

MISSION

To restore, protect, and enhance the Rouge River watershed through stewardship, education, and collaboration.

- **CALL TO ORDER**

President, Jessica Eiland-Anders called the meeting to order at 5:09pm.

- **ROLL CALL**

- a. **Directors Present:**

Jessica Eiland Anders (JEA), Alice Bailey (AB), Mike McNulty (MMN), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), Carol Snodgrass (CS), Jeremiah Steen (JS), Myra Tetteh (MT), Susan Thompson (ST), Gerry VanAcker (GVA), Dave Norwood, Nick Leonard Paul Draus (PD) (12 total)

- b. **Directors Not Present:**

Samr'ra Luqmann, Madeline Maher, Erma Leaphart (EL) (3 total)

- c. **Staff Members Present:**

Marie McCormick (MMC), Cyndi Ross (CR), Lara Edwards (LE), Lauren Eaton (LEA) Karen Hanna (KH) Sally Petrella (SP), Cara Beld (CB), Erin Cassady (EC), Morgain MacDonald (MM), Ammie Woodruff (AW) (10 total)

- **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- a. Agenda was moved and approved. Brandi moved, Sue seconded, approved as is.

- **APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**

- a. January 22, 2023 in packet.

- b. Minutes were moved and approved with a correction. The ED report 9A #5 was edited to read "Rouge Gateway Greenway Phase 2 runs parallel to the Rouge River with the goal to go to Fort Street".

- c. Bradi moved, Sue seconded, approved with the correction as discussed.

- **STAFF PRESENTATION** – Erin Cassady, Education Manager, "Rouge Education Project (REP)"

- **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. **Executive Committee**

- i. We would like to hire a Advocacy/Policy staff person.

- ii. IDI/IDP's are advancing, there will be groups of 3-5 formed for discussion with the requirement to meet 4 times yearly. Jessica asked board members to sign an annual commitment to DEI.

- b. **Finance Committee:** CS Reported

- i. CS presented the April Treasurer's Reports and board financial reports.

- ii. Marie suggested an amendment to the 2nd quarter budget to account for bringing on an Advocacy staff member.

- iii. Financial reports were moved and approved. Dave moved and Gerry seconded, approved.

- c. Membership Committee**
 - i. Gerry and Lara met and are encouraging board members to join the committee. Also, they are revamping the membership levels, benchmarking other organizations, and reviewing the website to make sure membership is represented clearly.
 - d. Fund Development Committee:** AB reported
 - i. AB did a brief overview on the Rouge Cruise coming up on August 10, 2023. AB has emailed everyone to support with solicitations/sponsorships for the Rouge Cruise
 - ii. Lara added we are at about \$9,000 in sponsorships currently and that this is a great opportunity to widen organizational reach
 - e. Board Development Committee**
 - i. Mike said there are 5 directors eligible for re-elections with all 5 running again so there is likely no need to look outside for additional board members.
 - f. Advocacy Committee:** MMC and DN reported
 - i. DN reported that there is nothing new to report and just reiterates the points Marie made earlier.
 - ii. MMC reported we recently signed onto MEC's letter asking for a funding match for sediment contamination in the Detroit and Rouge River's.
 - g. Restoration Committee:** CR reported
 - i. Nothing to report.
 - h. Monitoring Committee** LE reported
 - i. Sally and Lauren met with the Ecology Center regarding PFAS and they are waiting on guidance from EGLE Lauren reported.
 - i. Education Committee** EC reported
 - i. Nothing to report other than what's in the notes.
 - j. Water Trail Leadership Committee**
 - i. Nothing to report.
- **Strategic Plan Discussion**
 - a. There is an RFP going out to have a third party for the next 5 years.
 - b. MMC asked if there were people that wanted to help, if so, reach out to her.
 - **Intercultural Development Inventory**
 - a. Invitations have been sent out.
 - b. All should take the inventory, it takes 15-30 minutes and responses are confidential.
 - c. You will get a group debrief and report.
 - d. If you would like an individual debrief, the cost is \$150 at your expense.
 - e. The group debrief took place on May 17, 2023 at 4:30pm.
 - **Staff Program Reports**
 - a. **Executive Directors Report:** MMC reported

- i. Continuing Brand Audit/Brand Guidelines and new website development process [moving slowly]
 - ii. Working on PARC Office/Garage Lease Extension Agreement for 2023 - 2028
 - iii. New windows have been installed in the office, much brighter and transformational.
 - iv. We are working with Plunkett Cooney as our lobbyist.
 - v. Rouge education and Rouge Rescue Phase 3 project runs parallel to Rouge River from Outer Drive to Village Road. The goal is to go to Fort Street.
 - vi. FOTR is working with Wayne County Parks for mutual programming, education. MOU will hopefully help.
 - vii. MMC covered her activities in Washington DC with the Great Lakes Initiative.
 - viii. MMC also covered notable events and meetings.
 - b. Fund Development:** LE reported
 - i. DeShe Mathis was hired as Administrative Database Specialist.
 - ii. Updates on Rouge Cruise (August 10, 2023) and Celebrate with Friends member and volunteer event and FOTR awards ceremony (June 22, 2023).
 - c. Grants and Funding**
 - i. See board materials.
 - d. Education Programs**
 - i. Ammie Woodruff hired as Community Organizer.
 - e. Restoration Programs:** CR reported
 - i. Native plants and rain barrels at Livonia DPW
 - ii. FOTR offers consultations with different tiers for services.
 - f. Monitoring Programs**
 - i. Frog & Toad Survey – 228 people signed up.
 - ii. Bloomfield had 99 participants on January 21 for the Stonefly Survey.
 - iii. Fish Surveys – 20 sites for next 3 years.
 - iv. PFAs portion of the fish survey was shared with EGLE.
 - v. 2 interns hired for summer.
 - g. Trails Programs:** MMC reported
 - i. Ty Bugbee, Trails Assistant, is working on a new paddling program.
 - ii. Planning is under way for a legislative boat trip with Plunkett Cooney on June 12, 2023.
 - iii. Dry dock pop-up work to be shared.
 - iv. 50 people signed up for a paddling trip with Herman.
 - h. PR/Marketing/Media**
 - i. See board materials
- **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. Walk-ins: Debbie Bondy, Annette DeMaria (ECT)
 - **REMINDERS**
 - a. Upcoming Board Meetings:

i. September 13, 2023, 5-6:30pm (In Person [optional] at PARC in Plymouth)

- **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:44pm. Sue motioned and Carol seconded, adjourned.