

Timberland RC&D – Board of Directors
MINUTES
1345 Monroe Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI
March 30, 2012

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Jack Enderle at 9:02 am.
- i. Directors Present: Jack Enderle, Linda Howard, Kathy Carter, Glenn Kebler, Bill Lasher, Neil MacDonald, Jim Maie
 - ii. Absent: Carl Paepke
 - iii. Staff Present: Kristi Klomp
 - iv. Public Present: Josh Zuiderveen

II. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Maie/Lasher to accept the agenda as presented. AYES: All

III. **Approval of Minutes:** Howard requested that minutes be amended to report the Bike Path project was associated with Montcalm, not Macosta County.

Motion by Lasher/Carter to approve the minutes of Jan. 20, 2012 as amended. AYES: All

Chair Enderle moved to adopt approved meeting minutes as a permanent record. Motion to adopt by Maie/Lasher. AYES: All

IV. **Review of Discussion - Financial Reports:** The quarterly financial reports were reviewed. Klomp explained that the monies from the USFWS, \$25,920, had been deposited this quarter, and that project expenses had been paid to contractors along with operational expenses.

Motion by McDonald/Howard to approve Financial Reports as presented. AYES: All

V. **Public Input:** None

VI. **Staff Reports:** Kristi Klomp reported that the Sustain Our Great Lakes grant submitted for Tyler Creek was not funded. Staff is currently putting together a grant to submit to the Wege Foundation. MacDonald remarked that Wege also has a Fall submission date.

Klomp reported that Timberland had worked with Coldwater River Watershed Council to host a Wetland Restoration Workshop in Freeport on March 21 in an effort to entice landowners to restore farmland to wetlands within the Tyler Creek watershed.

VII. **Old Business:**

Klomp reported that Timberland continues to get collection notices from GE Capital for the Copier Machine that was returned in December. The latest notices are in regard to taxes owed to Grand Rapids Township. Howard stated that this matter was taken before the township Board of Review, and that Timberland was exempt from taxes. Board advised that these notices be filed.

VIII. **Project Status Report:**

Upper White River- Fremont Area Community Foundation — Hamilton/Thomas. Klomp reported that materials were gathered for streambank work, but that the actual construction has not yet started. Funds from the Foundation are expected after May 1st. Contractor had informed Timberland that the Newaygo County Road Commission wants to remove the old bridge abutments in this section of the White River. Maie suggested a meeting with Kelly Smith (NCRC) and Shawn Kanouse to facilitate abutment removal. Timberland's administration costs are covered with this funding.

Little Muskegon—Fremont Area Community Foundation -- Jim Squires. Klomp reported that she spoke with Jim Squires to straighten out issues regarding liability and budgeting. MacDonald inquired whether there were going to be administration fees available to Timberland for this project. Squires believes that the project will come in under budget, but administration fees for Timberland would be minimal. Klomp spoke with the FACF regarding adjustments to the budget, and they responded that the Foundation is only concerned with line items that were

funded by the Foundation. Board agreed that contracts need to be in place with contractors at the beginning of projects to make sure that Timberland's administration expenses are funded.

Tyler Creek—DEQ-Streamside/Aaron Snell – Klomp reported that contract has been received from the state and that subcontracts were being developed for the subcontractors, with some negotiating over boiler plate language required by state. Lasher advised special consideration for the 'Davis' clause and identification of wage standards. Zuiderveen reported that he has been busy soliciting support of landowners. Swiss Lane Dairy farm and Zerbe have been very cooperative, others along Pratt Lake Drain have been reticent. Klomp reported that QAPPs were being written so that *E. coli* sampling can begin on schedule in May, and that the Oakbrook Trout Unlimited chapter from Chicago is coming on May 19 to do some restoration volunteer work.

Lower Grand River Fish Barrier Inventory – USFW—Streamside/Aaron Snell. Klomp reported that ASAP enrollment requirements were complete, allowing funds to transfer directly to Timberland. The first quarterly report was filed with the USFWS. A committee was formed and met to discuss progress on 3/26/12. The FOIA was used to obtain information on several dams which has been prioritized and narrowed down to about 100 dams. There is still some mapping and a report that needs to be completed, as well as data from Prairie Creek. Enderle remarked that this project offers the most for future project opportunities. Maieke suggested that the dam on the White River in Hesperia was a barrier with a 10 foot head, and that there would be support for a ladder from the local community.

Pigeon River--Frey Found & GHACF—Streamworks/Josh Zuiderveen. Josh Zuiderveen reported that he was looking for more funds to expand the scope of this project beyond that supported by Frey & GHACF. The DNR has expressed interest in increased stocking measures if there were more habitat. Josh plans to ask John Schultz from Ottawa County Parks for support to do an additional 20 sites. Ottawa County Drain Commission is supportive. Josh also mentioned that the Pigeon has a Watershed Management Plan but it is not MDEQ 319 compliant, so that sediment issues are not addressed by the state. Pigeon is in need of an updated watershed management plan and is in need of some best management practices to restore the hydrology.

Stegman Creek – Josh also reported on a stretch of Stegman Creek near Northland Drive with opportunity to improve habitat. There are approximately 20 sites at an estimated cost of \$25,000 to restore. The USFWS has a standing cooperative agreement with Timberland that they are interested in reactivating. Gib King, USFWS, would like to move forward but Timberland would need a private 1:1 match. Schrems Trout Unlimited might be interested as Stegman ranks 2nd on their priority list in that county. It was suggested that we could apply to Wege as a plan in development, along with a letter of support from the state or federal agency.

IX. New Business:

- a. Wetland Workshop – Klomp reported that Timberland assisted the Coldwater River Watershed Council in hosting a Wetland Restoration Workshop in Freeport on March 21. About a dozen landowners attended, some that live within the Tyler Creek watershed expressed interest.
- b. Klomp reported that she was working on a grant to submit to Wege Foundation, and that Timberland had been asked to contribute to the Thornapple River Expedition (scheduled for August) in the form of setting up a display or soliciting sponsors. Board members commented that community involvement was good, but that it shouldn't distract from the focus of Timberland's projects and fund-raising. MacDonald added that the GVSU Biology Department is encouraging students to participate in the Expedition.
- c. McDuffy Creek – Klomp reported that Shawn Kanouse expressed interest in a restoration project on this tributary to the Pere Marquette River in Newaygo County. McDuffy Creek contributes high sedimentation to the main branch of the Pere Marquette and is a noted Brook Trout stream. He believes there is funding through the USFWS for this work. The board discussed the merits of working with the USFWS on this project and the Stegman Creek project and encourage Kanouse and Zuiderveen to write proposals.

MacDonald/Carter motioned to encourage contractors Kanouse and Zuiderveen to pursue these projects and that Timberland would move forward after seeing a written proposal.

AYES: All

- X. **Office Needs & Update** – Klomp reported that there was a lot of organizational work that could be done by office volunteers but that the work wasn't 'internship' caliber. Discussion ensued about the appropriateness of using college students or high school volunteers, as well as seeking out organizations that scout volunteers in the Grand Rapids area. Howard reported that Quickbooks will need to be updated at some point in the future. It is currently operating on her personal license, but Timberland will need to renew the license when it expires. Klomp also reported that after installing new print heads and ink cartridges, the office printer, works well for small volume

printing, but not for large volume, or for scanning documents into .pdf format. Carter commented that HP currently had a decent printer priced under \$250.

Kebler/Maike motioned for the board to authorize \$300 for purchase of new printer. AYES: All

XI. Other Items - Enderle reported that he had been approached by John Hesse about hosting a fishing workshop for disadvantaged/disabled children. These have been done with groups of up to 50 children, each with an adult chaperone, for a three hour program. The children each take equipment home with them. It might be eligible for funding through the Natural Resource Trust Grant, requiring 25% match. MacDonald cautioned against overcommitting time. No action necessary.

XII. Board Comments: (3 minute limit) Kebler, Lasher, & Carter remarked that they are positively impressed with the efforts of the new Executive Director and the background she brings to the position. Howard offered that she will continue to provide service helping with quarterly reports and where needed. She also announced that a high profile community member, John Olson (Olson Tire Co.) in Mt. Pleasant, tragically drowned in a recent fishing accident when his waders filled with water in the Pere Marquette River. Carter reported of a recent accidental teen drowning in the Tri-County area. In light of these recent accidents, everyone is advised to take precautions to avoid this type of accident. Maike reported that beginning May 19, Newaygo County will allow for ORV's to operate on the roads within the county. Maike will attend the Michigan Lakes & Streams conference in April. Enderle reported that there is a proposal at the State level to reinstate RC&D's; there is still \$18,000 available in their treasury. The Michigan Association of RC& D's is currently updating their website and would like project status updates from each council. Klomp informed that she had been contacted and provided updates to the state association.

XIII. Correspondence: Klomp reported that we continue to get correspondence from GE Capital as state in 'old business'.

XIV. Next Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 16, 2012

XV. Adjournment: Maike/Lasher motioned to adjourn the meeting. AYES: All

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Minutes Approved:

_____ **Recorded:** _____

Jack Enderle - President