



RIVER RAISIN WATERSHED COUNCIL

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River Raisin Watershed Council

Executive Committee Meeting

March 31, 2014

Tecumseh Police Meeting Room – City Hall

309 E. Chicago Blvd., Tecumseh, MI 49286

Roll Call

Vice-Chairman Sybil Kolon called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM.

Executive Committee Members Present: Sybil Kolon, Hedi Kaufman, Laurie Johncox, John Calhoun, Yousef Rabhi, David Hoffman

Executive Members absent: Steve May

Other RRWC Representatives Present: Laura Baslock, Pittsfield Twp.; Keith Kapnick, Deerfield Twp.

Approval of February 24, 2014 Executive Committee minutes

Kaufman made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was supported by Calhoun. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was amended to add item 4.d, coordinator access to online accounts and review of the coordinator position under new business. A motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Calhoun and supported by Johncox. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Introductions

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

Treasurer's Report

○ **Board Bond**

Johncox has received one quote from Decker Agency of \$359 to bond the Executive Committee and coordinator. No action will be taken until a quote has been received from Barnum and Flowers.

○ **2014 Budget, February Bank Statement**

Treasurer Johncox provided a handout of the budget for January 1, 2014 to January 27, 2014 showing a projected surplus of \$12,000. Treasurer Johncox provided two handouts with the treasurer's report from January 1, 2014 to March 31, 2014, showing \$3,985 in deposits during this time period and a balance of \$29,911.18. Municipalities and individual membership dues were listed, and the sale of some hats and shirts.

○ **Approve Disbursements for Outstanding Bills**

A handout of outstanding bills was provided. Calhoun made a motion to approve the disbursement of outstanding bills for \$757.18, the motion was supported by Rabhi. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

○ **Coordinator Access to View Bank Account Online**

Rabhi made a motion to allow the coordinator to have view only online access to the bank account balance and transaction history for the purposes of balancing accounts on Quickbooks and monitoring PayPal transactions. Calhoun supported the motion. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

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RRWC Coordinator Report

○ **Membership update**

Kratz provided two handouts of Paid Memberships for 2014 showing 37 municipal memberships have been received in the amount of \$13,028 and four individuals in the amount of \$400. Two additional members, one corporate and one citizen have donated using PayPal, however these funds have not been added to the bank account yet. It was noted that ITC, Consumer's Energy, DTE and Little Caesar's may be willing to become corporate member.

○ **Correspondences**

Kratz reported many new phone calls and emails. There have also been a few more Twitter followers and Facebook likes.

She met again with David Daniel, a concerned citizen who owns a 40 acre parcel in Bridgewater with some erosion problems. Kratz examined his property along with Dr. Hazelman from the National Fish and Wildlife Service. Mr. Daniel will be constructing a wetland at the back of his property. Kratz is working on finding possible sources of funding to help with the erosion issues.

Kratz has been in contact with Danielle Conroyd from the River Raisin Institute regarding the Lake Erie Water Festival. She will be leading a prairie walk and Dr. Martin will lead a macroinvertebrate session. They will be using the "Surfin' the Watershed" activity books produced by RRWC, and 12 teachers will receive a watershed map for classroom use before the event.

There are two interested students from the Monroe Community College who would like to volunteer to man booths at events, clean up the river and for adopt-a-stream.

A thank you email was sent to all municipalities that have paid with a reminder to appoint a representative if they have not done so. Municipalities and representatives who have not paid received an email highlighting the positive watershed activities and asking if they needed another copy of the dues notice. Some have said they will pay soon.

A letter of support was written to Pat Vaillencourt from the Village of Manchester offering coordination of volunteer efforts for renovations taking place near the dam on Main St.

Some local libraries have been contacted and Adrian and Manchester would like a summer library presentation on the watershed.

The Tecumseh Paddling Company is interested in working with us to clear log jams and clean up the river. They wrote a letter of support for a MiCorp grant for the RRWC, donating the use of canoes and canoe transportation valued at \$980.

○ **Meetings Attended**

Kratz has attended the following meetings since March 1, 2014; Quiet Water Symposium, Great Lakes Conference, Michigan Watershed Summit, Red Mill Pond Update Meeting, LCD Grant Update Meeting, Lake Erie Water Festival Conference Call. She summarized the events that took place at each of these meetings including highlights and new contacts that were made.

○ **Upcoming Events**

Friday April 4—Free Well Water Screening; Lenawee Conservation District

Saturday April 5—Monroe Earth Day Celebration
Wednesday April 9—River Raisin Institute Board Meeting
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

The Adopt-a-Stream Schedule for Spring 2014 was changed due to high waters.

Training Day May 17
Stream Search Day May 24
Bug ID Day May 31

- **Funding Proposals**

We have requested small amounts of funding from large businesses including Walmart and CVS.

We submitted two grant proposals to MiCorps. One requested \$1,545 for the River Raisin Rescue cleanup. This would help to pay for volunteer meals, t-shirts and heavy equipment rental for removal of large debris. The second requested \$9,752 for the Adopt-A-Stream program. This would supplement the coordinator's salary, pay for mileage and conference attendance for volunteers, and allow us to purchase more waders and other supplies. This funding would help to expand the Adopt-A-Stream program.

Partnership Updates

- **LCD Update**

A meeting took place on March 24th to discuss the progress of the grant. We are on track with our goals to disseminate information about the MAEAP program. The coordinator is in the process of forming an advisory panel including Steve May, Kathlene Kurowicki, Amy Gilhouse, and a few local farmers who have gone through the MAEAP verification process.

- **RRP Update**

Kolon mentioned that the number of partners has grown since the charter was signed in 2009 and that the RRWC is in a better position to take more of a leadership role. There was agreement this should be discussed at the next meeting. Kolon reported that the next meeting will be April 29 at the Jackson DEQ office.

Committee Reports

The Outreach Committee has not met, but the newsletter is being put together and will be printed early the week of April 7th. Draft copies of the newsletter were handed out. The newsletters will cost \$0.50/color copy if printed by the Lenawee County Printing department. Kaufman made a motion to approve the purchase of 500 copies of the spring newsletter for up to \$250. Rabhi supported. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

No reports were given from the other committees, as they have not met.

Old Business

- **Spring Meeting**

The spring meeting will be April 23rd at the A.J. Smith Center in Tecumseh from 7-9 PM. Spring meeting flyers were handed out. Executive committee members will be nominated and elected (or re-elected) at

the spring meeting. Kaufman indicated she would like to step down from the Executive Committee; others were willing to continue in current roles. It was agreed that current representatives should be reviewed to find someone willing to serve on the EC before the spring meeting. A draft copy of the agenda was handed out, and will be amended to include these elections. Arrangements for refreshments were discussed.

New Business

- **Review of the Coordinator Position**

Kratz was out of the room during this discussion. Executive committee members discussed the performance to date of our new coordinator, Carley Kratz. There was unanimous agreement that she has performed her duties in an outstanding manner and has met and exceeded expectations. Motion by Calhoun, second by Johncox, to increase Kratz's hourly rate to \$25 per hour upon her completion of 90 days of service to the RRWC. **Motion unanimously approved.**

- **Report from Hoffman**

Hoffman reported that he attended the Lake Erie Water Keepers conference, which discussed reducing phosphate use by using gypsum in its place. Many water treatment facilities near Lake Erie have had to shut down operations due to algae blooms. Manure management is a complicated issue. He noted that Raisinville Township has installed a boat launch near the Ida-Maybee Road bridge, and there are plans for another near the Raisinville Road bridge at North Custer Road.

Next Meeting

The next RRWC Executive meeting will be held May 13, 2014 at 3:00 PM. at the Tecumseh Police Department. It was agreed a regular meeting schedule for the rest of the year should be set at that time.

Adjournment

A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Rabhi and supported by Calhoun. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40PM.

Respectfully submitted by Carley Kratz
RRWC Coordinator
April 1, 2014

Approval of Draft Minutes

Date: April 17, 2014

Secretary: Hedi Kaufman

Signature: Hedi Kaufman