



RIVER RAISIN WATERSHED COUNCIL

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**River Raisin Watershed Council
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2022 - 10:30 AM
Via Zoom/320 Springbrook Avenue, Suite 102 Meeting Room
Adrian MI 49221**

1. Roll Call

Chairman Calhoun called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

Executive Committee members present: John Calhoun, Phil Kittredge, Trudi Cooper, Harry Sheehan (Zoom) and Sybil Kolon.

Executive Committee members absent: Dave Hoffman and KZ Bolton.

Others present: Stephen May – RRWC Executive Director, Meija Knafel (Zoom) – RRWC Outreach Coordinator, Gerald Schorin -Development Director

2. Approval of Agenda - January 18, 2022

Motion by Cooper, second by Kittredge to approve the agenda with the addition of "Cleanup Project" under new business and "Manchester canoe race" under old business. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

3. Approval of Minutes - December 14, 2021

- a. Motion by Cooper to approve the December 14 Minutes with the addition under 4.c. of a bill from Niswander Environment for \$4,100.00 with total bills of \$33,216.51 second by Kolon. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

4. Treasurer's Report

- a. The Treasurer's Report for the period December 1st, 2021 – December 31st, 2021 was distributed and reviewed by May. Revenue – **\$8,337.12**; Expenses - **\$33,312.29**; Balance to date: **\$32,226.50**. Motion by Kittredge, second by Cooper to accept and file the Treasurer's Report. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**
- b. 2021 Budget Year End – revenue: \$114,872.99; expenditures: \$144,785.29
- c. Approve Disbursements for Outstanding Bills: New bills reported December 15th, 2021 – January 17th, 2022; Meija Knafel Mileage Reimbursement - \$148.51; Gerald Schorin Wages - \$3,333.00; Gerald Schorin Mileage Reimbursement FLG - \$40.32; Gerald Schorin Mileage Reimbursement RRWC - \$31.36; Lenawee County Printing and Purchasing - \$44.21; Lenawee County Drain Commissioner FLG Wages - \$5,720.00; Lenawee County Drain Commissioner FLG Wages - \$2,695.34; Premier Bank Transfer Zoom Subscription - \$15.89; Total - \$12,012.74. Motion by Kittredge, second by Cooper to authorize payment of these bills. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**
- d. 2022 Budget
 - i. Revenue: \$300,986; expenses: \$300,986.00

- ii. Requested a support of \$30,000 general operating support from the Erb Family Foundation

5. Public Comments

Schorin suggested that the PayPal donation option on our website should be updated to ask the donor if they would cover the cost of the transaction fee.

6. Executive Director Updates

- a. Updated giving:
 - i. 52 municipal memberships
 - ii. 4 corporate memberships
 - iii. 27 individual memberships
- b. Watershed Support Grant
- c. Upper Wolf Creek Watershed Management Grant
 - i. Officially signed! Implementation meeting begins Thursday,
 - 1. Limnotech has already begun working, and the Conservation District will begin working as well
- d. Water School
 - i. Meeting with Lightner did not happen; need to report updated work completed, and finish utilizing grant funds before the grant deadline.
- e. Brooklyn Dam Removal/New Grant Proposal
 - i. The consultant, on behalf of the RRWC, submitted 2 new grants, one for USFW Fish Passage, and one for EGLE Dam Safety, for a total of \$2.4 million. RRWC will continue to administer these grants. Additional grants will be needed to complete the dam removal, which is expected to take 3-5 years.
 - ii. RRWC getting 3% for admin work
 - iii. Will plan to do outreach work promoting and informing in and around the affected communities
- f. University of Maryland - Watershed Report Card
 - i. Partners are still being contacted for input, including a recent meeting with the Farmer Led Watershed Conservation Working Group
- g. RRWC Banking Update
 - i. Credit cards not available from County National Bank yet.
- h. Erb - General Operating Support - 2022
 - i. Meeting in March will provide further updates on the status of the grant

7. Outreach Coordinator - Updates

- a. Coffee with a Naturalist in Tecumseh on 1/4
- b. The River Raisin Water Festival planning is ongoing. The event will be held at the LISD on May 3.
- c. Organizer's from the Michigan State University Extension Master Naturalist program from Washtenaw County recently reached out and asked that we participate; we will be leading the River and Lakes class section in June
- d. River Rally attendance scholarship opportunities become available in February, and we will be applying
- e. The National Association for Interpreters training date for staff professional development was moved from February to March.
- f. Vernal Pool training sites have been chosen!

- i. Hidden Lake Gardens will host one in person training
- ii. Tecumseh Parks and Recreation will host one in person training
- g. Farmer Led Watershed Conservation Working Group best management practice (BMP) videos will be posted online soon to promote better water quality practices

8. Water Stewardship Coordinator - Updates

None

9. Development Director - Updates

- a. Schorin submitted a draft development plan for review. Discussion about a few different programs to track donors and volunteers. Motion by Kolon to authorize staff to select the best program, allowing up to \$225 a month for acquiring a database system, second by Cooper. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

10. Programs/Partnership Updates

- a. ERB Grant - Farmer-Led Watershed Conservation - We are in year three.

11. Committee Reports

Outreach – None.

Technical – None.

Development – None.

Administrative – None.

Financial – The 2021 financial information will be submitted to the auditor soon.

12. New Business

- a. Cleanup project - Cooper passed around a picture of an old trash pile at the Nan Weston Preserve and proposed a project to remove it. Any effort would be coordinated with the owner, The Nature Conservancy. There is interest in pursuing this.
- b. New RRWC Location Update
 - i. AJ Smith House in Tecumseh is interested in having a regular renter
 - ii. Still waiting to hear back from the grant application to cover potential moving and outfitting costs

13. Old Business

- a. Hane Highway Easement - Kolon provided an update regarding acceptance of the easement from the Raisin Valley Land Trust. The assignment document has been updated.
 - i. Motion by Cooper, to sign and accept the assignment for the Hane Easement from RVLT, second by Kittredge. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.** Kolon abstained.
- b. Manchester Kayak and Canoe Race
 - i. Race date has been decided for May 15
 - ii. RRWC has agreed to insure the race, and the Manchester Chamber of Commerce is also considering being a co-sponsor

14. Next Meeting - February 15, 2022 from 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

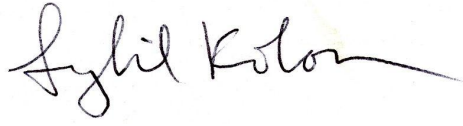
15. Adjournment

Motion by Kittredge, seconded by Calhoun to adjourn at 11:58 a.m. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**

Respectfully submitted by Meija Knafel - Outreach Coordinator - 1/20/22

Date: 2/22/22

Secretary:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sybil Kolon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.