



RIVER RAISIN WATERSHED COUNCIL

320 Springbrook Avenue ♦ Suite 102 ♦ Adrian, MI ♦ 49221 ♦ 517-264-4754
rrwc@lenawee.mi.us ♦ www.riverraisin.org

River Raisin Watershed Council

Executive Committee Meeting

February 24, 2014

Tecumseh Police Meeting Room – City Hall

309 E. Chicago Blvd., Tecumseh, MI 49286

Roll Call

Chairman Steve May called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

Executive Committee Members Present: Steve May, Sybil Kolon, Hedi Kaufman, Laurie Johncox, John Calhoun, Yousef Rabhi (new Washtenaw County director replacing Rolland Sizemore)

Executive Members absent: David Hoffman

Other RRWC Representatives Present: Laura Baslock, Pittsfield Twp.; David Rhoads, City of Saline; Jerry Wilson, Rollin Township; Gerry Donaldson, Tecumseh Township

Approval of January 27, 2014 Executive Committee minutes

The minutes were amended to reflect that the motion to accept the unreviewed year end totals and 2014 revenue date was carried by voice. An “s” was added to make Tuesday plural under the section on new business of the spring meeting. A sentence was added under the heading on committee reports stating “If the bylaws need to be amended notification must be given at least 30 days in advance of any vote to amend the bylaws.” Calhoun made a motion to amend this section about the bylaws in the minutes and approve them thereafter, second by Johncox. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Kaufman to approve the agenda, second by Kolon. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Treasurer’s Report

○ **Board Bond**

Calhoun and Johncox are looking at the cost of getting the EC Board bonded.

○ **Year End Totals 2013 – 2014 Budget**

Treasurer Johncox provided a handout of the budget for January 1, 2014 to January 27, 2014 showing a projected surplus of \$12,000 and a total balance of \$25,934.47. There was discussion about reallocating \$2,000 from the surplus to the professional services budget for website design and auditor expenses. Calhoun moved to amend the budget to reallocate \$2,000 from the surplus to professional services, second by Kaufman. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

○ **Approve Bills**

Treasurer Johncox provided a handout with the treasurer’s report from January 27, 2014 to February 1, 2014 showing \$5,391 in deposits during this time period and a balance of \$25,934.47. Municipalities that paid dues were listed. Disbursements included a credit card payment for \$249.82 of pre-approved purchases, and \$25.00 to Philip Rubley CPA for 1099 form preparation. A motion was made by Calhoun to approve the payment of \$25 to Philip Rubley CPA, second by Johncox. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Introductions

All members present introduced themselves in a round-table format.

RRWC Coordinator Report

○ Membership update

Kratz provided two handouts of Paid Memberships for 2014 showing 29 municipal memberships have been received in the amount of \$9,434 and three individuals in the amount of \$400. There was discussion about adding a PayPal button to the website to make donations easier. Kolon made a motion to have Kratz look into adding a PayPal donation button, Kaufman seconded. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

○ Meetings Attended & Scheduled

Kratz has attended the following external meetings since February 3, 2014; Lenawee County Planning Commission, Lenawee County Board of Commissioners, Pittsfield Township Stormwater management Committee Meeting, Lenawee County Conservation District grant Update Meeting/River Raisin Steering Committee Quarterly Meeting, MEAP Pesticide Verification Training Session. A brief overview of these meetings was given.

Kratz has been working on a poster and handout for use at events and meetings she will be attending for the RRWC. These include the following:

Saturday March 1—Quiet Water Symposium
Tuesday March 4—Great Lakes Conference; Kellogg Biological Station
Wednesday March 26—Michigan Watershed Summit
Friday April 4—Free Well Water Screening; Lenawee Conservation District
Saturday April 5—Monroe Earth Day Celebration
Tuesday April 29—Meeting with RRP members Jackson DEQ
Thursday May 1—Lake Erie Tall Ship Sail with Amy Gilhouse
Wednesday May 28—Lake Erie Water Festival

Adopt-a-Stream Schedule for Spring 2014

Training Day April 26
Stream Search Day May 10
Bug ID Day May 11

○ Correspondence/Contacts

Kratz reported many new phone calls and emails. Some of these related to the Quiet Water Symposium, Michigan Watershed Summit, Monroe Earth Day Celebration, and Lake Erie Water Festival, Pittsfield Township Stormwater Management Committee Meeting. Events are also being coordinated with the MEAP technician, Amy Gilhouse. Kratz and Jim Martin have been in contact about upcoming symposia, adopt-a-stream, protocols and literature.

Events received via email but not attended included a presentation by the NRCS on urban watersheds in Toledo, Ohio; the tri-state conservation farming expo in Fort Wayne, Indiana; and the Palmyra Township Board meeting.

There are two new delegates; Yousef Rabhi who will serve on the executive committee as a director for Washtenaw County, and David Rhoads who will be the delegate for the City of Saline.

Neither the Village of Manchester, nor Washtenaw County received notices of dues, so those were sent again via email.

Alice Clark, Clerk of Odgen Township called to ask what the role of the RRWC is, and what benefits members get.

David Daniel is a concerned citizen who owns a 40 acre parcel in Bridgewater with some erosion problems. Kratz examined his property, and is working with Liz Hay-Chmielewski from the Michigan DNR fisheries department on finding possible sources of funding to decrease erosion throughout the watershed to reduce sediment load in the river.

- **Website/Facebook/Twitter**

Kratz reported that the website is being continually updated. A new volunteer task-force has been instituted to allow people to volunteer time and labor without having to give monetary donations to become a member. The facebook page had 56 likes, and information on the page is being updated regularly with news stories about the watershed and new membership maps. There was one message on facebook about the need for a comprehensive resource for hiking trails in the watershed. The twitter account is up, and is growing slowly.

- **Funding Opportunities**

New funding opportunities include a Michigan DNR Aquatic Habitats Grant for 2014, Michigan DEQ Area of Concern Grant for 2014, DEQ Non-Point Source Funding for 2015 and MiCorps Road Crossing Grant.

- **Dues Notices**

Municipalities that have not paid dues will be contacted prior to the next executive committee meeting. A new notice of dues will be mailed, and meetings will be attended where required.

There was also discussion on publishing two articles per year in the Lenawee County Ag News.

Partnership Updates

- **LCD Update**

A meeting will take place in mid-March to define roles of partners in a more succinct manner.

- **319 Grant**

Kolon reported that we will learn if the grant has been awarded by late summer or early fall. RRWC is a partner to the grant submitted by Legacy Land Conservancy. RRWC may take over the coordination of this grant to sustain it in future years. There is a new request for proposals, with preliminary proposals due in August. Kolon suggested the audit be sent to the DEQ to confirm the RRWC is again qualified to apply. The RRWC could then seek other partners to coordinate with.

- **RRP Update**

Kolon reported that the next meeting will be April 29 at the Jackson DEQ office and suggested that the RRWC is now in a position to take a more active role in this group. Kolon will send out the RRP Charter and list of current members.

Solid Waste Committee Meeting

The plan is being reworked. May commented that the RRWC should think about how to partner with Lenawee County on the plan.

Committee Reports

The technical committee met briefly and discussed opportunities to partner with The Nature Conservancy.

The outreach committee met to discuss the spring newsletter and setting a date and theme for the spring meeting. The importance of the Watershed Management Plan to moving forward with restoration and outreach efforts was stressed.

No reports were given from the other committees

Strategic Plan – Redevelop the Leadership Role of the RWC

The Executive Committee hired a coordinator to help achieve this goal. The next steps should continue to be discussed and brought up at the spring meeting.

Events

There was general discussion of the need to sponsor or be involved in events in the watershed. Chairman May mentioned the potential purchase of an access site on Red Mill Pond. The outreach committee will work with the new coordinator to begin planning for 2014.

Old Business - None

New Business

○ **Upcoming Events**

Kaufman mentioned that an oil and gas leasing discussion will take place on March 6th, 2014 in Ida, and that a wetlands protection forum will take place at Dundee Old Mill to discuss the new farm bill on March 3rd, 2014.

David Rhoads mentioned that the City of Saline Environmental Committee is having a recycling event open to everyone, even those who are not citizens of the city of Saline. The event raises funds for the youth center by collecting old electronics.

○ **Spring Meeting**

It was agreed the date should be set before the next meeting. The outreach committee will work with the new coordinator to set a time and place. The Smith Center in Tecumseh on April 23, 2014 is the first choice for location and time. This event will be held from 6:30 PM to 9 PM, with presentations beginning at 7 PM.

○ **County Representative**

After discussion at the last meeting there was additional review to ensure everyone understands how the number of county representatives is determined, as specified by the RRWC bylaws, which are based on state law. Each of the counties that have more than 15% of their area in the watershed (Lenawee, Monroe and Washtenaw) is entitled to appoint one representative to the RRWC board of directors. That person also has an automatic seat on the Executive Committee. If there are people within that county who are not represented because their local unit of government is not a member of the RRWC, that county could then appoint one additional person for each 20,000 population or fraction thereof (if there are fewer than 20,000 people not represented, that county still gets to appoint one extra representative).

○ **New RRWC Computer**

The current computer needs significant repair. Motion by Calhoun to authorize purchase of a new computer (CPU) for no more than \$500. Second by Johncox. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Next Meeting

The next RRWC Executive meeting will be held March 31, 2014 at 3:00 PM. at the Tecumseh Police Department.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Carley Kratz
RRWC Coordinator
March 4, 2014

Approval of Draft Minutes

Date: March 11, 2014

Secretary: Hedi Kaufman

Signature: *Hedi Kaufman*