

Cass River Greenway Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2022
Vassar City Office 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Cass River W.T. State Designation Status

Bill Zehnder reported the application has been submitted and we waiting for feedback from the State.

Log Jam Maintenance

The W.T. Coalition is looking for a volunteer to be leader of a log jam maintenance program for the Cass River (a number of watertrail organizations have such a program). The idea is to have a group of trained volunteers, with the appropriate equipment, that would address/remove downed trees in the river that could develop into a log jam and prevent passage of paddlers. If you know of someone who is interested in being such a group leader, let Bill Zehnder or Bob Zeilinger know.

The group provided Debbie Powell of Cass City some suggestions regarding the removal of a small log jam developing at their walking bridge.

June 25 Paddle & Swim

The 10th annual Paddle & Swim event will be held on June 25th. Plans are similar to past years, with participants launching from Vassar and Tuscola. A gathering for refreshments and fellowship will be held in Frankenmuth's Heritage Park at noon.

2022 River Clean Up

The group discussed a number of alternatives for a 2022 river clean up. It was noted that we have now cleaned up the river from upstream of Cass City all the way downstream to Bridgeport. It was noted that there may some trash remaining in a section upstream of the M-46 launch, but probably not enough to organize a full scale clean up.

There being no volunteer to organize a 2022 clean up, we will probably not have one this year.

Other 2022 Events

The Great Lakes Rendesvrous will take place on August 19, 20 and 21, in Davis Park, Bridgeport.

The DNR Free Fishing Weekend is June 11 and 12.

There will be two sturgeon release events on the Cass River later this summer/fall. Dates TBD.

Tuscola County Parks & Rec. Proposed Launch

Robert McKay notes: A proposed park and launch near the intersection of Chambers and Washburn Roads in Indianfields Township is in the early stages of planning. Current activities include the County's 5-Year Master Plan development, and initial grant requests to fund the engineering work for a detailed site plan and cost estimate.

Will Green, Tuscola County Road Commission, commented that the road commission is considering modifications to the road intersections of M-81, Chambers and Washburn Roads. The park plan will need to be aware of this activity.

Cass City State Game Area Kayak Launch

Larry Kolb reported on the potential of installing a kayak launch in the Cass City State Game Area. Tammy Giroux has given **conditional** approval of this project and if it is fully approved, the launch must be a very rustic design.

Gene and Miles volunteered to help Larry and Tom clear a trail to the river.

Vehicle Access for Several Bridge Access Points

Larry noted that a number of people access the river at bridge sites on Dodge, Hurds Corner and Deckerville Roads. He approached the Tuscola County Road Commission regarding widening the road shoulders near these points since there is very little room for parking alongside the roads. After review, the road commission determined this was not possible.

Evergreen Park

Roger Ballard notes; A grant request to the MDNR Trust Fund has been submitted for \$300,000. The total project is estimated at \$687,000. Roger thanks Cass City, Tuscola County Parks & Rec. and the CRG for their letters of support.

Water Quality Improvement

Bob reported on a W.Q. project submitted by the Saginaw County Conservation District that would focus on Cole and Dead creeks. The grant request was not approved. However, The Nature Conservancy personnel have shown interest in working on W.Q. improvements in the Cass River Watershed. A follow up meeting has been scheduled with TNC, Saginaw County Conservation District, Tuscola County Conservation District and CRG. Ashley Rosilier and Gene Suoppi agreed to be CRG leaders for water quality improvement projects.

Next Meeting

Given the fact we have no river clean up planned, we decided to delay scheduling our next meeting, depending on the need.

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**Next Meeting: Wednesday, TBD 1:00 – 3:00PM
At the Vassar City Office**

Bob Zeilinger, May 18, 2022