



## **RIVER RAISIN WATERSHED COUNCIL**

320 Springbrook Avenue  
Suite 102  
Adrian, MI 49221

rrwc@lenawee.mi.us  
517-264-4754  
www.riverraisin.org

### **River Raisin Watershed Council Semi-Annual Fall Meeting Minutes October 23, 2018 6:00pm Stubnitz Center, Adrian, MI**

- 1. Call to order:** John Calhoun  
Comments: John welcomed everyone.
- 2. Roll Call:** KZ Bolton:  
Quorum: 26 needed. **No** Quorum: 22 Present  
(need 26 out of 52 municipalities)

Those present:

**City/Twp/Village/County:**

Adrian Charter Township  
Bridgewater Township  
Charter Township of Madison  
Charter Township of York  
City of Milan  
City of Monroe  
City of Saline  
Columbia Township  
Frenchtown Charter Township  
Lenawee County  
Manchester Township  
Monroe County  
Napoleon Township  
Norvell Township  
Palmyra Township  
Raisinville Township  
Raisin Charter Township  
Sharon Township  
Summerfield Township  
Tecumseh Township  
Village of Clinton  
Woodstock Township

**Name:**

Michael Herr  
Laurie Fromhart  
Matt Carpenter  
John Farmer  
Rod Hill  
Bob Clark  
David Rhoads  
John Calhoun  
Paul Thoma  
Jim Driskill  
Sybil Kolon  
David Hoffman  
John Hummer  
David Lamb  
Jim Isley  
Charles Haddix  
Mike Sperling  
Jim Mann  
John Chandler  
Gerry Donaldson  
George Service, Bonnie Peters  
Marilyn Kremer

Motion by Gerry Donaldson, seconded by Dave Hoffman to suspend the rules and continue with business without a quorum. Motion passed with a voice vote.



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**3. Approval of Agenda:** John asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Jim Driskill and seconded by George Service. There were no discussion or additions. Motion passed by voice vote.

**4. Approval of Spring Business Meeting Minutes – April 25, 2018:** John asked for a motion to accept the Spring Business meeting minutes found in the attendee's packet.

Motion to accept the Spring Minutes was made by Bob Clark and seconded by John Chandler.

With no further discussion or corrections motion passed by voice vote.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurers Report was presented by Steve May.

Year to date:

Income: \$56,155.04

Expenses: \$33,092.52

Revenue Minus Expenditure (Projected): \$23,062.52

Ending Balance as of September 30, 2018: \$41,523.64

Grant Monies:

Erb Foundation: \$43,140.00

TSN: \$6,900.00

Total Grants: \$50,040.00

Steve noted that the Executive Committee has reviewed the current budget, and has the authority to create the 2019 budget for the upcoming year.

**6. Chairman Update:** John Calhoun

- a. We are continuing to strive for funding.
- b. The AmeriCorps group worked very hard! They accumulated 72 tons of garbage.
- c. The Watershed and Wacker Silicones created a corporate partnership. They had a workgroup that cleaned a cliff with a flat area across the river. This included a partnership with the Raisin Valley Golf Club. Wacker committed annually to help. Also, Ford requested to partner with Wacker to take ownership of the river. Wacker sent pictures to their parent company in Germany. Other businesses will be solicited to help the stewardship.



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### **7. Executive Director Update: Steve May, 2018 Activities & Plans**

- a. Brittany is leaving the Watershed office. Katie has been hired and working since May. She is certified in chain saw use and very passionate about the work within the Watershed.
- b. Membership: We have 63 Municipalities total in our watershed. Membership with RRWC includes 3 Counties, 5 Cities, 34 Townships and 8 Villages (50 total). The membership costs are 10 cents per capita. Our membership also includes 4 Corporations and 20 Individuals.
- c. At the Lenawee County Fair, we raffled a kayak and raised \$170.00.
- d. Had meetings in the 4 regions of the Watershed.
- e. Worked at the Wamplers Lake boat launch.
- f. Had a booth at the Great Outdoor Jamboree at Hudson Lake.
- g. Worked on river clean up with the Rotary, Wacker Silicones, and in Washtenaw.
- h. Cooling the Hot Spots - MSU and the water research has been extended for 2 years. Five locations have been identified in the south branch of the River Raisin.
- i. Continuing to work with the ERB Foundation for funding our Farmer-Led group.
- j. Farmer Led Watershed Conservation – Steve introduced Jim Isley, Palmyra Township representative and Southeast Region Farmer Leader. Jim gave 4 important “P” points: \*Partnership is necessary. \*Protect our wonderful resource. \*Preserve for the future. \*Promote conservation. Several people present would be willing to tour Jim’s farm to learn about farming and conservation. Jim thought that could be arranged within the next 6 months. Jim also referred to our farmers as “Land Scientists.”
- k. A multitude of Watershed signs have been placed throughout the Watershed. They have been paid for by a grant. Approximately \$15,000.00 has been expended at a cost of \$250.00 per sign. Monroe will be placing signs throughout their County.
- l. River Raisin will also have ½ mile markers from Brooklyn to Monroe. Eagle Scout Zech McDavid and Brian Radant from the Tecumseh Fire Department will be working in the Tecumseh area. The cost of each marker is about \$30.00 per marker and will be placed just above the high water mark.
- m. Tecumseh Paddling has been working on clearing about 6 miles of the River near Tecumseh.
- n. Our Watershed art has been created by Gregg Perez. Our designs in several types of media can be seen and purchased at the Clinton Arts Center!
- o. River Raisin Watershed is in the classroom! We do presentations to various classrooms with the Watershed as the theme.
- p. Discover the Raisin Grants are given out each year. One page proposals are accepted from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Proposals are due by February 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2019. The classroom can receive a \$200.00 grant!
- q. Adopt-A-Stream sampled 22 sites on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Lab identification will take place on November 17<sup>th</sup>.



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- 8. Program: – “Huron River Watershed Council”:** Katie introduced Daniel Brown, Huron River Watershed Council, as our speaker for the evening.
- a. Michigan rivers can lead by example: redeveloping and reimagining ourselves.
  - b. Inform, Connect, Prepare – INFO STREAM
  - c. Pollution Preventers such as pavement sealers – asphalt -vs- cold patch.
  - d. River Revitalization – RIVER UP! Protection of health. Turning communities to face the river – i.e. Dexter, Ann Arbor, Flatrock. Traveling on the river through towns – stop for a bite to eat – i.e. Traverse City or Grand Rapids.
  - e. Water trails need to include infrastructure such as camping and restrooms.
  - f. Diverse Identity – historic, natural, city, liberal, urbanized. Need dam removal, portage improvements, destination and wayside development.
  - g. Trail towns, trail amenities, economic impact study shows \$25 – 85,000.00 to the community annually. Economic equalizer. Promotion – What a river means to the community?
  - h. PFAS has been around since 1940 and can be found in Teflon and surfactants. It is also in fire-fighting foam and anywhere it is dispatched, it will be contaminated. The State of Michigan will need a federal level clean up. Granulated activated carbon installed in water treatment plants can be used to rid the water of PFAS.
  - i. Climate Change – 42% increase in extreme precipitation in the Midwest, 16% increase overall in southeast Michigan, and a 45% increase in Ann Arbor. Some areas of interest in regards to climate change include a Dam Operators Network, updating storm water guidelines, recommended tree species plantings, and climate friendly fish habitats.
  - j. We need to 1) Diversify opportunities. 2) Develop volunteer “mid-managers.” 3) Provide educational opportunities. 4) Train leaders to be change makers. Various opportunities include establish an ordinance or proclamation for pavement sealers; enlist the help of 40 – 50 education volunteers; chain saw teams; local policies that guide development; and LEAD BY EXAMPLE!
- 9. Old business:**
- a. Steve noted a number of upcoming events:
    - i. Family Fall Celebration, November 3, 10:00 – 2:00 at the Stubnitz Center.
    - ii. Adopt-A-Stream Identification – November 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00.
    - iii. Farmer Lead Semi-Annual meeting – December 6, 9:00 – 1:00.
  - b. Remember to get your membership today!
- 10. New Business:** None at this time.
- 11. Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn: David Hoffman. Second: Gerry Donaldson. Motion carried!

Respectfully submitted,

Karol “KZ” Bolton