Muskegon River Watershed Assembly

Board Minutes – October 20, 2014 The Gate – Big Rapids

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, Jean LaLonde, Wayne Groesbeck, Ron Kadelsik, Nancy Burmeister, Don Henning, Executive Director Gary Noble, Program Director Terry Stilson and Project Manager Dixie Ward. Absent: Kurt Ray.

Chair Mund convened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Consent Agenda -

Agenda additions -

- Stilson added to 8. options for next Board meeting
- Mund added to 7. Mecosta County Match Day participants
- Groesbeck added to 7. Wayne's Dam Reconnaissance

Kadelsik motioned to approve the consent agenda (both August and September meeting minutes and financial reports), as amended, with Groesbeck supporting the motion. Motion passed.

Executive Director's Report – distributed earlier.

- Stilson noted that under 3, the language should read that MRWA Activity Books were included in Muskegon County Water Fair teacher packets and as a result, three schools requested Activity Books for their classrooms.
- Trembath asked for a dam removal update.
 - Stilson responded that Reed City did not get funded for their dam remnant removal and she is working to get a meeting between the Reed City committee and Nartron. The DNR thought bundling the two dams together would be more attractive for funding.
- Trembath noted that he had called the *Pioneer* about a water monitoring article, which was published, and then the *Cadillac News* called Stilson for an interview and basically republished the article in their newspaper. This was good publicity all around.
- Mund asked about the GIS (Barrier Inventory) grant funding (proposals for 2015-2016).
 - Noble responded that it will be a carryover from what we've done so far, with \$20,000 from the USFWS (National Fish Passage Program) and \$20,000 from DNR/HIA funds.

Old Business

Letter of Retirement – Noble distributed his letter of retirement last day being November 14, 2014.

Keep it Cool Campaign – Allocation of Campaign Funds was distributed earlier.

- Noble reported that this was done to show the breakdown of 85% to operation funds and 15% to programs and projects. He furthered that there could be another column titled "Not Available to Allocate" since some restricted projects have no discretion.
 - Trembath asked about the Osceola County Community Foundation funds and Noble responded that none of these funds can be used for operations.
- Mund asked about the Wege (Challenge) match grant and Stilson responded that all the funding in this
 grant has been used but there is some organizational Wege Leftover Match that can be used.

New Business

Executive Committee – Fitzwilliams-Heck stated there is nothing to report at this time and will schedule a meeting some time in the future.

Governance Committee – Henning stated that this committee's focus is the work of the Executive Board, recruitment strategy, and board member orientation and development. He needs to schedule a meeting to look at recruiting new Board members.

Trembath is willing to be the Board officer on this committee.

 Everyone will send names to Henning for possible candidates for the Board and this committee.

Education & Outreach Committee – LaLonde reported:

- Met on September 17 and will meet again on October 23.
- The Committee discussed and reviewed the MRWA survey results.
- · Contact Stilson if you want any of the results.

Finance Committee – Noble will email Ray to schedule a meeting.

Development Committee – Mund reported:

- Will meet on October 29.
- Still recruiting members.
- Co-chair Libby Cherin has resigned from the committee due to her move to Grand Haven.

Resource/Technical Advisory Committee – Kadelsik reported:

- Met on October 9 in Cadillac.
- Good turnout.
- Good meeting and good suggestions.
- USFS Tom Walter is retiring. Stilson will send Henning his contact information.
- One outcome was there is a consensus that a dam removal project should be in process at all times and we need to broaden out to several dams.
- Will meet in Muskegon in the spring.
- If an issue arises, we could have a conference call meeting in the winter.

Transition Team – Trembath noted they need to schedule a meeting before Noble leaves.

Action Committee – Henning reported:

- He and Stilson have signed up for three "Online Fundraising and Engagement" webinar sessions to be held in the Fremont Library.
- He has been working with the Newaygo Chamber of Commerce and would like to have the Board's approval on a membership in that Chamber if he would donate the year's membership. He would like to see how much it would benefit the MRWA.
 - o Noble said it is an unwritten policy not to spend MRWA monies on memberships.
 - o Stilson responded that it may be something to try since MRWA monies would not be used.
 - Mund responded that we would need to figure out what they endorse (there could be policy or political concerns).
 - Noble responded that the Board should take more time to decide (since the Board is hearing about this for the first time tonight).
 - Henning stated that they would like him to give a presentation at their next meeting on November 11. The membership benefits would be a link from their website to ours, better rates at events (such as their Home and Garden Show), and an email distribution list once a year for donation requests.

Groesbeck motioned to allow Henning to donate the year's membership on a trial basis to see what benefits our organization will receive versus the potential conflicts. Johnson supported the motion. The motion passed but was not unanimous.

Other

MWEA Watershed Seminar – Trembath reported there will be a watershed seminar on December 3 at the Eagle Eye Banquet Facility in Bath.

Next Meeting

 Stilson reported that the Johnson Center consultant would like to meet with the Board during the November Board meeting with three possible scenarios. She could attend a meeting, but her travel time is included in the overall time she has with us. We could have a video conference at each of our homes on our own computers or we could meet some place and have a video conference in one place.

It was decided that we would have a video conference with her in one place on November 17 beginning at 6:00 pm – location to be determined (probably Big Rapids).

Other

Wayne's Dam Reconnaissance – Groesbeck reported:

- Everyone has an image of what a dam is.
- That image is not what Prein & Newhof's report is about.
- Some top ranked dams on the list are not what you would consider a dam.
- Need to look at these individually to see if they would be viable waterways (if the dam was removed).
- Mund commented that Prein & Newhof had access to a lot of resources/data for their study and he felt Groesbeck may not have found the dam(s) in question.
- Noble stated that the GIS project contractor will be inventorying dams as he comes upon them.

Match Day - November 11 at the Holiday Inn in Big Rapids.

Stilson reported that there are enough Mecosta County residents to man the table.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm to a closed session.

Respectfully submitted, Terry Stilson Program Director