

Friends of the St. Joseph River
Board meeting, October 26, 2023

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Grace

Meeting called to order by Matt Meersman at 1:01 pm

Board Present: Matt Meersman, Carolyn Grace, Ron Niezgodski, Jeff Reece, Grant Poole, and Jordan Shedd.

Watershed Council & Guests: Glen Shedd, Carol Higgins, Jim Hess, John Law, Aimee Wentworth, and Ray Hoover.

Minutes: Reece motioned to accept the September board minutes, second by J. Shedd Motion passed.

Treasurer Report: Kim Sinclair was absent, but sent the board a balance sheet and profit/loss statement. Meersman reviewed the report noting there were about \$59K in total assets and approximately \$2K of net income for the year. Niezgodski motioned to accept the report. Grace second. Motion passed.

Old Business

- **Board Action Taken Via Email:** NONE
- **River Cleanup & Board Member Liability:** Tabled until Chris Temple can report on information. Hope to have a presentation at the next virtual board meeting.
- **Shavehead Lake Study Support:** Grace noted that she was not able to get the information in time from Kyle Boon. Therefore no support letter was provided by Friends for grant proposal.

New Business

- **Watershed Leadership Academy:** There were 6 applicants for financial assistance and the selection committee will meet directly after this meeting to select the four winners.
- **November/December Board Meeting Date/Location:** Meetings are typically not held in November or December due to the holidays, but meeting virtually on Dec 14th was discussed to get update on insurance. Grace motioned to cancel the November meeting and schedule a meeting for December 14th via Zoom. Niezgodski second. Motion passed.

Other Items for Discussion

- **C. Higgins** brought up the idea of engaging educational institutions and encouraging them to get involved and lead by example. She explained a local proposal to require solar power for center pivot irrigation instead of a diesel engine.
- **Jordan Shedd** offered to draft a letter introducing educational institutions to the Friends group and share it with the group at the Dec 14th meeting.
- **Grace** will investigate the availability of the Covered Bridge Farm for an event like our annual celebration next year. She will inquire about cost, available Fridays, and such.
- **Meersman** will inquire about combining the Symposium and Celebration.

Motion to adjourn at 2:22pm by Poole. Grace second. Motion passed.

Next meeting, December 14th, 2023, from 1-3 pm via ZOOM