

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 5:07 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

- a. **Directors Present:** Jessica Eiland Anders (JEA), Ian Bernstein (IB), Erma Leaphart (EL), Mike McNulty (MM), Dave Norwood (DN), Carol Snodgrass (CS), Myra Tetteh (MT), Susan Thompson (ST), Gerry VanAcker (GVA) (9 Total)
- b. **Directors Not Present:** Paul Draus (PD), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS) (2 Total)
- c. **Staff Members Present:** Andrew Berg (AB), Lucas Carlock (LC), Sam Davis (SD), Ashley Flintoff (AF), May Gulley (MG), Vishnu Kusam (VK),
- d. **Guests Present:** N/A

3. ITEMS FOR VOTING

a. Consent agenda

- i. Approval of Agenda for June 17, 2026, meeting
- ii. Approval of Minutes from May 13, 2026 meeting
- iii. Motion to approve consent agenda items i and ii made by DN, seconded by ST. Motion carried.

4. PRESENTATION: High Water Giving AB reported

- a. [You can view the presentation here](#)
- b. MT thanked AB for the deep dive on funding sources and how that has changed over time.
- c. EL asked about membership goals. AB discussed the historic definitions of membership for the organization. The goal is to clarify this policy and then set a benchmark for membership. AF mentioned that this was a point of discussion from the strategic planning process. There was more discussion on how membership is currently tracked.

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. Finance Committee AF Reported

- i. CS and KH are not at the meeting presently. AF will answer questions or if needed, she can reach out to CS and KH with questions she is not able to answer
- ii. MT inquired about loan status and the status of outstanding invoices owed to the organization. There was discussion about this matter.

b. Development Director Report AB Reported

- i. AB provided an update on sponsorships for HOTR. Ticket sales are now live, but we anticipate a pick up in ticket sales as the event draws closer.
- ii. There was a discussion about Membership retention and recognition.

c. Executive Director Report AF Reported

- i. AF introduced summer intern, LC, to the board.
- ii. On June 10th, AF visited Lansing with Herman and LC to testify in front of the House Labor and Economic Opportunity Committee in support of our LDSI funding request for \$900,000 to construct a multi-purpose trailhead at Ford Field Park in Dearborn. Representative Erin Byrnes is our sponsor with Representative Farhat as support.
- iii. On April 29th, FOTR received word from the MDNR that the Lower Rouge River Water Trail is now the State's 12th official Pure Michigan Water Trail.

- iv. Fort Street Bridge Park Phase II Update: While there have been some minor delays, construction is ongoing. We hope to have the project completed by the end of June.
- v. Rouge Gateway Greenway Phase II Update: Construction continues on the Greenway with access roads completed and pouring of the abutments for the pedestrian bridges in progress. Bridges should arrive on site in August. FOTR continues to work with MDOT to get the final permits for this project.
- vi. FOTR is continuing to work with Six Rivers to identify partners and funding opportunities for the Bonnie Brook site. Ducks Unlimited is submitting a grant request to NAWCA for \$250,000 with a 100% match from the Michigan DNR for a total of \$500,000.
- vii. Board Development Update: MM, MT, AF, and AB are meeting to develop a plan for attracting new Board members as we have a number of folks reaching term limits this year and next year. If you would like to be a part of the Board Development meetings and discussion, reach out to MM.
- viii. Advocacy Update: Plunkett Cooney continues to track issues/bills based on the Advocacy Committee's priorities.

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. September 9, 2026 - 5:00-6:30pm **[Virtual]**
 - ii. November 11, 2026 - 5:30-7:00pm **[In Person]**
 - iii. December 9, 2026 - 5:00-6:30pm **[Virtual]**
- b. **Upcoming Organizational Events:**
 - i. June 27: National Canoe Day Paddle
 - ii. June 29 - July 3: FOTR Office Closed
 - iii. July 15: Henry Ford Centennial Library Rain Garden Spruce Up
 - iv. July 26: 2026 Speaker Series: A River of Knowledge
 - v. August 13: Heart of the Rouge: Our Ruby Anniversary
 - vi. August 22: Industrial Paddle at Fort St Bridge Park

9. ADJOURNMENT Motion to adjourn moved (MM/JEA) and approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.