

**Rogue River Watershed Partners
02/15/21 Meeting
Minutes**

**Prepared By Sharon Wilbourne
3/27/21**

Board Attendees

Bryce Spencer	Bob Stegmier	Todd McClennen
Jessie Schulte	Bill Otten	Gretchen Zuiderveen
Anne Tuck	Mindy Miner	Sharon Wilbourne

Introductions

- Grant Opportunity Discussion / Updates
 - EGLE Watershed Restoration – Josh Zuiderveen
 - Discussed a project for Rum Creek (see attachment), a tributary to the Rogue R.
 - Project designed to help control surface water runoff, which would help Rum Creek to lower E.coli numbers in the stream by reduction of nutrient inputs.
 - Project cost is \$40,000.
 - Cortland Township property owner has agreed to allow the project which is located at 2437 10 Mile Rd. (see attached map).
 - Under this project Josh’s company, **South Peat Environmental LLC** would contact other landowners within the watershed to persuade/recruit them to implement additional Water Quality Improvement Projects within the Rogue River watershed such as wetland restoration. Kent Conservation reminds RRWPs that there is still

funding from the USDA RCPP for: nonpoint source runoff control projects including land and crop management such as no-till, plant cover crops;

- Other important practices needing to be promoted include:
 - implement habitat improvement projects: control nonnative plants (phragmites, loosestrife); plant native plants,
 - identify locations of failed septic systems
 - identify locations of broken field tiles which can erode banks
- **The Ask:** Josh is requesting that the RRWP act as the applicant for this grant.
 - RRWP must be a registered nonprofit with Federal DUNS Data Universal Numbering System, abbreviated as DUNS or D-U-N-S, is a proprietary system developed and managed by Dun & Bradstreet that assigns a unique numeric identifier, referred to as a "DUNS number" to a single business entity our Tax Exempt Number.
 - *MOTION: Bryce Spencer moved that RRWP act as applicant for the EGLE restoration grant with South Peat Environmental LLC guidance, Stegmier seconded, and approved. Gretchen abstained due to conflict of interest.*
- Michigan My Waterways Application Discussion --Josh, Jessie
 - EGLE My Waterways Grant Opportunity-Volunteer Stream Monitoring Grant where local volunteers monitor stream water quality by using Michigan's Protocols for collecting/sampling macroinvertebrate species diversity and population density, and collecting water to test water chemistry. The state uses this information to determine water quality. This helps them decide if they need to do a more thorough investigation.
 - Applicants must be a nonprofit.
 - Grant amounts are usually between \$3,000 and \$5,000.

- Grant Applicants must take the MiCorps Training which includes learning how to use the MiCorps Protocol, how to correctly sample and test the water, how collect and sample macroinvertebrate populations, how to do the in-stream measurements, and how to record information in the MiCorps required format. Uniformity in collection techniques and data collected allows comparisons across the watershed and over time to determine water quality.
- Application Deadline February 23, 2021.
- RRWP Discussion: Short turnaround; ask local teachers with students to partner with RRWP (covid restrictions?) on Monitoring Project, great hands on environmental learning opportunity, recurs yearly, could plan to apply next year.
 - Members decided to table until next year,
 - Create a Grant Opportunity Tracking Table
- Other Opportunities
 - LGROW is sponsoring their yearly Family Event June 10th-20th, 2021
 - RRWP could participate in the Kayak Event to discuss Aquatic Invasive Species at specific demonstration locations along the river
 - Earth Day participation
 - Information Booth on RRWP and AIS at the parking lot
- Financial Report-Bryce
 - See attached spreadsheet
 - Dues are due.
 - Pay \$25 individual partner, \$50 family and at website: <http://www.rogueriverwp.org/partnerships.html> or mail to Bryce
 - Payment for Organizational Services - Discussion
 - Meeting Secretarial Duties.
 - Sharon volunteered
 - Website Maintenance

- Jessie volunteered temporarily
- Jessie requested that Board Members check their personal information or supply it if you are new.
- Bryce will send letter from RRWP to request funding to support someone to do this for us
- Bryce has secured 5 years of domain name
- Steg suggested that everyone go through website to note things which may need updating or eliminated to be discussed at our next meeting
 - Meetings will be 3rd Wednesday of month unless notified otherwise
- 2021 Activities – Continued Discussion
 - Events
 - RRWP Community Awareness / Membership
- Other New Business
 - Josh-Potential Water Quality Improvement Project at the old fish hatchery site near 14 Mile and Richardson in Rockford
 - Cost: Grant \$80,000 with \$10,000 local match (taxpayer)
 - to restore the wetland and help manage stormwater runoff from Rockford
- To Do
 - Find Duns number -Bryce-Jessie
 - Review website -all
- Adjourn