Meeting. Jeff Wenzel and Eric Kerney have agreed to be on the board again for a new term. Rudy Kappe, Matt Meersman, and Danielle Meersman will be stepping down from the board. At this time, Daragh Deegan has agreed to be on the board again leaving two (2) open positions to be filled. At this time we do not have any other candidates. Any Watershed Council members who might be interested, should contact Jeff Reece or if anyone has a suggestion of a good candidate should also contact Jeff Reece.

NEW BUSINESS:

Membership Management & Website Services

Matt and Danielle informed us that our website and membership management provider, Wild Apricot, will be increasing their costs from \$400.00 to \$500.00 a year at our next renewal in the fall. Matt had done some comparisons on pricing and reviews of Wild Apricot and other similar services. Wild Apricot was one of the top ten services reviewed and was also the most reasonable in cost. After some discussion on the services available and how we can better use the service we have, all felt we should stick with Wild Apricot. Bill Courliss moved that we renew with Wild Apricot when renewal comes due, Kim Sinclair seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Announcements:

- LaGrange County SWCD Annual Meeting is Thursday, March 8, 2018 at Prairie Heights Middle School. Free dinner at 6:30 PM and program at 7:15 PM. RSVP needed.
- LaGrange County SWCD is sponsoring a Prescribed Burn Workshop on Saturday, March 24, 2018 from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM at Par-Gil Natural Resources Center in LaGrange. Event cost is \$5.00. Pre-registration required, limit of 40. Lunch provided by local Pheasants Forever Chapter 592.
- Nottawaseppi Huron Band is working on a tribe 319 grant that is progressing very well with a hopeful 2019 acceptance date for best management practices.
- Steuben SWCD Annual Meeting is Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at the Angola Christian Church. Dinner is at 6:00 PM with Meeting at 6:30 PM. Cost of the meal is \$6.00 per person. Tickets are required.
- The Union Lake Community Association will have their first meeting of the year on March 19, 2018 and will include presentations on a lake management plan and increasing the fish population in the lake.
- Matt Meersman relayed information from Indiana legislation being proposed for the St. Joseph River Basin Commission (SJRBC). Matt has testified at committee meetings in Indianapolis. He has found the experience very interesting. Some quite positive and some not so much.

Next meeting will be our Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, March 22, 2018, at 1:00 PM – Three Rivers Public Library, Three Rivers, Michigan.

Adjournment: ill Courliss moved to adjourn, Kim Sinclair seconded the motion. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Jones