

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

**Present:** Rich Russell, Barb Farfsing, Dick Graham, Bob Yates, Sandy Scholl, Tom Fleming, Dan Zatarga and Maria Somsel

**Regrets:** Bill Fronk

Rich Russell called the Bear Lake Watershed Alliance Steering Committee meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. on Wednesday, September 30, 2015 at the Bear Lake Township Hall in Bear Lake, Michigan.

Meeting minutes for the August 26, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Bob made a motion and Rich seconded the motion to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried.

Meeting minutes for the annual meeting July 18, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Rich made a motion and Barb seconded the motion to approve the minutes with Bob Yates added as in attendance. 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>.00</i>
<i>Expenses</i>	<i>.00</i>
	<hr/>
<i>Check Book Balance</i>	<i>32,950.07</i>
<i>BLWA Endowment 8/31/15</i>	<i>5,772.13</i>
<i>Investment Activity</i>	<i>.00</i>
<i>Administrative Fee</i>	<i>.00</i>
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<i>Fund Balance</i>	<i>5,772.13</i>
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<b><i>Total Combined Assets</i></b>	<b><i>\$38,772.20</i></b>

Sandy also reported that the IRS report for this year has been filed. Bob made a motion to accept the report as given and it was seconded by Maria. Motion carried.

Maria will provide an update on the Greater Bear Watershed Coordinating Committee and share a presentation from Rob Carson at the October meeting.

By next month we will have a proposal from Justin Scholl for a new website for our group. He is also preparing proposals for the Greater Bear and the Bear Creek Watershed Council for separate new websites for each group. Each website will have embedded links to the other sites.

Rich provided an update on the rain garden project in Don and Liz's absence. After several meetings with the Village and Dick Graham it was determined that the area identified behind the Village maintenance building in front of Hopkins Park would not be a feasible location for a rain garden project. The water problem there needs to be addressed by the Village as it is a storm drain issue that needs engineering to resolve. We need to identify another area for the rain garden project. Rich has communicated with the Village leadership that this project is beyond the scope of the Watershed's purview. Dick Graham is now in the process of gathering technical information so that he can best identify other possible alternative locations. Discussion ensued about one particular option. Work would be done in the spring.

Dick Graham reported that he has a proposal from a different company for road signs. A mock up was shared - a blue background with white lettering on aluminum for \$44.78/sign. The signs would be mounted on two posts and the County Road Commission would install them. Dick will confirm the locations and will place the order on our behalf with approval from the group. Sign costs would be about \$92/sign installed.

It was estimated that we will need about 30 signs in total to cover the needs of both Bear Creek and Bear Lake groups. Both groups have agreed to pay for half of the costs estimated to be \$1,500 for each group. We will include two signs for both of the public boat launch sites and purchase a few extra signs for replacement. If either group wants more than the original 30 signs they will pay for the full cost of the additional signs. Rich presented a motion that the BLWA would pay for 50% of the cost for 30 signs and would pay the full cost of any additional signs for our watershed area. Discussion ensued. Bob seconded the motion. Motion carried. Rich will communicate this to the Bear Creek group and once approved by that group, Dick will place the order.

Dick provided an update on the storm drain project. It is currently in Pat Bentley's hands to do some additional work. Dick said he talked with Sean Adams about what could be done to mitigate chemical spill management risk. Unfortunately there was not an immediate remedy available locally. Therefore Dick recommended that we consider getting sandbags and have them on hand in strategic locations for quick access to block drains and contain spills.

Rich reported that many of the recipients of the SAW grant in the first round lost their funds due to failure to match the awards. As a result some monies are now being granted to other applicants. If we are selected, we would be notified and we will need to quickly decide if we will accept the funds and confirm that we can meet the match requirements.

Maria related the error made at the July 2015 annual meeting. The offices of

Treasurer and Vice President should have been filled, but instead the President and Secretary were filled. Current officers would like to rectify this situation. Voting will be done tonight as we have fulfilled our obligation to provide a 30 day written notice in accordance of by-laws. Bob Yates was presented as a candidate for re-election as Vice-President and offered Sandy Scholl as candidate for election to the office of Treasurer. The floor was opened for nominations. No nominations were presented from the floor. Maria Somsel made a motion to accept the two candidates as presented without need for formal ballot Barb Farfaring seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Barb shared an update on a photo contest. Information has been published in the Bear Lake Bulletin, in the paper and is on the website.

Barb provided a report on Fall Autumn Glory Day to be held Saturday, October 3. Many volunteers are helping with this event and we are recruiting others to work with them. Douglas Valley winery and the hayride folks have backed out. Activities will be in Hopkins Park and include children's activities, a bounce house, pumpkin decorating and kid's crafts, farmer's market, cider mill, bonfire and DJ with music. Grille 44 will do food for a reasonable price. The goal is to engage our community and get the watershed name, mission, projects, information and education out. Greg Goudy will supply an enviroscape for display and education. Susan Spencer, Executive Director of the Manistee Co. Conservation District will be present during the day and bring some information as well. We have liability coverage for this event.

We want to do E.coli testing again next year and we are waiting for a proposal from Tom Riechard at District 10 and hope to have information for our next meeting.

Rich updated the group on his conversation with Mary Reed regarding the phragmites initiative undertaken by the Portage Lake Watershed group. She said the watershed went to the property owners affected and informed them about the nature of this invasive species. Then the watershed connected the property owners with the vendors who can assist with eradication.

Old Business  
None

New Business

Next meeting is Wednesday, October 28, 2015.

A motion was made to adjourn by Barb and seconded by Bob. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.