

**Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes  
November 9, 2022  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**MISSION**

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

**VISION**

We envision a future where a clean and vibrant Rouge River is the center of our community. Individual and community actions protect and improve the health of the Rouge River, assuring that its natural, economic, and recreational value enhance the quality of life in the Rouge River ecosystem.

Directors Present:

Alice Bailey (AB), Laura Wagner (LW), Erma Leaphart (EL), Mike McNulty (MM), Dave Norwood (DN), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), Susan Thompson (ST), Carol Snodgrass (CS), Jessica Eiland Anders (JEA) (10 total)

Directors Not Present:

Paul Draus (PD), Myra Tetteh (MT), Samra'a Lugman (SL), Alicia C. Bradford (ACB), Madelin Maher (MM2) (5 total)

Staff Members Present: Marie McCormick (MMC), Karen Hannah (KH), Samantha Davis (SD) (3 total)

Guests/Members Present: Annette DeMaria

Item #5 h and 5 j moved to the beginning of the agenda before other agenda items (for addressing first)

1) CALL TO ORDER

Vice- President Alice Bailey called the meeting to order at 5:08pm

President Laura Wagner joined the meeting later and then chaired from that point forward

Board member Susan Thompson agreed to take minutes for the meeting

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda with adjustments/amendments made by DN, seconded by MM. Motion carried

Discussion of report items (Board elections and board candidates occurred first)

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. May 11, 2022

b. June 15, 2022

c. September 14, 2022

Volunteer Sandy can do transcription of minutes for other meetings

4) STAFF PRESENTATION – MONITORING- EUROPEAN FROG-BIT PROJECT

FOTR staff Sam Davis, European Frog-bit Project

SD provided an overview and progress report on the European Frog-bit survey, early detection, and management efforts

5) REPORTS (also refer to reports in Board meeting packet for further information)

a. Executive Committee

Refer to agenda and Board packet

b. Executive Director Report

COVID-19 policies updated; refer to Board packet for additional information

Staff salary/benefit adjustments forthcoming; salary schedule for staff prepped and staff evaluations being performed

Secured Save Our Great Lakes Grant secured and GI tree planting grant for Dearborn and Redford

Two new job postings

ARC/FOTR Partnership- Forest Service Grant

FOTR Year End Party on December 16 at FOTR office. RSVPs needed

c. Education (REP Committee)

d. Restoration Committee

e. Monitoring Committee

f. Water Trail Committee

g. Membership/Committee

h. Board Development Committee

i. Election

Marie McCormick introduced the candidates running for election to the FOTR Board:

Five positions open on the board, and five candidates. Jessica Eiland Anders, Alice Bailey, and Madelin Maher are incumbents running for reelection. Nick Leonard, Director of the Michigan Environmental Law Center, and Gerry Van Acker, Chief Operating Officer Detroit Zoo (retired) are the candidates for the two other positions.

Motion made by Mike McNulty to support slate of candidates, seconded by Dave Norwood. Motion carried. The website is set up for the election/online voting.

i. Fund Development Committee

Giving Tuesday reminder and encouraging board giving

Bosch agreed to do a \$10,000 match, but asked for 100 percent board support/match for record \$62,000 year end appeal

Board members are encouraged to pledge what is comfortable and to share pledge amount with Lara Edwards and Alice Bailey

j. Finance Committee/Treasurer

i. September and October financials 2022

Treasurer's report- include in packet- refer to Page 31 of the Board materials

Includes increases in FOTR staff salaries

Discussion of financial reports

Motion made by Dave Norwood to accept August and September 2022 financial reports and amendment for August seconded by Mike McNulty. Motion carried.

i. 2023 budget

j. Advocacy Committee

No activity to report

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. i. When/if to revert to in-person board meetings

Discussion of return to in person meetings in the future.

ii. New technology to support

There is support of hybrid meetings, purchase/use of OWL technology for use in FOTR conference room for in-person/hybrid meetings

b. Walk-Ins

7. REMINDERS

a. Election and Board Meeting December 14, 2022

6) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Erma Leaphart, seconded by Jessica Eiland Anders. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:07pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson  
FOTR Board Member