

## **BEAR LAKE WATERSHED ALLIANCE MEETING MINUTES**

**Present:** Rich Russell, Barb Farfsing, Dick Graham, Bob Yates, Sandy Scholl, Tom Fleming, Maria Somsel and Armas Soorus of the Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council

**Regrets:**

Rich Russell called the Bear Lake Watershed Alliance Steering Committee meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28, 2015 at the Bear Lake Township Hall in Bear Lake, Michigan.

Meeting minutes for the September 30, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Bob made a motion and Barb seconded the motion to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Sandy Scholl as follows:

<i>August 31, 2015 Bank balance</i>	<i>\$32,950.07</i>
<i>Deposits</i>	<i>50.00</i>
<i>Expenses</i>	<i><u>(2,345.00)</u></i>
<i>Check Book Balance</i>	<i>30,655.07</i>
<i>BLWA Endowment 6/30/15</i>	<i>5,772.13</i>
<i>Investment Activity</i>	<i>.00</i>
<i>Administrative Fee</i>	<i><u>.00</u></i>
<i>Fund Balance</i>	<i>5,772.13</i>
<b><i>Total Combined Assets</i></b>	<b><i><u>\$36,427.20</u></i></b>

Maria provided an update on the Greater Bear Watershed Coordinating Committee meeting held on October 22 with the five regional watersheds represented. There is a desire for these regional meetings to continue. Susan Spencer of the Conservation District volunteered to facilitate and coordinate these meetings in the future. Rich and Armas discussed the presentation of the resolution supporting watersheds within the county at the Commissioners' meeting yesterday. The resolution tied and therefore has failed. It will go to the Planning meeting on November 12th for review and action.

Rich provided background on the website. Maria presented a proposal for the creation of a new Bear Lake Watershed Alliance website from Justin Scholl. He is also preparing separate proposals for the Greater Bear and the Bear Creek Watershed Council. Each website will have embedded links to the other sites. Rich made a motion for us to move forward on this proposal. Rich said Don Raiff and Rick Farfsing are available to assist as needed. A committee will work with Justin. Discussion ensued. Bob seconded the motion. Motion passed. Maria will follow up with Justin.

Dick Graham reported on storm drains. He said that John Prokes, science instructor at Bear Lake, is interested in having students work under his supervision and the guidance

of an engineer who has volunteered his services within the schools. They will be a support to Dick Graham's efforts and their activity will be guided by Dick.

Dick reported that John Makinen, Bear Creek Council, has approved the \$1,500 for the road signs for their group. He has made arrangements with the County Road Commission for them to invoice us for their work and he is coordinating the placement of the sign order.

Barb reported that no photos have been received at this time for the photo contest. More information will be published in the Bear Lake Bulletin. It has also been in the paper and is on the website.

Barb provided a wrap-up on Fall Autumn Glory Day held Saturday, October 3 in Hopkins Park. The goal was to engage our community and get the watershed name, mission, projects, information and education out. The enviroscape was a good learning tool. Food was excellent - Grill 44 will do again next year. Trigenta reported they had 50-60 kids which was good (Bear Lake Days usually gets about 70 kids). Farmers market was not well attended - only two vendors showed. Kids liked the events - especially the bounce house and fire trucks. Total expenses were \$328.04.

Suggestions for Autumn Glory next year include better signage, doing it the last weekend of September and perhaps on a Sunday. Next year we hope to have hayrides also. Many thanks to the donors who helped to make it a success! Rich made a recommendation that we continue to sponsor Autumn Glory Day (we need a new chair) next year. Bob seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### Old Business

The banquet committee is beginning their work for the 2016.

Dick reported that the rain gardens that we heard of in Glen Arbor are really in Sutton's Bay. They are very nice small gardens in the public rights of way with good signage.

#### New Business

Barb shared that on Thursday, November 5th at 7:00 at the Bear Lake High School Media Center hosted by AES and the Village. A public awareness meeting showcasing the accomplishments and future planned items.

Next meeting is Wednesday, May 25, 2016.

A motion was made to adjourn by Rich and seconded by Maria. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.