

## Minutes of the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership

### Board of Directors Meeting

2-21-2019, Findlay, OH

J. McCleary presiding, B. Connour recording.

Present: B. Connour, E. Reynolds, J. McCleary, M. Reid, L. Sandhu, J. Selhorst, C. Tobe, B. Antibus

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by J. McCleary

- C. Tobe talked to us about the watershed coordinator grant.
  - The state wants the money to go to local Soil and Water Conservation Districts to hire someone, not to be funneled through them to us to pay a watershed coordinator.
  - Discussions were had about the possibility of them hiring L. Sandhu for twenty hours a week.
  - C. Tobe stressed that they do want to work with us, and discussions were had about how this could work.
  
- Treasurers report
  - J. McCleary and B. Connour told the group about recent changes made at Chase Bank,
  - J. McCleary talked about how we would like to have Ridge accounting take care of all of our accounting bookwork, as opposed to the limited things they do now. The cost of additional services would be more than the original \$1,185 quote that was previously given.
  - Discussions were had about this. Members present felt that this would be a good idea but we did not have a quorum to vote.
  - B. Antibus motioned to reimburse E. Reynolds for \$7.95 for ARIX Web Hosting. M. Reid seconded and it passed unanimously but a quorum was not present. This will have to go to an email vote.
  
- Old business
  - J. McCleary went through the board survey results with the group, they were very good.
  - J. McCleary talked about some upcoming advocacy and fundraising training at the possibilities at the community foundation.
  - J. McCleary went through the planning meeting evaluations, they were good.
  - E. Reynolds talked about the rain barrel contest.
  - There are 16 barrels from 7 schools.
  - Discussions are ongoing about how they will be set out at the May 6<sup>th</sup> art walk in Findlay.

- Coordinators report
  - L. Sandhu presented a handout and went through it with the group.
  - L. Sandhu talked about a project with the Kurtz bothers landscaping company.
  - L. Sandhu went through all current and potential grants.
  - L. Sandhu said that on Friday March 1<sup>st</sup> G. Nageotte is hosting a webinar at 10 am about the Watershed Coordinator Grant and that she will email the details out.
  
- New business
  - J. McCleary presented P. Martins work report to the board.
  - Discussions were had about us reaching out to the groups “Blanchard River Watershed Solutions” and “Citizens United for a Better Blanchard River”.
  - It was decided that we will invite them to a board meeting.
  - A third grade teacher, Tina Tiller, from Arlington has asked if we would be interested in helping them with a science project, everyone thought it was a good idea.
  - J. Selhorst presented the board with a handout regarding failing septic systems in Allen County.
  - Discussions were had about how we could assist.
  - The PFA water testing was tabled.
  
- Committee reports
  - E. Reynolds said that the board governance committee is still working on the handbooks, but they are nearly done.
  - B. Connour reported the he, E. Reynolds, and S. Myers had a metrics committee meeting.
  - In that meeting discussions were had about years of date, and it was discovered that much of what we are looking for is included in grant reports.
  - J. McCleary said the Advocacy Committee, E. Reynolds, M. Reed, L. Sandhu and she attended a full day Community Foundation funded Advocacy Seminar with Jennifer Williams Consulting where they learned of the important distinction between lobbying and advocacy.
  - On February 5<sup>th</sup>, the Advocacy Committee attended a follow-up two-hour coaching session which resulted in two important email communications.
    - L. Sandhu contacted Rick Wilson who informed BRWP of the approval of the Lower Riley Creek NPS-IS plan on January 30, 2019.
    - J. McCleary set up a Feb. 28, 2019 visitation with Greg Nageotte at the Ohio Department of Agriculture.
  - J. McCleary talked about us possibly joining “River Network”. She said that she will provide details on it and we can vote at the next meeting.

E. Reynolds motioned to adjourn and B. Antibus seconded. The motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.