

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

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

President, Myra Tetteh, called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

## 2. ROLL CALL

- a. **Directors Present:** Jessica Eiland Anders (JEA), Paul Draus (PD), Erma Leaphart (EL), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), Carol Snodgrass (CS), Myra Tetteh (MT), Susan Thompson (ST), Gerry VanAcker (GVA) (8 total)
- b. **Directors Not Present:** Samra'a Luqman (SL), Mike McNulty (MM), Dave Norwood (DN), (3 total)
- c. **Staff Members Present:** Andrew Berg (AB), Sam Davis (SD), Lauren Eaton (LE), Allison Eder (AE), Ashley Flintoff (AF), May Gulley (MG), Karen Hanna (KH), Vishnu Kusam (VK), Marion Martyres (MMA), Cyndi Ross (CR), Susan Shell (SS),
- d. **Guests Present:**N/A

## 3. ITEMS FOR VOTING

- a. **Consent agenda**
  - i. The Agenda for March 11, 2026 meeting and the Minutes from January 14, 2026 meeting were moved (ST/BS) and approved.
- b. **Resolution for Heart of the Rouge Liquor License**
  - i. Moved (PD/BS) and approved

## 4. PRESENTATION

- a. Volunteer Survey Results: MMA Presented. [View the presentation here.](#)
- b. Monitoring Program Update: LE Presented. [View the presentation here.](#)

## 5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- a. **Strategic Plan AF Reported**
  - i. FOTR had a great staff retreat at the start of February focused on implementation of the strategic plan, decision making frameworks, and general team building.
  - ii. AF is working to build out project plans and dashboard in Asana with Present Part Co.
- b. **Finance Committee CS and KH reported**
  - i. December 2025 and January 2026 Financials Reports were reviewed and discussed. KH gave a brief overview of the reports.
- c. **Development Update AB Reported**
  - i. MT introduced FOTR's new Director of Development, Andrew Berg.
  - ii. AB is meeting with staff and board as he analyzes FOTR's current development and fundraising operations and how they align with the new strategic plan.
  - iii. He will have more to report in future meetings
- d. **Executive Director Report AF Reported**
  - i. Hix Road Property closing is scheduled for March 26, 2026.
  - ii. The June Board Meeting date has been changed to June 17th due to the Celebrate with Friends event scheduled for June 10th. AF will send an updated calendar invite.
  - iii. Heart of the Rouge: Our Ruby Anniversary had a host committee kickoff last week. Development will be reaching out with more information on sponsorship opportunities.

iv. Lobbying/Advocacy

1. AF was in DC on March 4-5 for Great Lakes Days with Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Coalition.
  2. Advocacy Priorities: See the board packet for priorities co-developed with staff and the Advocacy Committee
  3. Michigan Watershed Policy Network: This effort by the Huron River Watershed Council and the Michigan Environmental Council to develop an advocacy support network across Michigan to work collaboratively on priorities at the State level
- v. AF highlighted recent media recognition for the organization and upcoming organizational events.
- vi. A resume for a potential new board member was sent to the board for their review.

**6. BOARD COMMITTEE/STAFF REPORTS - Report out only**

- a. See Board Materials for updates on the: Board Development Committee, Executive Committee, Fund Development Program, Grants and Funding Report, Monitoring Program and Committee, PR/Marketing/Media Board Committee Reports, Restoration Program, Water Trail Leadership Program and Committee

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. PD thanked FOTR for their participation at the March On Event.
- b. Congrats to Erma on her retirement.

**8. REMINDERS**

**a. Upcoming Board Meetings:**

- i. May 13, 2026 - 5:30-7:00pm **[In Person]**
- ii. June 17, 2026 - 5:00-6:30pm **[Virtual]**
- iii. September 9, 2026 - 5:00-6:30pm **[Virtual]**
- iv. November 11, 2026 - 5:30-7:00pm **[In Person]**
- v. December 9, 2026 - 5:00-6:30pm **[Virtual]**

**b. Upcoming Organizational Events:**

- i. March 21 - End of Winter Paddle
- ii. March 24 - Science on Screen
- iii. March 28 - Spring Bug Hunt Team Leader Training
- iv. April 11 - Spring Bug Hunt
- v. April 25 - Learn to Paddle Event
- vi. May 9 - Spring Birding Paddle (with Detroit Bird Alliance)
- vii. June 10 - Celebrate with Friends: Awards Ceremony and Gathering on the Rouge
- viii. August 13 - Heart of the Rouge: Our Ruby Anniversary

**9. ADJOURNMENT** Motion to adjourn moved (EL/PD) and approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.