

Board of Directors  
MEETING  
KAWKAWLIN RIVER WATERSHED  
ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes, March 12, 2014

1. President Jeff Staudacher called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.
2. Roll Call: Jeff Staudacher, Chris Fernandez, Julie Kleinau, Dave Bledsoe, Doug Horner\*, Tim Mark, Bob Rau, John Roszatycki, and Glenn Rowley were present. Joe Vogl, Mike Darbee, Connie Kudrow, Darryl Steiner were excused. Jerome Bartkowiak and Ben Ramsay were absent.
3. Secretary's Report –The February board minutes (second draft) were forwarded to the board before the meeting. There were no additional revisions or corrections proposed. Chris moved that the minutes be approved as submitted, Bob seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.
4. Treasurer's Report –Joe provided the Financial report in advance of the meeting as he was unable to attend this evening. Revenues to date total \$3615.00. Expenditures to date are \$1419.28. Tim moved to approve the Financial Report, Glenn seconded the motion. The Financial Report was unanimously approved.
5. Bills for Reimbursement – Jeff paid the hall rental fee for the annual meeting next month.
6. Committee Reports –
  - a. Environmental:
    - i. Weed Control – No update
    - ii. River Restoration – John reported that today in Lansing, the state legislature voted an appropriation of \$1.1 million was approved for the Kawkawlin River restoration project. This funding is in addition to the Michigan DNR funding of \$500,000. This funding will be used for phase I of the river restoration project – restoration of the river mouth including sediment testing. There is still a lot of work to be done – permits to be filed, etc. The board is very grateful to State Representative Charlie Brunner, Michigan – DEQ Charlie Bauer, State Senator Mike Green, State Senator Roger Kahn, and State Representative Jim Stamas for supporting the restoration project. The Bay County Farm Bureau is very supportive of the rest of the project (Phase II), which will target restoration of the river from the Euclid Ave. bridge to the split of the North and South branch of the river. Phase II should provide significant flood relief to farmers, in addition to preventing excess sediment and other contaminants from reaching the river. Dave reported that he was in Washington DC last week, and visited (see sheet he provided). He tried to emphasize that while the work is in Bay County, there are also benefits to Midland County. He spoke to staffers in each office. Each office was supportive, listened, and looked at the paperwork Dave provided. The paperwork Dave provided included our organization's summary support letter regarding the river restoration project. There was also a handout on the million dollar grant from earlier this year. A separate document described the river mouth restoration project. US Representative Dave Camp's office called Dave Bledsoe today. They would like him to stop by when he is in Washington DC

next. The chance for Federal support for Phase II funding is encouraging. Regarding use of the spoils from Phase II, if the sediment testing comes up clean, the soil is desired by area farmers. If testing indicates that the spoils can't be used by the farmers, we have approval to move the spoils to channel island. Dave Bledsoe will be our association's primary contact for this project with outside organizations, government, and media.

- iii. Water Quality – no update
  - iv. River Clean Up – June 7; The t-shirt plan discussed at last month's meeting is moving forward.
- b. Government – no known upcoming meetings we need to attend.
- c. Safety – Tim Mark – The welcome sign is out of the river mouth. It will be repainted and association name updated before installing it in the spring. John reported that we should pay the balance of our new trailer soon (need to provide our tax ID number).
- d. Education
- i. Membership – Glenn: We presently have 82 households, representing 164 total members. To date we have a 71% renewal rate from last year's full members, which is typical for this time of the year. There was a 4% return on the complimentary members from last year (people who attended the Poker Paddle, etc.) John suggested we send membership information to the Bay County Farm Bureau. Glenn suggested giving the Farm Bureau a complimentary membership – he will check into whether they'd like one. The March Newsletter will go to all of last year's members in addition to new members from this year. Complimentary members from last year will also be included, but this issue will be their last if they do not renew.
  - ii. Outreach – UM Flint is working on the river restoration educational campaign. Jeff has been going to their meetings. Chris emphasized that now is the perfect time to push the educational aspect of river restoration, with the recent award of money in the state budget. We are a “stakeholder” on this. Jeff reported that Charlie Bauer of the DEQ also attends the UM Flint meetings. Dave emphasized that there needs to be special emphasis on outreach and education for the hobby farmers. The larger farmers are already onboard with appropriate practices. Their next meeting is April 17<sup>th</sup> at Bay County Building, if any other board members would like to attend.
  - iii. Fun Committee – Connie is planning the golf outing for this year. The date is September 6<sup>th</sup> at White Birch golf course. (located off 7 mile road, on the south branch of the Kawkawlin River). Our Poker Paddle will be on June 14<sup>th</sup> – a new event will be a cardboard boat race in front of Castaway's. We are partnering with the CAN council for that. The CAN council is helping with volunteers on the day of the event as well. Chris anticipates a need for 8 pontoon boats during the day to help facilitate the event. Jeff mentioned that the Optimist Club may put on a fireworks display again this summer – he wondered if we should provide some sort of support for the event (located at the Bangor park).
  - iv. History – no update
  - v. Newsletter – Articles due March 15<sup>th</sup>. We will hold the issue until legislation on the river restoration appropriation discussed earlier is signed by the governor. Dave will submit an article on this topic. Chris reminded people to send in

pictures, as our issue is in color. Dave will also submit a short article on the cottage by the Delta College sailing school (sustainability project). Julie will submit information for the front page on the annual meeting.

- vi. Website – A few updates are needed. We need to clean out references to the old association name. We also need to add links to the Kawkawlin River watershed plan, plus our association position paper on restoration and other plans associated with recently approved projects.

e. Finance – no update.

## 7. Old Business

- a. Budget Final Approval: Joe provided an updated budget proposal. Revisions included the addition of association audit fees, addition of \$1000 for testing supplies for the SVSU water quality project, and an increase to \$968 for our donation for State Park kayak training (under Community Involvement in the budget). He moved \$750 from the river cleanup expense (since we are saving money on t-shirts this year). This constitutes a \$1468 Expenditure increase over the January meeting proposed budget. Options – we can move funds from reserves, or take the money away from the building fund planned donation for 2014. Glenn proposed taking the extra funds from reserves, Chris seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The 2014 budget has been updated.
- b. Annual Meeting (April 15<sup>th</sup>) – Speaker – Jeff has several names under consideration. However, based on the recent events in Lansing regarding funding for river restoration, it was proposed that we have State Senator Mike Green and State Representative Charlie Brunner discuss the river restoration funding and next steps. This could be done in a type of Town Hall forum. Julie will prepare the agenda based on this plan and send it to Becky for newsletter cover.
- c. Bob would like our financial report to show our assets – boat, trailer, buoys, signs, sheds. We will discuss this with Joe and see what the appropriate way is to show these assets in our records.
- d. Chris asked how many newsletters to order – 300 was proposed and agreed upon by the board.

## 8. New Business

- a. Annual Meeting: (April 15<sup>th</sup>): There was discussion of names for potential new board members. There are 5 members up for renewal this year (Jerome Bartkowiak, Dave Bledsoe, John Roszatycki, Tim Mark, and Joe Vogl). Jeff will put something in the newsletter to see if there is any interest. Also, should we have a sign up for committees at the annual meeting? There was general agreement among the board that this may be a way to get more members involved. There was discussion of the proposed Sailboat raffle for the donated sailboat we received last year. Should this happen at the annual meeting or perhaps one of our larger events? Jeff reported that Ben is checking with Bay Café on their availability and rates for catering the walleye dinner.

9. Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Bangor Township Meeting Room.

10. John moved to adjourn the meeting, Bob seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie A. Kleinau  
Secretary - KRWA