

**Friends of the St. Joe River Association Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, May 22, 2014**  
**Three Rivers Public Library-Three Rivers, MI**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

- **Directors:** Matt Meersman, Danielle Meersman, Eldred Adams, Bob Jones, Zac Martin, John Law, Jim Coury
- **Watershed Council:** Marcy Colclough, Joe Parman, Jeff Wenzel
- **Visitors:** Patty Hoch-Meiluish of Kieser & Associates

President Matt Meersman called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were done by each individual.

**Minutes** of the April 2014 meeting were tabled as Melanie Stoughton was ill. Matt asked Jim Coury if he could supply notes/minutes from the April 24, 2014 Wetlands Partnership Meeting. Jim agreed to get those notes to Matt.

**Treasurer's Report** was presented by Danielle Meersman. Eldred Adams moved to accept the treasurer's report as submitted and seconded by Jim Coury. Motion carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Wetland Partnership Project** – Matt reported on the recent St. Joe River Basin Symposium at Fernwood Botanical Gardens. Matt was one of the presenters along with Robert Barr, Research Scientist, from IUPUI and Bret Robinson, Hydrologist, from the US Geological Survey. The topics were “Wetlands Working for Your Community” by Matt and “Fluvial Erosion Hazards” by Bob and Bret. The symposium was extremely informative.

There will be another workshop for landowners of the Elkhart River on Thursday, June 12, 2014 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at the Ligonier Council Meeting Room in the Ligonier Police Department in Ligonier, Indiana. The address is 301 South Cavin Street in downtown Ligonier.

**Clean Water Campaign** – Nothing new to report at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**June Board Meeting Location** – The June 26, 2014 board meeting will be held at **Pine Knob Park** in Howe, IN (2825 State Road 120). There will be two activities available after the meeting. Scott Beam of the LaGrange County Parks will give a short tour of the park to those who do not want to float the Pigeon River from The Trading Post in Mongo, IN with John Senecal. Matt will get float trip RSVP information out to all board members.

Matt also indicated there would NOT be a meeting in July as per previous years. Due to another wetland program on the fourth Thursday in August, the Wetlands Partnership Meeting and the FotSJR meeting will be on the third Thursday in August (the 21<sup>st</sup>) at Three Rivers Public Library.

**Watershed Stewardship Award** – There has been a press release in Berrien County of Scott King’s selection as 2014 Watershed Stewardship Award winner. The traveling plaque is currently being displayed in the Buchanan Public Library.

**Great Lakes Tour – W.G. Jackson** – Marcy Colclough reported on the W.G. Jackson research vessel through Grand Valley State University making a stop in St. Joseph/Benton Harbor on June 18, 2014 from 8:00 to 10:00 AM. There are only 34 spaces available. Please let Marcy know immediately. Danielle moved that the Friends be a non-monetary sponsor for this event and John Law seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Other Items**

- Kathleen Pettijean of the Green in the Bend asked to announce their Rain Barrel Ball fund raiser on August 23, 2014
- There are a couple possible projects that are being pursued from the last wetlands program at the Nottawaseppi Huron Reservation.
- Joe Parman, Van Buren County DC, announced a shoreline restoration quarterly program on Maple Island/Maple Lake on June 18, 2014 at 6:00 PM.
- It was also reported that Michigan is #1 in the country on developing connecting trails.
- Several topics for next year’s annual meeting were suggested. They included: Urban Storm Water; Conservation Design Forum, Jim Patchett; Dam Removal, Andy Selle, Joe Rathbun (DEQ); Two-Stage Ditches; Controlled Drain Tile Management.

**Next Meeting – June 26, 2014 – 1:00 PM – Pine Knob Park – 2825 Indiana State Road 120 – Howe, IN**

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by acting secretary,  
Bob Jones*