

Muskegon River Watershed Assembly Board Minutes – January 20, 2015

Conference Call

These minutes are not official until approved at the next regular meeting.

Present: Chair Greg Mund, Vice-Chair Cindy Fitzwilliams-Heck, Treasurer Ken Johnson, Secretary Doug Trembath, Wayne Groesbeck, Ron Kadelsik, Nancy Burmeister, Kurt Ray, Executive Director Terry Stilson and Project Manager Dixie Ward. Absent: Jean LaLonde and Don Henning

Chair Mund convened the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

Consent Agenda –

Trembath motioned to approve the consent agenda (December meeting minutes and financial reports) as amended, with Burmeister supporting the motion. Motion passed.

Executive Director's Report –

- Mund asked if there were any questions. No questions.

Old Business

Acronym list – any additions/comments –

- Mund asked if we should add USDA and NRCS.
- Kadelsik asked if we need to include the road commissions.
- Trembath stated we don't need the road commissions because we don't use them often.
- Mund asked about the foundations and suggested sending additions to Stilson.

MRWA Board of Directors Goals –

- Mund stated the MRWA did not have to decide on the goals now but to think about it over the next month. He stated one of his goals was to visit all County Commissioners with the Executive Director.
- Johnson stated it is important to have stated goals and time frames to work on and not let things linger too long.
- Fitzwilliams-Heck pointed out the strategic plan has goals and when we plan to accomplish them.
- Trembath commented his goal is to visit governmental units.
- Johnson stated it is good to remind ourselves of what we are trying to do.
- Fitzwilliams-Heck stated we need to have smaller goals to accomplish the bigger goals.

New Business

Executive Committee –

- Fitzwilliams-Heck stated the committee met prior to this meeting. They plan to interview four candidates on Monday, February 2nd. She explained that Stilson developed draft questions and they want it open to the Board for review and receive feedback by the end of the week.
Discussion.

Burmeister motioned the Board give the Executive Committee the authority to hire a Development/Financial Officer and then it will go to the Board for approval with Johnson supporting the motion. Motion passed but was not unanimous.

Education Committee –

- Stilson stated the committee is working on the Teacher Workshop and they will be sending out a flier soon.

Report – foundation meetings –

- Mund stated Stilson, Fitzwilliams-Heck and he made visits all in the same day back in December. They visited the Wege, Muskegon and Fremont foundations and found future funding will be closer tied to programs staff is working on.
 - Fitzwilliams-Heck commented we need new programs that stand out from others when asking for funding from the Wege foundation.
 - Johnson commented we should be more goal specific and asked if the meetings were a positive experience.
 - Mund replied the meetings were positive. They want to see how what we do is tied to their money.
 - Stilson commented the FACF asked about how many board members from Newaygo County we currently have on our Board. We currently do not have board members from Newaygo County.
- Discussion.

Funding approval for Maple Island Research –

- Stilson stated they first brought this to us in 2010. Mike Wiley said that this would be a good fit for the GLRI proposal (in 2015). Wiley was thinking this report would be finished in time to apply for the GLRI grant.
- Stilson suggested using Newaygo and Muskegon funding for this research.
- Groesbeck asked if Fainter was going to complete the research stating that he had two years into it.
- Stilson replied she thinks Fainter will be the one completing it. We can use recommendations to apply for funding or maybe their recommendations may be to just leave it as is.
- Groesbeck stated we will have numbers and measurements that may be debatable.
- Mund stated most activities, regarding to flow, are going to be in Newaygo County. He suggested using the Newaygo funds and not the Muskegon funds.
- Kadelsik commented that we should ask for a letter from them stating what they are going to do.
- Stilson replied that she will ask them for a written agreement.
- Johnson stated we should see what the difference of the report would be from giving \$5,000 versus \$10,000.

Groesbeck motioned for Stilson to consult with Wiley to offer to give up to \$10,000 from mostly Newaygo funds to complete the assessment of the Maple River and have the report complete by July with Kadelsik supporting the motion. Motion passed.

Match for Newaygo County road/stream crossing improvement –

- Stilson asked for approval to use \$20,000 from our leftover Wege match for match for the Newaygo County road stream crossing improvements if she applies for a SOGL grant.
- Discussion.

Trembath motioned we earmark up to \$20,000 of Wege match for the Newaygo County road stream crossing improvements with Burmeister supporting the motion. Motion passed.

Location for future Board meetings –

- Mund asked if we should meet in Big Rapids for the people in the upper watershed.
- Johnson suggested we combine the meeting with a meal because it is hard to eat before or after the meeting.
- Trembath agreed with Johnson and liked the idea of having meetings in Big Rapids but would consider moving it around.
- Mund agreed we should have a meal with the meeting and we should go every other face to face meeting in Newaygo and Big Rapids. The next meeting will be in Newaygo at the Riverstop or Sportsman Bar.

Other –

- Fitzwilliams-Heck stated the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians want to speak with us at our next board meeting. They have a proposal for a sturgeon project and were hoping the MRWA would be interested.
- Mund asked if there is funding for MRWA for coordination and outreach and we should develop a budget for this. He stated it is alright to have a presentation for this at our next meeting in Newaygo.
- Mund stated the MRWA should take a stand on how we feel about pharmaceuticals on the endocrine system.
- Burmeister agreed we should take a stand.
Discussion.

Stan Woodard Letter (related to the Maple River discussion earlier) –

- Stilson earlier distributed DNR's response to Woodard's letter and said Stan Woodard called and left a message and she left a message with him.
- Groesbeck stated we should take Stan Woodard seriously.
- Trembath stated we have a good advocate if we can get some answers.
Discussion.

Groesbeck motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 with Johnson supporting the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

**Dixie Ward
Project Manager**