

Friends of the St. Joseph River
Board Meeting Minutes August 25, 2022
At Conservation Park in Three Rivers
Respectfully submitted: Carolyn Grace

Meeting called to order by Matt Meersman at 1:04pm

Board Members Present: Matt Meersman, Chris Temple, Carolyn Grace, Grant Poole, Carol Higgins, and Jeff Reece.

Others Present: Terri Loomis, City of Three Rivers; Shaun Grace, St. Joseph Co. (MI) CD; Kyle Burchett, LaGrange Co. SWCD; Becky Shank, FotSJR; Isaiah Strand, Calhoun Co. CD; Cortni Hull, Branch Co. CD; Lori Whitmyer, Cass Co. CD; Kayla Bradford, Branch Co. CD; and Aimee Wentworth, Steuben Co. SWCD.

Minutes: Jeff Reece motioned to accept the March Board Minutes, Carol Higgins second, motion passed

Treasurers Report: Kim Sinclair spoke to Grace and asked her to make a motion to table the financials until next month. Grace motioned, Reece second and motion passed to table the financials.

Old Business:

Two board actions were taken via email votes since the last meeting. The first was a letter of support for the MDNR land acquisition along the Paw Paw River. A second letter of financial support was given to the Branch County Conservation District for the writing of the Little Swan Creek Watershed Management Planning grant proposal. Both had unanimous votes of support from the Directors.

Watershed Stewardship Award: Andy Jackson received the award and Poole will get the traveling trophy/plaque to be displayed in the Pokagon Band DNR office. Jackson will be holding a women's water walk before the next meeting on Friday September 2, 2022. All are welcome to attend and join in this moving ceremony held by the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi.

New Business:

19th Annual St. Joseph Rive Race: Meersman spoke about the races and location in South Bend. Reece made a motion to support the Insurance coverage for the event of up to \$250.00 through Paddle Sports Rick Management. Poole seconds. Motion passed. Meersman was thankful.

Watershed Leadership Academy: After discussion about the positive impact this class makes to the attendees, Reece made a motion to support up to \$1,600.00 for scholarships. This would completely cover two individuals or provide 50/50 cost share for 4 people. Higgins second. Motion Passed

Other Items and Announcements

Grant spoke about the Phase I Meander in the Dowagiac. To date native tree plantings and new habitat improvements have happened. This $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile stretch has become about 1.5 miles. This will project is amazing and will continue next spring. A Michigan Habitat Survey will be conducted.

Also, Poole reiterated the Sept 2, 2022 women's water walk at sunrise.

Becky Shank suggested to reach out to Kevin Kincair for our March annual meeting. Reece mentioned he would do that and let the group know at the next meeting.

Next Meeting discussion: After talking about a zoom, an in person and a blended version of the meetings. It was decided that we would look for a location in the middle for October meeting and have it in person. The September meeting will be held via zoom. No blended meetings will be held at this time.

Next meeting Thursday September 22nd via zoom

October Meeting will be held Thursday 27th in person. The place will be discussed and announced at the September meeting.

Chris Temple motioned to adjourn at 2:34pm. Poole second motion passed