

**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 5:38 pm.

## 2. ROLL CALL

- a. **Directors Present:** Jessica Eiland Anders (JEA), Paul Draus (PD), Dave Norwood (DN), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), Carol Snodgrass (CS), Myra Tetteh (MT), Susan Thompson (ST), (7 Total)
- b. **Directors Not Present:** Ian Bernstein (IB), Erma Leaphart (EL), Mike McNulty (MM), Gerry VanAcker (GVA) (4 Total)
- c. **Staff Members Present:** Andrew Berg (AB), Ashley Flintoff (AF), Sally Petrella (SP)
- d. **Guests Present:**N/A

## 3. ITEMS FOR VOTING

- a. **Ratification of vote for elect Ian Bernstein to Board**
  - i. MM provided an update to the board about board development and recruitment.
  - ii. Motion to approve election of Ian Bernstein to FOTR Board of Directors made by MM, seconded by DN. Motion carried.
- b. **Consent agenda**
  - i. Approval of Agenda for May 13, 2026, meeting
  - ii. Approval of Minutes from March 11, 2026 meeting
  - iii. Ratification of vote to apply for line of credit
  - iv. Motion to approve consent agenda items i, ii, and iii made by DN, seconded by BS. Motion carried.

## 4. PRESENTATION: Fort Street Bridge Park site visit AF and PD reported

- a. Phase 2 of the project should be completed by the end of the month. Phase 1 opened 10 years ago in memory of the Ford Hunger March, and to honor the history (and future) of the community. The 1969 Rouge River fire was just upstream of the site
- b. Phase 2 allows people to connect with the river, fish and paddle
- c. The DNR owns the land and leases to the City of Detroit. DNR regulations allow for fire pits so there is going to be one at the park. Phase 1 was MDOT leasing to the City of Detroit. Marathon agreed to allow parking across the street from the park.

## 5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- a. **Executive Director Report** AF Reported
  - i. The Board concluded its tour and met for dinner at Giovanni's to continue informal discussions over dinner.
  - ii. AF notified the Board of a new midsummer break for staff for the July 4 week by adding additional holidays that week.

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

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

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. None to Report

**8. REMINDERS**

**a. Upcoming Board Meetings:**

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

**b. Upcoming Organizational Events:**

- i. May 16 - Pride Paddle
- ii. May 30 - Claude Allison Rain Garden Spruce Up
- iii. June 6 - Canton River Days Paddle
- iv. June 10 - Celebrate with Friends: Awards Ceremony and Gathering on the Rouge
- v. June 11 - Henry Ford Centennial Library Rain Garden Spruce Up
- vi. June 13 - Claude Allison Rain Garden Spruce Up
- vii. August 13 - Heart of the Rouge: Our Ruby Anniversary