**TWO RIVERS COALITION**

**August 12, 2015 BOARD MEETING**

**Geneva Township Hall**

**Draft**

Call to order**:** 6:12 p.m.

**Attendees:** Kevin Haight, Kenneth Nesbitt, Frank Jurenka, Joe Parman, Colleen Forestieri, Dave Foerster, Paul Vanden Bosch, Dick Curtis (board members underlined)

**Agenda –** August 12, 2015 agendaapproved as amended

**Motion** by Joe Parman, seconded by Colleen Forestieri to approve June 10, 2015 minutes, all in favor.

**Treasurer’s Report**, handout provided - Kenneth Nesbitt reported that TRC had $7,732.00 in total resources and no expenditures.

The Board would like to recognize the fact that Kenneth Nesbitt received the Van Buren County Conservation Districts “Conservationist of the Year” award.

**Motion** by Frank Jurenka, seconded by Dave Foerster to approve August 2015 Treasurer’s Report.

**VSMP with VBCD** – Board members and VBCD staff will meet with Dr. Paul Steen on September 9th to work side by side on stream monitoring procedures and expectations. Next VSMP event is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 20th (changed to October 4th, after meeting took place).

**PPR/Ox Creek Grant** is waiting on final contract to be signed by SWMLC, SWMPC and VBC Road Commission. Dave Foerster and Kevin Haight met with Geoffrey Cripps, SWMLC to review TRC’s commitments with the Ox Creek portion of the grant. The Board will start tracking their time for TRC’s “in-kind” match portion of the grant.

**New Business**

**Next TRC Speaking Event Sept 30**: Beth Wallace-Kalamazoo River Oil Spill and Pipeline Safety-need press release, publicity

**T.O.S.T – Frank Jurenka** – No meetings to report at this time.

**Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA)** – TRC letter of support for Conservation Districts Invasive Species program and grant. Letter of support and vote was call for by Kevin Haight on July 28, 2015: Votes by email 6-0, all in favor.

**Celery Pond – Meeting with Carl N., A.J. Brucks and City of South Haven**: If Conservation District receives CISMA grant celery pond may be used for phragmites removal demonstration site. Board suggested using other more visible sites for demonstration events.

**MDEQ Grants, Pine and Mill Creeks** are on priority water course list. Matt Meersman, VBC Conservation District put through Notice of Intent, NOI for grant on Pine Creek for septic, dairy and agriculture E.coli related issues.

**TRC’s endorsement/support of petition to ban fracking in Michigan:** Board held discussion on TRC officially taking a position in support of petition.

The ballot summary on the circulating petition is:[[8]](http://ballotpedia.org/Michigan_Fracking_Ban_Initiative_(2016)#cite_note-petition-8)

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|  | An initiation of legislation to prohibit the use of horizontal hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” and acid completion treatments of horizontal gas and oil wells; to prohibit emission, production, storage, disposal, and processing of frack and acidizing wastes created by gas and oil well operations; to eliminate the state’s policy favoring ultimate recovery of maximum production of oil and gas; to protect water resources, land, air, climate, and public health; and to allow residents to enforce the provisions of this ballot language, by amending Public Act 451 of 1994 entitled “Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act,” by amending section 61528, 61529 and 61530.[[9]](http://ballotpedia.org/Michigan_Fracking_Ban_Initiative_(2016)#cite_note-quotedisclaimer-9) |

**Motion** by Dave Foerster, seconded by Colleen Forestieri: TRC officially endorses petition to ban fracking in Michigan because of potential threat to ground water and surface water resources in Michigan. All in favor with one abstention

**Paw Paw Lake, Frank Jurenka:** Paw Paw Lake Foundation is using aeration for weed and sediment treatment in the lake. The Foundation is performing a study/sampling on the aeration and water quality to see if it is effecting algae blooms by agitating the phosphorus in the lake.

**Announcements, suggestions, comments:**

August 15- Community Paddle on PPR : Bundy Rd. to Coloma Rd.

September 19- Community Paddle on Black River

September 20 and 21-VSMP Collection/Identification events

September 30- Beth Wallace

October 1- Michigan Annual Report due to Sec of State [Kenneth]

December 9- TRC Annual Meeting [VBCC reserved] [Need speaker]

Adjourned 7:48 p.m.

Respectively submitted by: Joe Parman, Secretary