

Friends of the St. Joseph River  
Board Meeting Minutes May 25, 2022  
Respectfully submitted: Carolyn Grace

Meeting started by Matt Meersman at 1:02pm using Zoom virtual meeting platform

Board Members Present: Matt Meersman, Jordan Shedd, Chris Temple, Jeff Reece, Carolyn Grace, Danielle Meersman, Grant Poole, and Annie Klehforth

Visitors: Bob Jones, Terri Loomis, Matt Diana, Becky Shank, Lisa Harris

**Minutes:** Jeff Reece motioned to accept the April Board Minutes, Jordan Shedd second, motion passed

**Treasurers Report:** Kim Sinclair sent report to board, Danielle Meersman explained the report highlighting \$1,140 of income including a large donation from the Evergreen Foundation. Exciting news and a note of thanks will be sent. She also mentioned that we have \$58,574 of total assets split between checking and savings. She suggested to moving some funds from the checking to a CD to try to earn some interest. Grace motioned to move 40K to a CD, and then after discussion removed her motion to move the money after Danielle looked it up during the meeting and found the interest rate was only .01%, a decision was made not to move money. Matt highlighted some additional fundraising efforts including a homeschool group lead by Kelly Hahn that raised \$700 for the Friends after they held a earth day bake sale. Jeff Reece made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Chris Temple seconded, motion passed.

**Old Business:**

No business was conducted via email this past month.

Matt had correspondence with a gentlemen (Alan Backler) who is trying to develop an educational program and activities to accompany the St. Joe River documentary. He would like to work with our group to develop presentations and materials.

Silver Beach Documentary - the Friends sponsored a spot for \$500.00 to WNIT for efforts on a documentary about Silver Beach. The segment will air last week of May. Jeff encouraged our group to tune in and watch. Matt noted the advertising spots included in the sponsorship will be used to promote the group and the annual "St. Joe River Races" fundraiser.

**New Business:**

Summer Meeting Dates: Next meeting scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

There was consensus to not hold a meeting in July. Reece made motions to skip the July meeting and meet in-person at Conservation Park in Three Rivers on Aug 25<sup>th</sup>, Shedd seconded, both motions passed. Terri Loomis offered to book the pavilion. It will be great to be together in August and Matt hopes to see everyone there.

### **Other Items**

Terri Loomis has and will continue to take the video monitoring and GoPro equipment purchased during the St. Joseph County Conservation District river inventory with Friends support. She is collecting information on the tributaries of the St. Joseph throughout this summer. She will get the data back to Doug McLaughlin and Carolyn Grace to add to the data records of the GLRI verified data. This is going to be a great partnership. Grant Poole forwarded a Procedure 51 document to Grace to read and follow. This will help ensure the data collected will be good.

Becky Shank invited people to come to the Three Rivers Water Festival and the Silliman house on June 16-18<sup>th</sup>. The St. Joseph River Documentary will be shown. Also she spoke to Jim Sours and Tim Peterson about the river guide books/materials. She is looking forward to new and updated river guide materials.

Adjournment: Danielle Meersman motioned at 1:33pm to adjourn, Chris Temple supported and zoom meeting was concluded.

Next meeting – June 16<sup>th</sup> at 1pm held virtually on Zoom