

DRAFT Minutes of RRWP retreat/strategic planning session, 1/16/2019

Meeting was delayed, due to icy conditions; new start time was 10:30. Members present: Anderson, Schirado, Schulte, Spencer, Stegmier, Triant, Tuck, Zuiderveen, and invited guest, Jamie Vaughn

Venue: West Michigan Archery Center, classroom

Social media presence: Jamie Vaughn, who administers the RRWP FB presence, projected the site on a screen, so that all could see and view various posts and features. Also, she shared pictures taken at Stream Insect Monitoring sessions in order for board members to get an overview about this outstanding Trout Unlimited program.

Finances: setting a budget

Bryce S. led the board through the process of setting a budget for 2019. He reported on our current financial status, and sources of income. Then he asked board members to name current commitments and new programs and initiatives that will support our mission and vision for the watershed. This information was recorded on the work sheet Bryce supplied, and will be reviewed at our monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 13, 9:30-11:00.

The board touched on various programs, including:

- a future Cedar River Clean-up
- the need for a membership chair
- desire to support RCPP effort with in-kind and financial support
- make an effort to install more water invasive species signs in parts of the watershed that don't have them. Tricia, Sally, and Jessie will look into this.
- the need to have talking points, maybe power point, as well as brochures available for making the case for membership to townships, municipalities, and businesses.
- discussion about a large snail-mailing to property owners along the Rogue, to let them know who we are and invite them to join us.

A motion to send postcards to more than a thousand addresses of taxpayers who own property along the Rogue in Kent County, was made by R. Stegmier, seconded by Bryce. Discussion followed re postal rates,

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possibly paying for non-profit status in order to get a \$.25 cent rate per card instead of \$.39 rate. Tricia will print the cards, RRWP will pay for the post card stock. *The card still need designing, and we need to determine if paying for non-profit status with the post office makes financial sense.*

Gretchen Z. called for vote on the motion to send out postcards to land-owning tax payers in Kent County: the motion passed, unanimously.

Bryce also requested information about events, programs, support offered, and accomplishments of the RRWP in 2018 for the purpose of applying for grants.

Social media presence: Sally T. projected files she's stored on google drive, and requested other legal documents from R. Schirado. Sally suggested that those of us who've been with RRWP for awhile, should write down events, issues, and decisions made during the past years, so that a file can be developed for new members. She also raised concerns about access to the file in google docs, and that at least one person who is no longer working with us has her name on the account. She recommended that we have all pertinent passwords from our various media accounts be collected and filed in a central location. In addition, she reported that we have an Instagram account!

A number of minor modifications/changes in our by-laws, was brought to our attention by R. Schirado. The suggestions were noted and accepted by the board and Robert will send a revised copy of the bylaws to Sally, for google docs. *More substantive changes to the by-laws are proposed by R. Schirado and will be part of future agendas.*

Upcoming events

February 20: RRWP will help KCD put on a chili lunch for area farmers and landowners. This will happen at the Sparta Hunting and Fishing Club, from 12:00-1:00. Sue Blackall, a Sparta resident, found this venue, has written an article about the reason for this event for the Sparta paper, and is supplying a special bread she makes to go with the chili. More details about this, later. Our FB page shows that 25 people are interested in this event.
March 30: RRWP will co-ordinate with KCD to do an invasive plant removal (buckthorn) in Rogue River Park, from 9:30-12:30. Our FB page shows that 45 people are interested in this event.

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A Saturday morning this summer: the RRWP will host a table at the Rockford Farmers' Market. Gretchen stopped at Rockford City Hall after the board meeting; an email about available dates will be sent to her sometime in March.

Social media presence: Tricia projected our website onto the screen, and showed the new tab called Resources. She has installed The Rogue River Watershed Stormwater Guidebook, the stream insect monitoring results from each collection spot. and the e-coli presentation and test results that Molly Rippke prepared for a Tuesday Talk this past summer.

Tricia noted that the free calendar app she had been using has expired and recommended that we pay for the calendar app so that our calendar page is usable.

Education: Some topics for future Tuesday Talks were mentioned; and inviting a plant person to talk about bringing back the birds and bees are two possible topics.

We had a discussion about how, when, and if the RRWP should become involved with Public Notices that the DEQ issues concerning proposed development projects in the watershed.

One suggestion is to invite someone from the water resources division in the GR office, to attend one of our meetings, and offer guidance. Another suggestion was to sponsor a Tuesday Talk about what public notices are, *and the part they play in developments in the watershed. This discussion was a start, and will be continued.*

Fundraising and “go team” projects were briefly addressed at the end of the meeting. *We will make a decision about tee shirts at our February meeting. Everyone is asked to bring whatever information they have about tell shirts to the February meeting. R. Schirado asked for the board to be ready to approve going forward with a raffle at the February meeting; this has been moved to the March meeting.*

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