

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 5:25 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

a. Directors Present:

Jessica Eiland Anders (JEA), Paul Draus (PD), Erma Leaphart (EL), Samra'a Luqman (SL), Mike McNulty (MMN), Dave Norwood (DN), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), Carol Snodgrass (CS), Susan Thompson (ST), Myra Tetteh (MT), (10 total)

b. Directors Not Present:

Alice Bailey (AB), Madelin Maher (MM), Gerry VanAcker (GVA) (3 total)

c. Staff Members Present:

Allison Eder (AE), Ashley Flintoff (AF), Karen Hanna (KH), Marion Martyres (MM), Leilani Russell (LR), Nicole Wilson (NW),

d. Guests Present:

Emalee Rodriguez (ER)

3. Items for Discussion

a. Finance Committee CS and KH reported

- i. May, June, and July Financials Reports were reviewed and discussed.
- ii. KH explained the variance listed on the July report for government grants revenue and salary and benefit expenses. AF and KH are working on budget amendments.
- iii. CS asked about trails and restoration expenses. KH confirmed we are waiting to spend that money due to delays and general timing of the projects.
- iv. There was a discussion about how grants are added to the budget. KH and AF are working on revamping the way that the budget is built and presented. They will be incorporating more structure on forecasting cashflow by month.
- v. CS suggested spotlights and updates on major grants.
- vi. JEA suggested adding a standing item to the Executive Committee agenda to discuss finances.

b. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT - AF Reported

- i. Report out only. Please see the board documents for the Executive Director Report.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- a. CS noted that August financial reports were listed in the agenda, but not included in the attached report.
- b. Agenda was moved (DN/MM) and approved with amendment to remove August Financials.

5. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

- a. The June 11, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes were moved (ST/EL) and approved.

6. Items for Voting

- a. Conflict of Interest Policy
 - i. The policy was reviewed by the Executive Committee. A policy has been in place for board members, but staff were completing a form once when hired. The proposed Conflict of Interest policy will ask staff to submit this form annually.
 - ii. Staff Conflict of Interest Policy was moved (EL/PD) and approved.
- b. Purchase of Property at Hix Road (Ducks Unlimited grant)
 - i. Working with Wayne County Conservation District, Michigan Land Conservancy, and Holliday Nature Preserve Association to identify and work to purchase and protect a 10.45 acre parcel of land, currently owned by Livonia Public Schools in Westland. Protecting this land will provide water quality benefits, stormwater water control and filtering, and it contains wetlands. It will expand opportunities for nature study and education. It has not been developed and requires minimum maintenance, which will be provided by Holliday Nature Preserve Association. We received a grant from Ducks Unlimited to purchase this property. Livonia Public Schools has accepted the offer.
 - ii. Purchase of Property at Hix Road with Ducks Unlimited Grant was moved (ST/PD) and approved.
- c. Resolution for City of Detroit Certificate of Authority (Vendor)
 - i. In the process of getting funding from the City of Detroit for Fort Street Bridge Park, we realized we were not yet a certified vendor in their system.
 - ii. A motion was made to approve the Resolution for City of Detroit Certificate of Authority (EL/MM) and approved.

7. CLOSED SESSION

- a. Motion to move to closed session (EL), Seconded by BS and approved

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. None to Report

9. REMINDERS

- a. **Upcoming Board Meetings:**
 - i. November 12, 2025, 5 - 6:30 PM **[Virtual]**
 - ii. December 10, 2025, 5 - 6:30 PM **[Virtual]**
- b. **Upcoming Organizational Events:**
 - i. September 13 - Industrial Paddle Trip (SOLD OUT)
 - ii. September 19 - Fort Street Bridge Park Phase II Groundbreaking (Detroit)
 - iii. September 27 - Bug Hunt Team Leader Training (Plymouth)
 - iv. October 4 - Stonefly Society Event (Ford Fairlane, Dearborn)
 - v. October 4 - Fall Native Plant Sale (Keep Growing Detroit)
 - vi. October 4 - Fall Birding Paddle (Newburgh Lake, Livonia)
 - vii. October 4 - Native Garden Planting (Canton Township Admin Bldg)
 - viii. October 11 - Fall Bug Hunt
 - ix. October 18 - Haunted Paddle and 2nd Annual Fall Friends Fest (Ford Field Park, Dearborn)

10. ADJOURNMENT Motion to adjourn moved (MM/EL) and approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm.