

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 5:10 pm.

2. ROLL CALL**a. Directors Present:**

Jessica Eiland Anders (JEA), Alice Bailey (AB), Paul Draus (PD), Erma Leaphart (EL), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), Carol Snodgrass (CS), Susan Thompson (ST), (7 total)

b. Directors Not Present:

Samra'a Luqman (SL), Madelin Maher (MM), Mike McNulty (MMN), Dave Norwood (DN), Jeremiah Steen (JS), Myra Tetteh (MT), Gerry VanAcker (GVA) (7 total)

c. Staff Members Present:

Lauren Eaton (LEa), Lara Edwards (LEd), Ashley Flintoff (AF), May Gulley (MG), Karen Hanna (KH), Vishnu Kusam (VK), Elizabeth Lewandowski (EL), Sally Petrella (SP), Cyndi Ross (CR), Susan Shell (SS), Nicole Wilson (NW)

d. Guests Present:

None

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT - AF Reported

a. May Day for Your River Emergency Appeal had a final total of \$38,916.90

b. Installation and Monitoring season is in full swing. Keep an eye on the Rouge Rundown and our social media for opportunities to engage with your FOTR staff and our Rouge communities!

c. Rouge Gateway Greenway Phase II / Fort Street Bridge Park Phase II Update

i. FOTR and Mark Allan & Associates interviewed three general contracting firms on May 31, 2025. FOTR is working with our architects/engineers and Wayne County Parks to finalize the selection.

ii. We anticipate that construction on Fort Street Bridge Park Phase II could start in June/July. Construction on the Rouge Gateway Greenway Phase II will need to wait until the fall due to restrictions on when we can start clearing trees from the site.

d. Together Together will finalize Strategy Phase of the Strategic Plan by the end of July and will commence Implementation Phase in August

e. Lobbying/Advocacy

i. Updated "Welcome to the Watershed" information packets are being sent to legislators who represent the Rouge.

ii. FOTR is working with HRWC and CRWC to host a "Watershed Lunch and Learn" in Lansing for legislators. The goal is to introduce the Rain Catcher's Collective to legislators and garner support for the initiative.

4. BOARD AND STAFF INTERACTIONS

- a. Thank you to the board members and staff for sharing why their work with FOTR is important to them. It was wonderful to hear your stories and your passion for a clean water future.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- a. Agenda was moved (EL/BS) and approved.

6. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

- a. The March 12, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes and May 14, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes were moved (ST/BS) and approved.

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Finance Committee** CS reported
 - i. Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar, and April Financials Reports were moved (CS/ST) and approved.
 - ii. The finance committee will choose their top choice for auditor and send it to the full board to vote via email.
- b. **Fund Development** LE reported
 - i. The Rouge Cruise is our fundraising event for 2025. It is scheduled for Tuesday, August 5 from 6 - 8 pm. Sally will be the captain and storyteller again. It is anticipated to sell out as the boat can only hold 150 people.
 - ii. Myra is reaching out to board members for potential sponsorships for the Rouge Cruise.
- c. **Report Out Only** - See Board Materials for updates on the:
 - i. Education Program Report, Fund Development Program, Grants and Funding Report, Monitoring Program Report, PR/Marketing/Media Board Committee Reports, Restoration Program Report, Water Trail Leadership Committee/Water Trail Program Reports

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. None to Report

9. REMINDERS

- a. **Upcoming Board Meetings:**
 - i. September 10, 2025, 5 - 6:30 PM **[Virtual]**
 - ii. November 12, 2025, 5 - 6:30 PM **[Virtual]**
 - iii. December 10, 2025, 5 - 6:30 PM **[Virtual]**
- b. **Upcoming Organizational Events:**
 - i. June 18 - Celebrate with Friends: Annual Meeting and Gathering on the Rouge (Inkster Park)
 - i. August 5 - Rouge Cruise

10. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at (EL/ST) and approved.