

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

President, Jessica Eiland-Anders, called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

2. ROLL CALL

a. Directors Present:

Jessica Eiland Anders (JEA), Alice Bailey (AB), Paul Draus (PD), Erma Leaphart (EL), Mike McNulty (MMN), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), Carol Snodgrass (CS), Myra Tetteh (MT), Susan Thompson (ST), Gerry VanAcker (GVA) (10 total)

b. Directors Not Present:

Madelin Maher (MM), Dave Norwood (DN), Nick Leonard (NL), Jeremiah Steen (JS), Samraa Luqman (SL) (5 total)

c. Staff Members Present:

Marie McCormick (MMC), Allison Eder (AE), Karen Hanna (KH), Lara Edwards (LE), Margaret Lobbig (ML), Sam Davis (SD), Cyndi Ross (CR), Sally Petrella (SP)

d. Guests Present:

Misk Aldulaimy, Kayla Jones, Debbie Bondy, Ali Abdulghani, Amalia Sise

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

a. Agenda was moved and approved. No Discussion

4. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. January 10, 2024 board meeting minutes as presented in the board packet were moved (MT)/(ST) and approved. No discussion.

5. STAFF PRESENTATION – Margaret Lobbig, Restoration Assistant - South End Dearborn 2040 Green Infrastructure Vision Plan

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Executive Committee:

i. Did not meet.

b. Finance Committee: CS Reported

i. KH and CS presented the December 2023 Treasurer's Report and board financial reports.

ii. Thank you to Karen for the bigger font.

iii. December Financial Reports were moved (EL/BS) and approved.

7. ACTION ITEMS

a. Closed Executive Session

b. Motion to move to closed session (JEA), Seconded by GVA and approved

c. MM motion to move back to open session. Seconded by GVA and approved by all.

8. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED

- a. Membership Committee** (GVA and LE Reported)
 - i. Membership is around 750 households.
 - ii. An offer has been made to fill the development coordinator position.
- b. Fund Development Committee** (LE Reported)
 - i. Save the dates sent out for the Heart of the Rouge Fundraising event. It will take place Wednesday Aug 7th at Hop Cat in Livonia.
 - ii. Looking for board members to participate for our host committee. Members of the host committee will be asked to share the event with five friends, attend the event, and bring in one sponsorship.
- c. Board Development Committee:** MMN reported
 - i. No updates
- d. Advocacy Committee:** (1:04)
 - i. MMC shared on her trip to Washington DC advocating for greater protections for the clean water act as part of the Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Coalition.
 - ii. Northville downs redevelopment has been pushed through and demolition has begun. There are concerns from the community on impacts of demolition on the health of the water.
 - iii. Salem Township WasteWater Treatment Facility Permit to discharge in Fellows Creek. EGLE recommended a draft permit to move forward. As an organization, we are standing behind our opposition to it.
 - iv. Development off of 10 Mile Road in Novi could remove more wetlands. We have been asked to participate in this discussion.
 - v. Another proposed development in Downtown Plymouth on the banks of Tonquish Creek. One main concern is how close the building is to the steep slope that goes right to the creek. We do not have staff that are available to attend the public hearing to discuss this matter.
 - vi. EL shared the impact of Marie's visit to Washington DC and how much it resonated with our representatives.
 - vii. Discussion of the Advocacy Representative role. It is currently on hold and the top two candidates were informed.
- e. Restoration Committee:**
 - i. See board materials
- f. Monitoring Committee:**
 - i. See board materials
- g. Education Committee:**
 - i. See board materials
- h. Water Trail Leadership Committee:**
 - i. See board materials

9. Staff Program Reports

- a. Executive Directors Report:** MM reported
 - i. See board materials.

- ii. New Staff Members: Allison Eder as Operations Assistant, Matthew Connors and Jacqueline Kristofik as Restoration Coordinators, and Adam Huttenstine as Restoration Assistant.
- iii. Upcoming Events:
 - 1. Earth Day Event at the PARC with other tenants.
 - 2. Spring Bug Hunt on April 20th

b. Fund Development:

- i. See board materials.

c. Grants and Funding

- i. See board materials.

d. Education Programs

- i. Excited to welcome Erin back.

e. Restoration Programs:

- i. See board materials.

f. Monitoring Programs

- i. See board materials.

g. Trails Programs:

- i. See board materials.

h. PR/Marketing/Media

- i. See board materials.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. None to report.

11. REMINDERS

- a. Upcoming Board Meetings:
 - i. May 8, 2024, 5 - 6:30 PM (FOTR Board Meeting, Zoom)

12. ADJOURNMENT: ST/EL motion to adjourn moved and approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.