

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:

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

b. Directors Not Present:

Jessica Eiland Anders (JEA), Madelin Maher (MM), Dave Norwood (DN), Nick Leonard (NL), Jeremiah Steen (JS), (5 total)

c. Staff Members Present:

Marie McCormick (MMC), Jaclyn Heikkila-Stafiej (JHS), Karen Hanna (KH) (3 total)

d. Guests Present:

Kathleen Rossie

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

a. Agenda was moved and approved.

4. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. December 13, 2023 board meeting minutes as presented in the board packet were moved (EL)/(ST) and approved. No discussion.

5. OFFICER ELECTIONS

a. President: AB/EL nominated JEA for board chair, JEA accepted nomination. No other nominations so EL/DN closed nominations. JEA was voted in.

b. Vice-President: EL/DN nominated SL as vice chair. SL accepted the nomination. No other nominations voting closed. SL was voted in.

c. Secretary - EL/AB nominated GVA as role of secretary. GVA accepted the nomination. No other nominations. GVA was voted in.

d. Treasurer - DN/EL nominated CS as Treasurer. CS accepted nomination, no other nominations. CS voted in.

e. Member at Large - ST/EL nominated MMN. Since he is not here, we will follow up with him to get his acceptance.

f. Roster DN/SL motioned to approve the Executive Committee by acclamation as presented.

g. Motion for new Executive Committee passed.

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. **Executive Committee:**

- i. Did not meet.

b. **Finance Committee:** CS Reported

- i. CS presented the November 2023 Treasurer's Reports and board financial reports.
- ii. Request to make reports easier to read (graphs) the and better clarifications
- iii. Financial reports were moved (SL)/(DN) and approved.

c. **Membership Committee:** GVA reported

- i. 767 member households from 300 in 2019.
- ii. First stonefly society event - members raised gifts to become stonefly members since the event.
- iii. MMC reported that Nicole has resigned her position. We will be hiring for that role.
- iv. GVA read Rouge River Revised - great orientation to FOTR and what has been happening in the watershed over the past 50 years. Encourages that board members read it.

d. **Fund Development Committee:** AB reported

- i. Updates - \$84,000 for year end appeals.
- ii. JEA thanked AB for her service as Vice-President
- iii. Honing in on the location for the Heart of the Rouge: Inn at St John's, Hop Cat in Livonia

e. **Board Development Committee:** MMN reported

- i. See board materials.

f. **Advocacy Committee:**

- i. Salem Township Wastewater treatment plant. Dave has been getting information through his position with Canton Township. Canton Township passed a resolution last night opposing the treatment plant and Friends of the Rouge was quoted in their materials. We are having an impact in Canton Township. He is still working on contacting the state. Public comment period on hold. See board materials.

g. **Restoration Committee:**

- i. See board materials.

h. **Monitoring Committee**

- i. See board materials.

i. **Education Committee**

- i. See board materials.

j. **Water Trail Leadership Committee**

- i. See board materials.

7. Staff Program Reports

a. **Executive Directors Report:** MM reported

- i. Strategic Planning selection committee KH/LE/MM selected the consulting firm, Together-Together for the process. TT is a minority,

women-owned business out of Brooklyn, NY. The TT team will work mostly remotely with 1 or 2 visits to Michigan planned during the process. There will be a lot of opportunities for board participation in this process.

- ii. Should hear about ARPA funding in the next 3 weeks.
- iii. Reminder that Marie sent out a link for every board member to participate in DEI training. You have one year to complete it.
- iv. See board materials.

b. Fund Development:

- i. See board materials.

c. Grants and Funding

- i. See board materials.

d. Education Programs

- i. Erin on maternity leave
- ii. Sam Davis point person while she is gone.

e. Restoration Programs:

- i. Rain Catcher's Collective - still working on \$22 mil. grant from NOAA
- ii. Restoration Field Coordinator - mid level role field position
- iii. See board materials.

f. Monitoring Programs

- i. Bringing on 2 chloride monitoring interns.
- ii. See board materials.

g. Trails Programs:

- i. Herman has all of the paddling trips scheduled for 2024
- ii. See board materials.

h. PR/Marketing/Media

- i. See board materials.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. You will be asked to participate in the strategic process stay tuned.

9. REMINDERS

- a. Upcoming Board Meetings:
 - i. March 13, 2024, 5:00pm-6:30pm (Virtual)

10. ADJOURNMENT: EL/DN motion to adjourn moved and approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:21pm.