



Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2018

1. Guest Introductions

Guests present: Wendyl Brim, Maury Houseman,

Members present: Robert Schirado, Gretchen Zuiderveen, Robert Zbiciak, Pat Allen, Dana Strouse, Sto Kok, Jesse Schulte

2. Review and Approve minutes from April 11, 2018.

P. Allen moved, with support from T. Anderson to approve the meeting minutes from April 11, 2018.

Motion carried.

3. Reports:

- a. Financial Statement – J. Schulte: Balance of \$2,310.19
- b. Trout Unlimited Report – J. Vaughn absent, but provided a report for the meeting (attached)
 - Stream monitoring on May 5th was a success with over 80 volunteers
 - Girls in the streams
 - Etc.
- c. Website Status-Brett (absent)
- d. RCPP: J. Schulte – KCCD was able to secure a grant for RCPP outreach. Will help to pay for an agricultural technician, who will go out door to door with outreach efforts.
 - Last Tuesday talk was a success with recruiting landowners to take advantage of RCPP.
 - Nick Sanchez – Sent out a mailer to over 200 people
 - Lance Climie – will help with sending out info to the Trout Unlimited distribution list for outreach efforts.
- e. Upcoming Tuesday Talk: Rockford Brewery, May 22.
 - G. Zuiderveen – What's the big deal about native plants? Rebecca Marquardt, landscape architect and native plant specialist.
- f. Forestry cuts in Lansing – the need to contact legislators to urge them not to cut funding for employed foresters. – House Appropriation subcommittee – Jessie has a list of talking points. She will give this list to T. Anderson to put in the website.

- S. Cok indicated that people need to be careful when telling the legislators to cut the budgets, so that it's not affecting other programs.
 - G. Zuiderveen noted that we have a responsibility to let them know.
 - Rob Z. doesn't feel that the current legislature has environmental issues as their top priorities.
 - R. Schirado noted that the DEQ is a partner with the CLAMP program, which would eliminate water sampling and lab testing.
 - D. Strouse – Clean Michigan money has been spent, thus other programs that were funded by this program, will end. Unless the funding can come from other sources. Tipping fee for waste haulers may be increased to make up for funding lost from the end of the Clean Michigan Initiative.
 - J. Schulte - Conservation Districts would also lose funding.
 - Rob Z. – Election coming up may result in no one wanting to be for increases in costs to Michigan residents. Michigan has the lowest fees for waste disposal.
 - R. Schirado noted that the CLAMP program funds the miCorps program, as well as many others.
 - Rogue River is due for the E. Coli Sampling
- g. Update on Tuesday Talk – Jessie.
- Following up with folks who attended the Tuesday talk in Sparta.
- h. Possible zoning changes to the City of Rockford Zoning Ordinance to allow for curb cut rain gardens – T. Anderson
- i. Gretchen – Spoke about Pat's accomplishments
- Helped give us our non-profit status
 - Wrote grant to the Wollham foundation
 - Pat is quiet and consistent behind the scenes work as not gone unnoticed.
4. Discussion Items
- a. Discuss and vote on proposal to hold a board only meeting next month from 9-12 with lunch afterward.
- A time to make decisions on important items that have been in the works for some time.
 - June 13, cancelling the public meeting
- Gretchen moved, with support from R. Schirado, to schedule a board only meeting.
Motion carried.
- Tricia Will send out an email and post on the website.
- b. Mindy Minor will be presenting to the Rockford City Council about forming a Sustainability Commission. June 11, 2018.
- c. B. Stegmeijers's idea of landowners near Grant (head waters of the Rogue River) excavating their land to restore Rice Lake, and begin to grow rice there again.
- P. Allen feels that the Wollam Foundation may match funds for a project like this.
 - Jessie – RCPP could fund, but outreach is going to be the difficult part.
 - Rob Z – brought up the landowner wetland workshops that they did a number of years ago. He noted that many land owners were very interested in wetland restoration. He added that the land must be restorable.
 - Dana – all the parcels would need to agree to do it to avoid flooding.
 - Breaking tiles, plugging ditches would restore, but there needs to be a strategy, and other properties cannot be negatively impacted.

- Schirado mentioned getting in contact with different agencies in the area, such as the Fremont Foundation and the Newaygo County Drain Commission, and Newaygo County Commissioners. These other agencies will need to be involved in strategizing.
- Rob Z suggested that before we do any outreach or doing any research, should, at minimum, contact Stan Vansingel, property owner in the Rice Lake area. If the idea is well received by him, that should give a green light.

5. Adjourn 11:30am

Stu moved, seconded by Jessie.