

**Minutes of the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership  
Board of Directors meeting 6:00 - 8:00 pm.  
Hancock County Engineer's meeting room  
April 12, 2017, Findlay, OH**

E. Reynolds presiding, Bob Connour recording.

Present: B. Connour, T. Macke, D. Croy, P. Martin, C. Kirchner, E. Reynolds, J. Augsburger, G. Russel, J. Augsburger, D. Kozlowski

**Welcome and Introduction**

- The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by E. Reynolds.
- The previous meetings minutes were approved by an email vote.

**Financial Report**

- T. Macke presented a financial report and accompanying documents and went through them with the group.
- His report detailed all balances, expenses, and transactions.
- D. Kozlowski motioned to accept the financial report and C. Kirchner seconded. It passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

- GLRI-USDA Forestry Grant.
  - P Martin noted the board had approved pursuing the grant by an email vote with J. Haselman moving and D. Croy providing the second. The final email vote was 9-2.
  - P. Martin provided details about the GLRI USDA Forestry grant. He noted the BRWP would be the fiscal agent. The Village of Bluffton plans to plant 40 trees while the Village of Ottawa plans to plant 1,348 trees. He noted that grant would be submitted on April 13<sup>th</sup> due to him waiting for a letter of support. The board approved submitting the grant by an email vote 12-0.
- Great Lakes Basin Grant
  - P. Martin discussed the Great Lakes Basin grant. Detailed discussions were had about the grant.
  - D. Croy motioned to approve P. Martin to submit the great lakes basin grant. D. Kozlowski seconded and it passed unanimously.
- Chemical Testing with Ohio Northern University
  - P. Martin talked about the chemical testing to be done by Dr. Spiese at Ohio Northern University and what the value is.
  - The water samples will be collected and the testing done on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - P. Martin said he would email sites and maps and asked for help doing the collections.

## **Old Business cont.**

- Board Canoe trip
  - E. Reynolds informed the board she talked with G. Pruitt from the Hancock Park District about having a canoe trip for the board.
  - She passed out a handout with details about the trip.
  - It was decided the canoe trip will be on May 18<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of May 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Online Donations
  - E. Reynolds provided details about accepting online donations.
  - Discussions were had about how we could take donations online and the different options.
  - G. Russel motioned that we use PayPal and D. Croy seconded. It passed unanimously.
- Freshwater Futures - HOW grant
  - P. Martin informed the board the Healing Our Waters (HOW) request for proposals opened last week.
  - Martin noted it might be possible to receive money to fund the coordinator writing a Nine-Element NPS Plan for 12-digit watersheds. These plans are required to pursue grant money for the watershed.
  - Martin noted the plan replaces the old Watershed Action Plans.
  - G. Russel motioned to for it and T. Macke seconded. It passed unanimously.

## **Committee Reports**

- Executive Committee
  - T. Macke said that the Executive committee has talked about reducing the coordinator's hours to 30-35 hours a week for the last five months.
  - Macke noted they also discussed the need for a "Succession Plan" to be created for the watershed coordinator's position.
  - Discussions were had about this. P. Martin said that he would start to work on the plan with a June deadline.
- Strategic Plan
  - E. Reynolds noted the need for each committee to working on their portion of the Strategic Plan.
  - Please let the coordinator know of any changes in status.
- Community Advisory Council (CAC)
  - T. Macke said the Western CAC held their first meeting on March 27, 2017, in Ottawa.
  - He informed the group that meeting went well and noted there was a handout in their folder summarizing the meeting.
  - P. Martin noted there was a second handout that he would email to them.
  - E. Reynolds asked G. Russel if he would be the host for one of the Central CAC meeting in Findlay
- Education Committee
  - P. Martin said that the three subcommittees needed to meet in the next 2-3 weeks.

## **Committee Reports**

- Stewardship Committee
  - T. Macke said that the stewardship committee met on 4-4-17 and talked about how to stabilize our organization and have it continue. He said that they will meet again May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Board Governance Committee
  - There was no governance committee report since J. McCleary is on vacation.
  - E. Reynolds asked if S. Betts had ever been asked to serve on the board. P. has Martin said that Sarah used to be on the board.
- E. Reynolds said she has provided the name of Lauren Sandhu to the Committee as a potential BOD member. Lauren works for the Hancock Park District.

## **Membership Committee**

- D. Croy said the membership committee had nothing to report.
- D. Croy did ask why we are not doing things to be more visible.
- A short discuss followed.

## **New Business**

- Citizens United for a Better Blanchard River
  - P. Martin mentioned that he at a meeting where this group made a presentation. Most of the groups focus is on flooding, but they are pushing for improved water quality.
  - D. Croy said the he was at a meeting Putnam County where the group made a presentation.
  - Discussions were had about the it was mentioned that they may be a threat to us and our message.
  - D. Croy said he would contact the group and see if they would make a presentation to the board.

## **Coordinators Comments**

- P. Martin presented a handout and went through it with the group. He reviewed the BRWP Projects for 2017, the status of all grants and what is happening during the rest of the month.

## **Other Business**

- T. Macke said a river cleanup is being planned in Ottawa for the week of May 22<sup>nd</sup> in conjunction with Ottawa Glandorf High School.

**Next Meeting is May 10, 2017 at 6:00 - 8:00pm in Bluffton, exact location TBD.**