

Muskegon River Watershed Assembly
Resource/Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 29, 2016
Muskegon

1. Call to Order/Introductions –

- Committee Chair Kadelsik convened the meeting at 4:08 pm. Introductions were made with the following present:

Ron Kadelsik, Resource Committee Chair, Wayne Groesbeck, MRWA, Greg Mund, MRWA, Rich O’Neal, DNR Fisheries, Julie Chamberlain, MRWA Executive Director, Roger Peacock, Dixie Ward, MRWA Project Manager, Ken Johnson, MRWA, David Bayne and Terry Bayne, Nik Kalejs and Gale Nobes.

2. Review Agenda –

- Kadelsik asked if there were any additions to the agenda. No additions.

3. Approval of October 26, 2015 minutes.

Kadelsik motioned to approve the October 26, 2015 meeting minutes with Mund supporting the motion. Motion approved.

4. New Business

a. Cedar Creek Ecosystem Protection and Restoration

- Mund stated he worked with Alex on surveys in early December on areas to store water. He stated one area that could be storage is North of Holton road and is on 18 inches of concrete pipe. He stated he does not know who put the 18 inch pipe in and is going to talk to the Engineer with MDOT.
- Peacock asked what they were trying to accomplish.
- Mund replied they are trying to find water storage.
- O’Neal stated we have been working on Cedar Creek for a long time and spent \$200,000 putting wood back in the stream. He stated the upstream area has been the target to work on. He stated there has been a report done by DEQ and he talked with Mike Wiley from MSU on what to do. O’Neal explained this whole area was a wooded wetland. He stated we got \$100,000 to have an engineering firm look at this. He stated Fishbeck was asked the cost to look at areas to get some detention. He asked if we should move forward with having a contractor look at this. He stated \$270,000 is the cost for just the engineering.
- Mund stated Fresh Water Futures has a grant that is limited to \$15,000.
- O’Neal asked what part of phase one do we want to start with and where are possibilities to purchase property.
- Mund stated he recommends the Resource Committee moves forward with this to get funds to do engineering.
- Chamberlain asked are we going to need to get \$250,000.
- O’Neal asked Chamberlain to contact Clair with Fishbeck for a cost estimate.
- Chamberlain asked for suggestion of grants.
- O’Neal stated the Great Lakes Protection Fund is interested in doing this type of work. He asked Chamberlain to send him the link to the Healthy Watershed request for proposal.
- Chamberlain asked about talking to Clair with Fishbeck about an update and then have a

conference call.

- O'Neal recommended to have one or two people on the conference call.
- Kadelsik suggested to update the document with today's prices then take it to the Board to decide the best way to move forward with this.

b. Other projects

- No discussion.

5. Old Business

a. Maple Island Final Study – Conference Call with Dr. Wiley.

- Chamberlain welcomed Wiley and asked the Board to give introductions. The Board gave introductions.
- Wiley gave his presentation regarding opening up the old branch of the river and explained each slide.
- Mund asked how much flooding area would be on both sides of the channel.
- Johnson asked what should be done.
- Wiley stated it would make sense to do it for resource value and climate change.
- O'Neal stated if you look at any place on the Muskegon River you will see old meanders. He stated if we put two branches in there who is to say that one branch might silt over.
- Nobes asked how much beneficial habitat we will lose if we open this up.
- Wiley stated when we look at rivers as a whole, it is unlikely that the river tendency would be to go back to one channel. He explained the net long term effect of the river would maybe enhance the habitat that wild rice likes. There would be more water and deposition than there is now.
- Johnson asked if the dams upstream make a difference of the flow.
- Wiley replied dams reduce peak flow.
- Johnson asked if we take half of the flow out of the main branch is there a possibility of such low flow in summer time that you would have little flow in the branches.
- Wiley stated we would want to model carefully the flow to each channel. He stated he thinks it would reduce erosion.
- Johnson asked if there was another example of this that would serve as a model for us.
- Wiley responded a way to proceed would be to track down a model of this.
- O'Neal asked if there was less flooding in the main channel would there be more flooding in the new channel.
- Wiley replied we need a higher resolution analysis.
- Kadelsik asked is there enough hydraulic analysis information right now with these flows to go to the road commission to build culverts.
- Wiley stated we have enough information to ask for a rough cost estimate.
- Mund stated we need to get a real good feedback from landowners who will be impacted to find out what they are agreeable to.
- Peacock asked who has the legal authority to open the river.
- Mund stated it is up to the landowners and the DEQ through a permit.

- Wiley stated the steps to take would be to run a flood plain analysis and a careful mapping of the wild rice.
- b. Voyage of Discovery**
 - No discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Dixie Ward
Project Manager