

ST. JOSEPH RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

MINUTES

June 3, 2014

The second quarterly meeting of the St. Joseph River Basin Commission was held on June 3, 2014, in the Elkhart County Public Services Building, in Goshen, Indiana. Daragh Deegan, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll call was taken and it was noted a quorum was present with the following members in attendance:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Daragh Deegan
Bill Hartsuff
Jon Roberts
Craig Chivers
Chad Kline
Ron Niezgodski
Paula Reinhold
Terry Gaff
Karl Kopec
Kris Thomas
Craig Williams

OTHERS PRESENT: Joseph Zakas, Legal Representative, Thorne Grodnik LLP
Jeff Boeckler, Northwater Consulting

Others in attendance are listed on the Attendance Sheet and made a part of these minutes.

MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2014

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the March 4, 2014. The following action was taken.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4,
2014 MEETING WAS MADE BY JON ROBERTS AND
SECONDED BY RON NIEZGODSKI. THE MOTION CARRIED.

FINANCIALS

Quarterly Report

Karen Mackowiak presented the financial report for the period ending March 31, 2014. She reported current assets were \$169,275.30, current liabilities were \$15,440.56, leaving a fund balance of \$153,834.74. Total funds received were \$51,778.57; disbursements year-to-date totaled \$67,209.43. As of March 31, 2014 the Comparative Statement of Expenditures shows YTD expenses to be \$63,170.77, leaving a budget balance of \$45,646.23.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT AS
PRESENTED WAS MADE BY CRAIG WILLIAMS AND
SECONDED BY KARL KOPEC. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of Claims

A list of the quarterly SJRBC claims and a description of the bills paid by MACOG were distributed to the Commission members for their review. Once approved, Ron Niezgodski, SJRBC Second Signatory Treasurer, signed the checks.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE SJRBC CLAIMS FOR THE FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2014 MACOG REIMBURSEMENTS AND FOR THE JUNE ATTORNEY FEE WAS MADE BY CRAIG WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY JON ROBERTS. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Budget Transfer

Sandra Seanor explained that in review of the third quarter statement of the St. Joseph River Basin Commission, it is anticipated there will be a shortfall in line item Insurance/Bonding, due to higher liability insurance costs. To avoid a negative balance, it was recommended that \$200 be transferred from the Audit line item to the Insurance/Bonding line item. There being no questions, Sandi asked for an approval from the SJRBC.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE \$200 TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM "AUDIT" INTO "INSURANCE/BONDING" WAS MADE BY KARL KOPEC AND SECONDED BY RON NIEZGODSKI. THE MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS

Basin Updates

Daragh Deegan informed the Commission that on June 6th the Elkhart River Restoration Association (ERRA) will auction twelve rain barrels designed by local artist. Funds from the auction are shared by the artists and the ERRA, which focuses on improving water quality in the Elkhart River watershed.

Karen Mackowiak reported this year's Indiana-Michigan St. Joseph River Basin Symposium was a great success. The 60 people in attendance gave positive feedback regarding the interesting topics that were presented. Overall, the presentations were informative and the participants were glad that they came.

An information flyer was distributed to the Commission members for the Wetlands Protection and Restoration Workshop, which will be held on June 12, 2014, in Ligonier. The Workshop will cover federal programs that offer technical and financial assistance for restoring wetlands lost due to draining or filling.

Karen announced the Making Lake Michigan Great Tour will be held on June 18, 2014. The tour, funded by the Environmental Protection Agency through Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funds, will allow participants to experience hands-on science as they sample and analyze Lake Michigan water. For further information or to register for the event, notify Karen as soon as possible.

Water Quality Testing Program

Karen updated the St. Joseph River Basin Commission on the Water Quality Testing Program for the Indiana portion of the St. Joseph River Basin. A chart was distributed that displayed the 10 sites that were chosen to be sampled throughout the year in Noble County. The testing would include general chemistry characteristic of other water quality testing programs in the basin. The first test samples were taken on April 23rd. The test results were satisfactory at all 10 sites. The data for the second draw, taken in May, should be in shortly. Data from the monthly test results will be reported to the SJRBC on a quarterly basis.

The goal of the Water Quality Testing Program is to establish a test base so there is consistency in the way water quality is observed over time. By tracking the data at the same location over a period of time, it would be possible to eventually do analytical works with the information provided. It is hopeful to increase the number of sampling sites, as additional funding becomes available.

Ontwa Township Wastewater Treatment Facility

Karen updated the SJRBC on the progress to build a Wastewater Treatment Facility in Ontwa Township, in Michigan. Since the last meeting, Ontwa Township has provided the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) with all of the documentation needed to start developing the permit. The review of all the information will result in writing a permit with specific limits based on the discharge location. As discussed in the past, there is growing concern that a wastewater treatment plant discharging to Garver Lake outlet and then into Cobus Creek will deteriorate Cobus Creek particularly as it relates to overall flow, temperature, and potential nutrients.

A citizen-led meeting was held in April, attended by both Daragh Deegan and Karen Mackowiak, at which time people learned of the potential treatment facility, what potential impacts it could have on the watershed, and finally strategized as to what direction could be taken to make sure the permit is not approved by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. People attended a May meeting of the Ontwa Township Board to express their concerns with the treatment facility. Karen attended another meeting with citizens from Indiana, a representative from Jackie Walorski's office, an Elkhart Chamber representative, and staff of the Elkhart Wastewater Treatment plant just to extend the dialogue and make others aware of the progress of the permit and the public comment process.

The Basin Commission was informed that while the citizenry from both Indiana and Michigan are against the plant for a number of reasons, their comments and actions will go no further than the local level, since MDEQ only takes comments once the permit is under the public notice stage. The Basin Commission should be vigilant of the permit process, review the permit when it is public noticed, and make comments should they determine there may be detrimental impacts on Cobus Creek.

NEW BUSINESS

2014-2015 Budget and Work Plan

Karen presented the Proposed Budget and Workplan for FY 2014-2015. A narrative of the workplan and a copy of the proposed budget were distributed to the Commission members for their review. The workplan and budget are similar to what was presented last year. It was noted that the \$10,000 for Contractual represents the Water Quality Testing Program for the next year.

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED FY2014-2015
OPERATIONAL BUDGET AND WORKPLAN AS PRESENTED
WAS MADE BY JON ROBERTS AND SECONDED BY
CRAIG WILLIAMS. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Staff Changes

Daragh regretfully announced this will be Sandra Seanor and Karen Mackowiak's last SJRBC meeting. They will be retiring from MACOG, effective August 1, 2014. Enormous gratitude was expressed for the numerous accomplishments they achieved over the past several years for the SJRBC. Ron Niezgodski thanked Sandi and Karen for their several years of dedicated service to the SJRBC and presented each of them with a potted plant. Sandi said it has been an honor to work with the Commission and appreciates the compliment.

Sandra reported that James Turnwald has been appointed as the next Executive Director for MACOG, starting August 4, 2014. Over the next few weeks, MACOG will be in search of a Water Quality Specialist to handle the St. Joseph River Basin Commission, as well as other water quality issues for MACOG. Daragh requested that a meeting be setup between the SJRBC, Sandi, Karen, and the new MACOG staff person shortly before their departure. Sandi agreed.

PRESENTATION

Pigeon Creek Watershed Management Plan – Jeff Boeckler, Northwater Consulting

Kayleen Hart, Steuben County SWCD, began the presentation with a review of Phases I and II of the Pigeon Creek Watershed Management Plan. In Phase I, a person was added to the surveyor's office to identify sites that needed such things as filter strips on waterways. Phase II allowed the SWCD to collaborate with many partners on several new and exciting conservation projects, both agricultural and urban. In 2013, the Steuben County SWCD hired Northwater Consulting—Jeff Boeckler—to update the watershed plan, continue work on urban and agricultural issues, and continue gathering water quality testing data.

Jeff Boeckler reported that Phase III of the Pigeon Creek Watershed Management Plan encompassed a number of activities. First he touched on the Key Findings of the Plan. It was reported that the watershed produces high bacteria and nutrient loading and a moderate sediment load. Next, water quality sampling indicated frequent exceedances in bacteria. Lastly, 70% of the lakes and streams were impaired.

Another focus for discussion was the unique difference of the Pigeon Creek Watershed Plan compared to other plans, by means of GIS mapping. The gathered data was not simply presented on a map, but with the use of the GIS, the maps illustrated custom landuse layers and provided advanced spatial analysis. As Jeff reviewed the information and statistics gathered from the study, he displayed several maps to help further understand the activity in Pigeon Creek.

Jeff explained that modeling was used to identify pollutant loadings and determine critical areas in the watershed. The GIS layers visually displayed the basin-wide findings included types of impairments, and use of BMPs to reduce the impacts including cover crops, terraces, blind inlets, wetland restoration, a septic system inspection and maintenance program, rain barrels, rain gardens

and porous pavement. Several site-specific recommendations were implemented including 9 grassed waterways, 8 wetlands, and 39 filter strips.

Finally, when monitoring Pigeon Creek, Jeff stressed the importance to track the implementation of the plan recommendations by setting milestones and targets, and to monitor water quality and track changes in watershed conditions.

Jeff Boeckler entertained questions from the SJRBC members and was thanked for his presentation.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

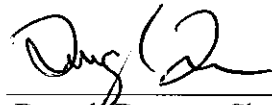
Michael Aylesworth, with IDEM, announced that he will be retiring on July 4, 2014. He enjoyed his nine years as liaison to the SJRBC. Craig Chivers is also retiring.

Joe Zakas credited the creativeness of the SJRBC throughout the years to the great leadership of Sandi and Karen. Their concern to advance water quality issues throughout the Basin is commendable, and their service is greatly appreciated. Sandi said it was a pleasure working with the SJRBC and thanked them for their time.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Basin Commission, the following action was taken.

MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY KARL
KOPEC AND SECONDED BY PAULA REINHOLD.
THE MEETING WAS ADJURED.



Daragh Deegan, Chairman