

**Minutes:**  
**Rouge River Water Trail Leadership Committee**  
April 15, 2021 1:00 – 2:00 PM

**Attendees:** Marie McCormick, Sally Petrella, Bill Craig, Theresa Tejada, John Gundry, Herman Jenkins, Elizabeth, Samantha Raad, Tracy-Ann Jennings, Sue Thompson, Dave Norwood joined later (communities represented - Wayne City, Inkster, Dearborn)

Introductions- Tracy-Ann Jennings – Special Projects, Inkster

#### Livery Updates

- Motor City Canoe and Kayak Rental will be opening in May to offer livery services at Ford Field.
- Wayne County is working on getting a contractor for Newburgh Lake. They also are exploring options for Phoenix to Wilcox since the route is open.
- Questions
  - Marie – Would the county consider installing official launches? Could it be done on the county property? Yes. Location? Could launch at Comfort station.
  - Marie - What about requirement for permits? Elizabeth says it is a relic covering fishing. A paddler on the Lower was approached by the Wayne County Sheriff and told he needed a permit unless he is using an existing launch. “I took my new canoe out for its inaugural trip tonight after work! It was just a quick one on the main stem of the Rouge River in Dearborn. I got stopped by a Wayne County Sheriff at the put-in and had to show my letter as proof that I was able to paddle here. He was impressed and we talked Rouge Rescue! Hope he'll come.” Elizabeth will ask Alicia about it.
  - Marie- Will the county install accessible launches at Phoenix and Wilcox? Paddlers could paddle the open water but accessing the rest involves bottoming out. Both lakes are scheduled for AOC habitat projects but it is unclear what will be dredged. In and out access at Phoenix is not great.

#### 3. Woody Debris Management plan

- Wayne County (WC) Parks will be opening 10 logjams by August 2022.
- Two WDM days June 12th and July 17<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with Alex. Will get registration up soon.
- Dearborn – no update on Dearborn launches or opening the route but planning for this year.
- Strategic Plan for addressing WDM – researching companies that provide insurance.
- Certified training program in WDM could assist in lowering and risk. Academia is a critical partner. John – WC has run into issues with their corporate counsel in bidding out this work so this would be helpful. They require more insurance than the job cost.
- Herman met with Kanouse Outdoor Recreation who does logjam management and may assist with training.

4. National Canoe Day – June 26 – setting up at Melvindale for demos and two paddling trips. NKH will participate. Working with sister watersheds to promote this starting June 15.

5. Dry dock event idea – bring a boat to a location where people are as a way to promote the trail. Will be at Canton Trails Day June 5. Also looking at Inkster and Westland Farmers Markets.

6. Wayne County Day of Service May 14<sup>th</sup> at Newburgh Lake for appointees. FOTR will be there and promote trail.

#### 7. Water Quality Monitoring

- Dearborn started E. coli monitoring at the beginning of the month, Dave will inquire about results.
- Wayne County has done two rounds between John Daly and Morton Taylor. First week very low, no results yet from second round. Sue and ARC walked Inkster Rd to Beech Daly last week and took 12 dry weather samples along the stretch. Planning for more investigation.

#### 8. Grants update

- Ralph C Wilson grant for launch at Belanger Park – looking at acquisition of US Steel property that is closing so that the launch could be separate from the existing busy boat launch.
- Melvindale plan almost done.
- Fort St Bridge Park – 4 parcels donated to city for water trail launch. Working on maintenance plan. Hoping CFSEM will cover launch design. Also, request in for Marathon to fund.
- Rouge Gateway Greenway Trail extension funded by Wilson has hit a snag with railroad that may change the scope.

#### 9. Roundtable

- WC working on logjams in golf course, taking out 5 there. By next spring, it will be ready for Venoy boat launches to have the river open through the golf course, almost to Colonial Park, then Inkster then Dearborn Heights.
- Elizabeth found out from Alicia that Wayne County requires a permit for Newburgh Lake AND if you park in an area that is not a regular parking lot. You don't need a permit to paddle the Lower Rouge if you park in a lot. Permits are available at the parks office during limited hours and may cost \$5.
- Discussion of Strava.
- Update – the county has a potential livery for Newburgh Lake.
- Request to get WC paddling permit online, or use a model similar to permission for FOTR Frog and Toad Surveyors. Permit lasts one year.

Schedule: Tentative paddle trips 9/18, 10/23.

2021 Meetings: June 17, Aug. 19, Oct. 21, Dec. 16

Adjourn 2:00 pm