

**Cass River Greenway Meeting Minutes**  
**November 6, 2019**  
**Vassar City Office 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**2019 River Clean Up Results**

Gene and Nancy reported on the very successful river clean up that occurred on September 21. Between 50 and 60 volunteers attended the event that was headquartered at Kappan Tree Service on Hurds Road. The group cleaned approximately 4 miles of river in Ellington Township, between Caro and Cass City. Gene reported he is waiting on an EGLE grant to dispose of several large commercial tires removed from the river.

The group agreed to schedule the 2020 clean up for upsteam of Caro. That is the last section of river between Caro and Cass City to be cleaned.

**Log Jam Update**

Bill Wheeler reported the original log jam is still open and passable although he would like to have several remaining felled trees removed before another log jam is formed.

The major issue is a second log stream downstream of the first. Bill is working with the Shiawassee Refuge managers to determine if we can access the river and dispose of the trees on Refuge property.

**Hoffmann Park Launch Update**

Modifications have been made to the head wall (lowered it by 2 feet) and the asphalt path has been replaced with concrete. The floating launch will be installed in the spring and be open for the paddling season.

**Terrain360 Project**

Bob reported that Terrain360 personnel will host a training session on Nov. 7 to explain how their mapping data can be accessed on our Cass River Water Trail website. Our website developer, The Greenway Collaborative, will be attending. We plan to have the mapping integrated into our website by the beginning of the 2020 paddling season.

**2019 Phragmites Plan Status**

Will Green, Tuscola County Road Commission, reported that the county supported treatment in Millington, Arbela and Vassar Townships. He will request Road Commission approval for treatment budget in 2020.

### **Sturgeon Releases Planned for 2020**

Bob reported on the two sturgeon releases held in August and September on the Cass, Flint, Shiawassee and Tittabawassee Rivers. Approximately 250 sturgeon were released at each river. This is an ongoing program and is widely publicized and recognized. Since volunteers are needed the day of the release, the Greenway group agreed it would be appropriate that we actively participate.

### **Cass River Water Trail Coalition**

Bill Zehnder reported that the Coalition has formally organized. Bill has been elected chairman, Bill Wheeler is vice chair and Jamie Furbush is secretary/treasurer. The first goal is to apply for State Designation of our water trail.

### **Caro Dam Discussion**

No report

### **Upstream Launch Kiosks**

Nancy suggested considering installing kiosk stands and signage at several locations upstream of our watertrail. The group discussed positive and negative issues. Nancy has preliminary cost estimates.

### **State Land/Tuscola County Parks**

Robert McKay reported that the potential acquisition of Cass River frontage is still active, but will be a long term project. The next step involves completing land surveys.

### **Vassar Pedestrian Walking Bridge**

Robert McKay reported on the project which is planned to cross the river just upstream of the Vassar City Launch.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 1:00 – 3:00PM  
At the Vassar City Office**

Bob Zeilinger  
November 11, 2019