

Friends of the St. Joseph River
Board meeting, December 14, 2023
Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Grace

Meeting Called to Order by Matt Meersman on Zoom at 1:11 pm due to technical difficulties.

Board Present: Matt Meersman, Carolyn Grace, Ron Niezgodski, Jeff Reece, Annie Klehforth, Jeff Wenzzel, Doug MacLaughlin, Chris Temple, Darragh Deegan, and Shaun Grace
Other visitors: Pat Wiltshire, Ami Wentworth, Terri Loomis, Balisha Averhart

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

Treasurer Report: Kim Sinclair was absent, and Doug MacLaughlin motioned to table until next month, Reece second, motion passed.

Old Business

- VOTE VIA EMAIL: NONE
- **IWLA Purdue Watershed Academy.** Meersman thanked the committee that helped select 4 very good candidates and two others were able to go through their work. All the candidates were wonderful, and it is a great way to connect and develop watershed leaders in MI and IN.
- **Insurance Presentation:** Chris Temple invited Balisha Averhart and she quickly informed the group on a variety of insurance issues. She explained the Liability Policy could cover events with up to 1000 people, Volunteer Accident Policy, and Director and Officer Liability Insurance for any mismanagement from the board. After listening to Balisha, Chris Temple made a motion to collect further data and bring the numbers back to the board for possible purchase at another meeting, with an emphasis of the purchase of Board and Director Liability. Doug MacLaughlin second. Motion passed.

New Business

- **Watershed Celebration:** Usually in March but this year trying to combine with the SJRBC symposium again. Deegan reported that the SJRBC members seemed to like the idea of the combination and they support it. C. Grace looked into the Covered Bridge Farm Park for May 10, 2024 to hold the events. The cost is \$1,000.00 the deposit is \$750.00

Other Items for Discussion

- Board discussed changing next meeting date. C. Grace motioned to move the January date up one week to January 18, 2024 Chris Temple second. Motion Passed.
- Chris Temple reported that the new art museum at Notre Dame includes an artist's rendition of the streams of the St. Joseph River Watershed.
- Carolyn Grace mentioned a MAEAP Technician opening in her SJCCD office.
- Doug mentioned Earth Day prep and would like reach out to Tom Coomes at ABC 57 about doing another story featuring the watershed, and why it is important. It is Earth week and water matters so let's get him involved to educate the public.

Motion to adjourn 2:22 pm by Chris Temple, seconded by R. Niezgodski. Motion carried
Next Friends meeting, via ZOOM, January 18, 2024, from 1-3 pm