



RIVER RAISIN WATERSHED COUNCIL

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**River Raisin Watershed Council
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.
804 N. Evans St. & Via Google Meet
Tecumseh, MI 49286**

Roll Call

Chair Harry Sheehan called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Executive Committee members present: Harry Sheehan, John Calhoun, KZ Bolton, Sybil Kolon, Trudi Cooper

Executive Committee members absent: Dave Hoffman, Phil Kittredge

Others present: Stephen May – RRWC Executive Director, Meija Knafl – RRWC Outreach Coordinator (intermittently via Google Meet), Lydia Lopez - RRWC Water Stewardship Coordinator, Matt Schwartzlander, Brooklyn Village Manager (Google Meet)

1. Approval of Agenda – September 19, 2023

- a. Motion by Calhoun, second by Bolton, to approve the September 19, 2023 Agenda as presented. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

2. Approval of Minutes – August 22, 2023

- a. Motion by Kolon, second by Bolton, to approve the August 22, 2023 Agenda as amended, removing Sheehan and Cooper from roll call and revising 9.a.i. to read "Received the grant for 800 native plants . . .". **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

3. Treasurer's Report

- a. The Treasurer's Report for the period August 1 – August 31, 2023 was distributed and reviewed by Bolton. At Premier Bank: Revenue – **\$ 23.79**; Expenses - **\$0.00**; Balance to date: **\$51,702.60**. At County National: Revenue - **\$9,097.81**; Expenses - **\$4,747.03**; Balance to date - **\$17,196.29**. Motion by Calhoun, second by Cooper to accept and file the Treasurer's Report. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**
- b. Approve Disbursements for Outstanding Bills - May reviewed the monthly expense report to the total of **\$107,833.98**. May indicated we had just received a grant payment of \$100,800 from the DNR which will allow us to cover the current bills. Motion by Calhoun, second by Cooper, to authorize payment of these bills to the total of **\$107,833.98**. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**
- c. RRWC 2023 YTD – May reviewed the 2023 budget for the month and year to date. Report on file.

4. Public Comments (3) Minutes

- a. Matt Swartzlander mentioned the drawdown of the Brooklyn dam and said it was going well. Sheehan indicated we would be sending a notice to adjacent property owners this winter when the design of the project is 60% complete.

5. New Business

- a. Fall Delegate Meeting
 - i. Will be Thursday, October 19 at 6:00 p.m. The Executive Committee will meet ahead of that at 5:30 p.m. to conduct routine business. Location at River Raisin National Battlefield Park had not yet been confirmed.
- b. Proposed 2024 Budget – See 12.
- c. Grant Tracking – See 12.

6. Old Business

- a. Brooklyn Dam - Update
 - i. Draw down of Mill Pond is complete.
- b. AJ Smith Building Lease Agreement
 - i. May was just informed that the Tecumseh City Council approved a two-year lease at \$550 per month, based on RRWC allowing the Boy Scout troop to use the space twice a month.
- c. RRWC Strategic Planning Grant - Contract - Update
 - i. May will sign the contract after the discussion with the consultant on September 11 about their proposal
- d. Log Jam Removal Requests – Technical Committee
 - i. Committee met to discussed Dundee log jam. Access and permits will be needed. They will put together a log jam removal policy and documents to detail the process, as we get many requests for assistance.

7. Executive Director Updates

- a. Report/Calendar/2023 Membership Updates:
 - i. No changes
- b. Outreach/Expansion Support Grant - Update
 - i. May indicated it will be wrapped up this month.
- c. Brooklyn Dam Removal/New Grant Proposal - Update
 - i. The \$2.5 million grant from EGLE is in place and will cover much of the remaining work in 2024 and beyond. Additional funds will be needed and we anticipate receiving them as needed.
- d. Base of Operations Grant
 - i. May working on allocating the remaining funds before the grant ends at the end of the month, which includes high speed internet to be provided by Comcast.

8. Outreach Coordinator - Updates

- a. Upper Wolf Creek Watershed Management Grant - No update
- b. University of Maryland - Watershed Report Card – Knafel will send a link to the draft Watershed Report card and requests our review.
- c. Great Lakes Restoration Collaborative – Is next Friday, Knafel, Lopez and Kolon to attend.
- d. Artalicious – Lopez reported they had set up a booth at the event in Adrian last weekend. They had kids activities and estimate 400 kids went through.

9. Water Stewardship Coordinator - Updates

- a. Forests to Michigan Faucets - Update
 - i. Meeting next week to discuss the agreement prior to finalizing this program. It would be a \$50,000 grant for three years to focus on planting trees in the watershed.
- b. River Raisin Nature Exploration Programs Project – Contract Signed – Update
 - i. Lopez reported the grant will begin in October with our first event on October 7. There will be three programs each month for a year on a specific theme that will be presented to middle school kids, elementary school kids and parents and a third one for adults. Lopez will schedule these events throughout the watershed.
- c. Water sampling proposal:
 - i. Based on interest and requests by lake communities for water sampling, Lopez suggested we consider establishing a program for RRWC staff to help with that sampling for a fee.

10. Administrative - Update

- a. No report – Administrative and Financial Committees to meet after this

11. Programs/Partnership Updates

- a. ERB Grant - Farmer-Led Watershed Conservation - FLG
 - i. May indicated we have not been reimbursed for our expenses from the Michigan Conservation District; is attempting to expedite.

12. Committee Reports

Outreach – Met last week. Still working on next year's 50th anniversary Gala.

Technical – Discussed log jam removal, see 6.d.

Development – None.

Administrative and Financial – To meet after this EC meeting to discuss 2024 budget and grant tracking.

13. Public Comment - 3 Minutes

None.

14. Next Meeting

- a. **Executive Committee – October 19, 2023 – 5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** – before the Fall Meeting expected to be at the River Raisin Battlefield National Park.

15. Adjournment

Motion by Calhoun, second by Kolon to adjourn at 11:11 a.m. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Respectfully submitted by Sybil Kolon - Secretary

Date: 9/15/2023



Secretary:

Date: 10/19/23

