

Muskegon River Watershed Assembly

Board Minutes – July 21, 2014

Conference Call

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

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

Vice-Chair Fitzwilliams-Heck convened the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

Consent Agenda –

Groesbeck motioned to accept the consent agenda with Burmeister supporting the motion. Motion passed.

Executive Director's Report – distributed earlier.

- Trembath suggested mentioning Peter Wege in the 2014 Annual Report.
- Fitzwilliams-Heck reported spending the last week facilitating a DNR workshop at Higgins Lake. She framed and donated a MRW map for the facility. She said they have a lot of information about the AuSable River but none about the Muskegon River. She stressed to the facility that they are in the Muskegon River Watershed and is hoping they will put the map up.

Old Business

- **“Keep It Cool” campaign materials – Noble reminded Board members to send names to him.**
 - Fitzwilliams-Heck asked what will happen when they do.
 - Noble responded that he will go through the list of names and see if any Board member or staff member knows them. Then he will reach out to that contact.
 - Johnson suggested getting contacts from state senators and representatives. He added that he could talk with Representative Hughes and Senator Hansen.
 - Noble responded that our contact list does include politicians and if Johnson wants to contact Hughes and Hansen - that would be a good idea.
- **The next Meeting-at-Large will be held on September 9 at Velma Matson Upper Elementary School in Newaygo.**
 - Noble reiterated the draft agenda sent earlier to the Board.
 - **Burmeister motioned to accept the agenda with Trembath supporting the motion. Motion passed.**

New Business

2013 Annual Report – distributed earlier. No changes mentioned.

Education Committee – Stilson reported the Education Committee will have a natural shoreline workshop at Camp Newaygo on July 27. The next Committee meeting will be held on August 13.

Finance/Human Resources Committee – the next meeting was scheduled for September 3 at 5:30 pm at a Muskegon location.

- Noble stated that all board members are invited to attend.

Resource Committee – Kadelsik reported that no fall meeting date has been set. The location will be in Cadillac.

- **Noble will begin scheduling the meeting.**

Development Committee – next meeting TBD.

Transition Team – next meeting targeted for late August/early September.

Action Committee – nothing scheduled.

Other

MRWA Policy Committee – Fitzwilliams-Heck stated that the Board discussed a possible Policy Committee and Mund wanted Board feedback. This Committee will discuss policies and how to handle issues.

- Noble responded that there is a need for a framework (for making) policy (decisions and developing policy relative) to an issue. We need to begin thinking about how we want to address this.
- Henning responded that he doesn't think we need a Policy Committee with the new structure. The Governance or Executive Committees could handle this.
- Noble said that some issues may be referred to the Resource Committee.
- Kadelsik responded that he likes the way it is done now. More committees means more bureaucracy. He feels that the Board provides good input.
- Groesbeck responded that whoever adopts the policy, the policy will need to be approved by the Board.
- Fitzwilliams-Heck responded that whoever receives an issue, then they can email it to Board members. Board members can then process and research the subject and discuss it at a Board meeting. Committee feedback could be gained before the Board discusses it. She asked whether a guest speaker or public meeting had been held concerning an issue.
- Noble said the MRWA held a forum in Muskegon. He reminded Board members that he had signed two letters this month (in Director's report) – one on conducting a water crossing survey to evaluate the risk of ruptures and leaks in pipelines that cross rivers, streams and lakes, and the other about adopting more rigorous rules for hydraulic fracturing.

Next Meetings – the next meeting will be held on August 18 at 5:30 pm in Big Rapids.

- **Stilson reported she is looking into having it at The Rock.**

Other – continued

Muskegon funding – Kadelsik asked whether anything more had resulted from the meeting with Muskegon area groups concerning funding for road/stream crossings and other things.

- Noble responded that they have had no further meetings. The (GIS Barrier Inventory 2014) project will continue (and complete) Muskegon County sites. After the sites have been completed, then we'll sit down (with the Road Commission and others) to discuss funding opportunities (for priority sites).

Activities – Groesbeck reported:

- He has Facebook entries on the evaluation of the turtle fence (in Muskegon) and public fornication (on the river) in Newaygo County.
- Michigan League of Conservation Voters has opened an office in Muskegon.
- He visited the Old Fur Farm Dam and took pictures.
- He visited Bridgeton and took pictures of the erosion there reported by Stilson. He doesn't think it is as serious as the person who contacted Stilson reported. The hillside needs to be planted.

Burmeister motioned to adjourn with Groesbeck's support. The meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Stilson
Program Director