



February 14, 2018 – Regular Meeting

Directors Present: Gretchen Zuiderveen, Robert Schirado, Jessie Schulte, Brett Vredevoogd, Rob Zbiciak, Stu Cok.
Directors Absent: Robert Stegmier.

Guests: Cara Decker (GVMC Stormwater Program Coordinator), Dana Strouse (DEQ), Ethan Welling and Rhoda Klomega (GVSU Students), Pete DeBoer (Land Conservancy of West Michigan), John Stegmeier (Izaak Walton League), Jon Minor (Rockford Planning Commission), Eileen Boekestein, and Elizabeth Sochacki.

Announcements: Upcoming Events

- Gretchen gave an update on the upcoming events
- Jessie Schulte – Invasive Buckthorn removal event at Rogue River Park on Feb. 17.
- Ike's Annual conservation banquet – March 3.
- Jessie - KCD - showcase event on March 22.
- Tuesday talks - hoping to have one in march regarding septic systems and e-coli. April 24th is the first scheduled Tuesday talk at Cellar Brewing in Sparta.

Presentation:

Cara Decker, GVMC Stormwater Program Coordinator presented the different programs that are GVMC and LGROW are working on to help communities and property owners manage storm water run off in the Rogue River watershed. She summarized the following practices:

- Stormwater permits are necessary to have communities regulate stormwater. Community needs to be in an urbanized area (50,000 residents or more - based on census).
 - Schools have their own permits
 - All the communities shown on the map have the same regulations, as set forth by the GVMC
- Public education and outreach
 - Regional consistency for education and tip sheets for how to protect the watershed
 - Helping people to reduce dumping into storm drains
 - Focusing on home owners and activities at home that may pollute stormwater "only rain in the drain!"
 - Taking advantage of grants that have an educational component, such as USFW Foundation
 - Rainscaping and other green infrastructure practices on residential properties. I
 - Installing bioswales and rain gardens with kids from East Rockford Middle School
- RCPP - 8 million dollar grant to help with restoration efforts and agricultural remediation and preservation of wetlands, etc. Promotion of the program will match funds for the RRWP.
- Basin Buddy in the City of Grand Rapids.
- Adopt a catch basin program, where local residents clean nearby catch basins and take measures to prevent pollutants from entering them.
- Citizen Labs in Grand Rapids is app development for anyone wanting to promote or provide a tool to help with protecting catch basins or controlling stormwater.
- Encouraging municipalities to adopt and enforce storm water ordinances to address:
 - Illicit discharge detection and elimination
 - Construction site runoff control
 - Post construction runoff control
 - Pollution prevention / good housekeeping
 - Reporting to the DEQ

Business Meeting:

G. Zuiderveen moved to approve the minutes from January 10, 2018, with support by J. Schulte. Motion carried.

Financial statement: J. Schulte reported that the account currently has \$2,6019.

Website status: Ethan Welling and Rhoda Klomega, students from GVSU have taken on the task of building the RRWP a new website, and moving the content from Wordpress to a new, more user-friendly platform. Many platform suggestions were mentioned. T. Anderson noted that if they choose Weebly, she would be able to help manage content because of her familiarity with the platform.

Ethan and Rhoda plan to provide an update at the March 14, 2018 meeting.

Membership Issues: S. Cok presented some ideas to increase membership with the organization. He added that the current dues structure must be revised, and more membership drives are needed. He noted that it would be ideal for the website to be able to allow people to pay dues and/or make donations. He has plans to update the dues structure with new membership level descriptions.

P. Allen mentioned that the use of an online newsletter would be very helpful. She feels that grant funding that may be received from the Woolham Foundation could be used to hire an intern who could administer and run the membership drive programs.

P. DeBoer mentioned that with his organization, The Land Conservancy of West Michigan, folks who pay dues are not called members, they're called "supporters".

J. Stegmeyer feels that people who give money to his organization, the Izaak Walton League, like the paper brochure by mail.

Freshwater Futures: A discussion was held about the possibility of the Adopt-A-Tributary Concept.

Election of Officer – Tricia Anderson as Secretary: G. Zuiderveen moved, with support from P. Allen to elect Tricia Anderson as RRWP Secretary and member. Motion carried

Rivers Edge Park Letter of Support: S. Cok moved, with support from R. Schirado, to send a letter of support to Brian Bury for the Rivers Edge Park project.

Raffle license: J. Schulte moved, with support from S. Cok, to release the funds needed to apply for the raffle license. Motion Carried.

Miscellaneous:

- Checking the PFAS level in native lampreys.
- Boat launch at Friske and Summit needs clean up, and repair.

Adjourn 11:00am