

Friends of the St. Joseph River
Board Meeting at Memory Isle Three Rivers
Board Minutes June 24, 2021
Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Grace

Call to order by Vice Chair Jeff Reece 1:02 pm.

Introduction: Board Members Present:

Carolyn Grace, Carol Higgins, Ron Niezgodski, Jeff Reece, Jeff Wenzel and Grant Poole

Others in attendance: Becky Shank, Chris Temple, Doug McLaughlin, Josh Dickenson, Terri Loomis and Nancy Carpenter

Minutes: Niezgodski motioned to accept the board minutes from May Higgins second. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer was not able to attend the meeting and no report was available. Having no Treasurer's report, Grace motioned to table treasurer report until next meeting, Niezgodski second. Motion passed

Old Business:

- **Board action:** No board action taken via email
- **GLRI:** Grace gave an update about the purchases of water monitoring equipment.
- **Senate Bill 389: Wetland regulations.** Discussion about the bill and information from Matt Meersman who has been featured on a few South Bend talk shows.
- **St. Joseph River Documentary update:** Reece stated that he feels that we have already gotten quite a bit of results and potential for more public awareness as a result of FotSJR's involvement with this sponsorship. This includes signs developed, public statements, and Matt's TV appearances.

New Business:

- **Donation for Don Sporleder Memorial:** (Michiana Watershed) Niezgodski motioned to donate \$100 to the Don Sporleder Memorial Plaque or rock or whatever it might be. Wenzel second, motion passed. Reece thinks it might be posted at the old RR trail near Notre Dame. Reece will get funds to Michiana Watershed for disbursement once monies are received from Treasurer.
- **Celebrate St. Joseph River Documentary on Aug 28, 2021:** After discussion about the WNIT documentary "Then, Now and Always...The St. Joseph River" being shown at various locations across the watershed. Wenzel motioned to have Grace add the Friends logo to T-shirts being developed for the event at Three Rivers, spending from \$250 to \$400 on this endeavor. Niezgodski second, motion passed. Discussion included having a donation jar and a display with Friends membership information at the Three Rivers event.
- **2021 meeting schedule:** Discussion from the board was had about where and when the meetings should be held this 2021-2022 season. Some on zoom, some in person. And possibly the ones in person, could have zoom invite. Discussion included the August meeting, and a decision was made by all Board members to proceed and hold the next meeting (in August) in person at the "Celebrate the St. Joseph" event (including the WNIT documentary premiere) at the Covered Bridge Farm County Park near Three Rivers, MI on Aug 28th at 2-3pm.

Items from the floor:

- **Announcements:** Becky Shank talked about the history of the river, wind and solar energy in Fabius Township. She shared a brochure with information.
- **No meeting in July 2021**

NEXT MEETING – Saturday, August 28, 2021 (in-person meeting – no Zoom virtual) from 2-3 PM at Covered Bridge Farm County Park, Three Rivers, Michigan

Adjournment: Higgins moved to adjourn, Niezgodski seconded. Reece concluded meeting at 2:17pm.

Minutes recorded by Carolyn Grace, Secretary.