

Friends of the St. Joe River Association Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 22, 2017—1:00 PM
Pine Knob Park - Howe, Indiana

IN ATTENDANCE:

Directors: Carol Higgins, Bob Jones, John Law, Danielle Meersman, Matt Meersman, Grant Poole, Jeff Reece, Jeff Wenzel

Watershed Council: Martin Franke, LaGrange County SWCD; Jim Hess, Elkhart County SWCD; Tara Lee, Steuben County SWCD

Visitors: Janel Meyer, Steuben County SWCD; Amanda Kautz, Elkhart County NRCS DC; Jordan Beehler, Elkhart County SWCD; Deb Jimison, Elkhart County SWCD

Call to Order:

President Matt Meersman called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM, welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for introductions.

Minutes of the May 25, 2017 meeting were reviewed. John Law moved to accept the minutes as printed, Jeff Reece seconded. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report was presented by Danielle Meersman. She noted we did receive income of \$25.00 for a membership and \$2.04 in interest. We had expenses of \$0.85 for bank service charges leaving a net income of \$26.19 for the month of June. Year to date net income is \$129.77. Our total balance including checking and savings is \$67,475.00 as of June 21, 2017. Carol Higgins moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed, John Law seconded. **Motion carried.**

Danielle had talked with Fifth Third bank about current interest rates. They do have an eighteen month CD at 1% interest. After some discussion, Jeff Reece moved to have Danielle put \$45,000.00 into an eighteen month CD, Carol Higgins seconded. **Motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Strategic Planning

Printed goal ideas from our last meeting were distributed as a reminder of possible projects we might be interested in pursuing. Matt reminded us of Kathy Worst from Branch County CD's effort to secure county funding through a local millage. Consensus was to have Matt provide a letter of support from the Friends. Grant Poole said he would be willing to also supply a letter of support from the Pokagon Band.

NEW BUSINESS:

14th Annual St. Joe River Races

The 14th Annual St. Joe River Races will be on Saturday, September 23, 2017. These races have been set-up and run by Matt and Danielle with our support. They asked if the Friends would cover the insurance premium and river permit for the races as we have done in past years. John Law moved to cover these expenses up to \$200.00, Grant Poole seconded. **Motion carried.**

By-Laws Revision

It was discussed that there are some contradictions in our by-laws and that it might be wise to review and clean-up any issues in our by-laws. Bob Jones suggested we create a committee to review the by-laws and during the course of this year bring any issues to the board with the intention of presenting any necessary amendments to the by-laws at our Annual Meeting in March 2018. Jeff Reece suggested Bob be chairman and we had volunteers of Matt Meersman, Grant Poole, and Jeff Reece to serve on the committee. The question of whether we had liability insurance for the board and officers was brought up. Danielle said she would look into it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

St. Joseph River Clean-Up, Michigan

The St. Joseph County MI Conservation District is sponsoring an Upper St. Joseph River clean-up on Saturday, June 24, 2017 at 9:30 AM (starting at Jacksonburg Road bridge and ending at M-66 bridge, 3 miles) with lunch provided.

Post meeting activities

Bob Jones informed those present that two different activities were provided for those interested. One is a tour of the Duff Lake Fen restoration adjacent to Pine Knob Park led by Nate Simons of Blue Heron Ministries. Blue Heron Ministries has been doing the restoration work on Duff Lake Fen for the last 2 ½ years. The second activity is a 2 ½ hour paddle on the Pigeon River starting at the Trading Post in Mongo. John and Jesslyn Senecal have graciously offered canoes and kayaks for those interested.

NEXT MEETING: - 1:00 PM, Thursday, August 24, 2017 at Three Rivers Public Library, Three Rivers, MI

Adjournment:

Jeff Wenzel moved to adjourn, Jeff Reece seconded. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Jones