

Friends of the St. Joseph River Association  
Board Minutes January 27, 2022  
Minutes respectfully submitted by Carolyn Grace

**Call to Order:** via zoom by Matt Meersman, President

**Introductions:** Matt introduced himself and called on the attendees to do the same and explain what affiliation with the Friends.

**Board Members Present:** Matt Meersman, Jeff Reece, Carolyn Grace, Daragh Deegan, Annie Klehfoth, Eric Kerney, Grant Poole, and Jeff Wenzel

**Others Present:** Beth Clawson, Nancy Carpenter, Isiah Strand, Kristi Todd, Chris Temple, Becky Shank, Aimee Wentworth, Doug McLaughlin, and Dave Forester

**November Minutes:**

Reece, motioned to accept the November Minutes as presented, Klehfoth second. Motion Passed.

**Treasurer Report:** None. However, a few expenditures were made. Update at February meeting.

**Old Business:**

- No action taken via email
- Watershed Leadership Purdue Classes. Isiah Strand and Kayla Wright from Calhoun County Conservation District have been attending and enjoying the class. In March they will be having an in person class and graduation is scheduled for May.

**New Business**

- Stewardship Award Nominations are being accepted for 2022. The award winner from 2021 was announced, but they have not been notified of their award. Matt still hopes to make a formal presentation of the award
- Annual Meeting and Awards: The annual meeting/celebration will be virtual and Reece will look into reserving the venue for 2023 for an in person gathering. Discussion about who to have speak for our virtual meeting this year was held, and attendees will begin searching for a guest speaker. The date may change since it is virtual. Jeff Reece will reach out to the South Bend Historical Museum to see if Travis Childs would be available for the virtual meeting in March of 2022. Becky Shank reached out to Dr. Kevin Kincare to inquire about becoming the virtual/in person speaker for 2023 and he agreed.

**Other Business and Announcements:**

- **Kristi Todd:** The Upper Elkhart Watershed Management Plan will be updated and there is a stakeholder meeting soon. If interested contact Matt Meersman for details and link to the project.

- **Beth Clawson:** Natural Resource Grants are available. Also, May 31-June 3, 2022 a conference at the Kalamazoo Radisson Hotel and Conference Center. Sign up and join this great conference. <https://carn.msu.edu/anrepk2022>
- **Nancy Carpenter:** This year the Berrien County Conservation District is holding an open house on March 30, 2022 from 5-8pm at the Countryside Academy. She invited the Friends to have an information booth with materials and other information they would like to share. Grace mentioned she would attend and have the Friends t-shirts and other information available. Reece also volunteered to sit at the booth. Members will seek to find the board for volunteers to have available.
- **Doug McLaughlin:** will be presenting his progress on the river inventory project with the Friends at the next meeting.
- **Daragh Deegan:** Elkhart County Parks will be holding an open house about the removal of 2 dams on the Elkhart River, February 8, 2022 at 6pm. Call Daragh if your interested in attending or for more information.
- **Isiah Strand:** The Calhoun Conservation District is updating the Nottawa Creek Watershed management plan. If you would like to be part of this project contact him at the District.

**Adjournment:** Reece motioned to adjourn at 2:18pm Deegan second, motion passed

**Next Meeting: February 24<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm via zoom**