



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING KAWKAWLIN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

### Meeting Minutes, February 11, 2015

1. Call to Order: President Jeff Staudacher called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.
2. Roll Call: Jeff Staudacher, Mike Darbee, Joe Vogl, Julie Kleinau, Jerome Bartkowiak, Dave Bledsoe, Doug Horner, Bob Rau, John Roszatycki, Glenn Rowley, Darryl Steiner and Paul Woods were present. Ben Ramsay was excused. Connie Kudrow and Tim Mark were absent. Michigan DEQ – Charlie Bauer and Sarah McDonnell from UM Flint.
3. Secretary's Report: The minutes from the January board meeting were forwarded in advance of the meeting. No additions or corrections were proposed. Bob moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Doug seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.
4. Treasurer's Report: Joe Vogl reported that he moved the \$2000 from our checking account back to savings (JP Morgan account) as discussed at last month's meeting. Monthly revenue is typical for this time of year. He provided a summary of last month's approved budget for 2015. John moved to approve the financial report, Darryl seconded the motion. The report was unanimously approved.
5. Old Business
  - a. The KRWA Annual Meeting date is April 21<sup>st</sup>. Ben is arranging the catering with Bay Café'. We still need a speaker, as our previously proposed speaker is not available. Eric Jylha (retired TV5 weatherman and local historian) was mentioned as a proposed speaker. Dave will contact him and verify his availability. The announcement for the meeting will be in the spring newsletter (articles for the issue due mid-March).
  - b. Ice Fire – March 7 is the planned date. It looks like we will have safe ice. If conditions change, we can pull the event up into Mike's yard. Time is 4-7 pm. There will be a postcard reminder 2 weeks ahead of the date. Mike requested pallets for burning if available. We will need a permit from the fire department. Glenn will take care of it.
  - c. Board Position – Darryl has resigned his seat on the board as he is moving to Florida. He was recognized during the meeting for his service. He will remain a member and try to make some summer events. Bob knows someone who may be interested in joining the board as an appointee. We'll invite him to next month's meeting. Connie had mentioned Dave Hyatti as another possible candidate.
  - d. Insurance – Glenn reported on his investigations of obtaining improved insurance for the association and the new buoy tender. The Saginaw Bay Underwriter's policy we've

carried for many years provided very little coverage – essentially just liability for the board but not liability for association events. Our new policy will also need to include coverage for the buoy tender. First candidate: Ieuter can get us a policy with Michigan Miller's for \$1394 per year which includes full boat coverage of \$14000 and liability coverage for events. Second candidate: MCI can get us a policy with West Bend. West Bend offers the flexibility to take some of coverage off the boat policy (keeping liability) which saves \$298 per year, and brings the annual \$1177 price to \$879. (\$2M of liability coverage). However, certain events would not be covered, specifically the Poker Paddle. However, we could acquire special event coverage for the Poker Paddle. Joe moved to move forward with acquiring a policy through MCI with West Bend at \$879 per year. John seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- e. Poker Paddle Planning: Chris Fernandez has contacted Jeff and can help us with our initial planning. Once we have a plan we will split up the tasks to move the event coordination forward.
- f. Speed Limit signs – Tim was not at the meeting so we are not sure which ones are out. Mike's observation is that snowmobiling numbers are down, and racing also seems down.
- g. The board bid farewell to Darryl Steiner and thanked him again for his service.

## 6. New Business

- a. Kawkawlin River Strategic Planning Session – Facilitator: Charlie Bauer (DEQ)
  - i. The agenda for the session was provided by Charlie.
  - ii. A brainstorming session was held to help gather board input regarding our Vision and Mission. Most input was consistent with our existing By-Laws. The complete list for each is below:
    - 1. Vision
      - a. Cleaner River
      - b. Improved Property Values
      - c. Sediment Removal
      - d. Improved Recreational Opportunities
      - e. More Fish
      - f. Safe Environment
      - g. Environmentally Safe
      - h. Better Access
      - i. Expand Partners
      - j. Improved Navigation
      - k. Reduced (Invasive) Vegetation
      - l. More activities on the river beyond what the KRWA sponsors
      - m. Attractive Place
      - n. Public Awareness & Access
      - o. Reduced Invasive Species
      - p. Change perception of river
      - q. Promote appreciation and value of river
      - r. Monitor water quality
      - s. Improved Committee structure
      - t. Reduced Sediment
      - u. Increased involvement of membership
    - 2. Mission

- a. Monitoring
  - b. Flooding Issues Impact
  - c. Partnership of all groups & stakeholders in the watershed (inc. farmers)
  - d. Collaboration with government & non-government organizations to increase participation
  - e. Change “basin” to “watershed”
  - f. Promote preservation, maintenance, and wise management of water resources of Kawkawlin River, enhance quality of life.
  - g. Create “sense of place”
  - h. Keep it simple
- iii. Committee Discussion – reviewing our vision and mission, we discussed our committee structure and looked at possible rearrangements of committee responsibilities, and discussed a more formal committee structure.
- 1. Environment Committee – responsibility for River Cleanup, Water Quality/Monitoring, Weed Control, Restoration/Maintenance. Cover topics such as filtering runoff and promoting best management practices for water quality improvements. Work with Land Conservancies for wetland restoration and conservation in the upper river. Promote fish & wildlife habitat improvement.
  - 2. Governmental Committee – there was discussion over whether this committee should have a new name. This committee’s role is partnership and networks for the purpose of working on the association mission. Agreed on a new name of Government/Partnership. Other partners could be Fish & Wildlife organizations, Ducks Unlimited, Fisheries, Land Conservancies, Townships, universities, state (DEQ, DNR), Bay Area Community Foundation, businesses, chamber of commerce, other non-profits, Farm Bureau, Conservation District... This committee would work on grants. A goal could be to hold an Annual Watershed Summit, plus represent the KRWA with other organizations.
  - 3. Consider combining the Safety Committee roles with the Recreation events: (i.e., Safety/Recreation Committee). In addition to safety this committee could work on expanded public access and some of the recreational events such as the poker paddle. Or instead of events this group could just promote improved access projects such as canoe/kayak launches in each township.
  - 4. Education/Activities/Membership Committee (website, newsletter, annual picnic, Annual Meeting)
- iv. Charlie to draft summary of the discussion for review at the next meeting.
- b. Projects – a list of projects was brainstormed (29 total) and the board conducted a survey among those present as to which were the highest priority for the board. Our traditional projects were the highest vote getters. Charlie will include the list and results in his summary as well and attend a later meeting for a discussion of his report.
7. Sarah McDonnell – UM Flint – discussed the upcoming Kawkawlin River Watershed Summit on Feb. 18, 6 pm at the Auburn Area Branch Library. The event is free and open to the public, with light refreshments provided. The event is supported with funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), EPA, and the Michigan DEQ.

8. Next Board Meeting – March 11<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm, at the Bangor Township meeting room.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Kleinau  
Secretary, KRWA