

Cass River Greenway Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2015
City of Vassar Office 1:00 – 3:00 PM

7th Annual River Clean Up Recap

Bill Wheeler reported on a very successful clean up that was held in the Bridgeport area on July 25. 53 volunteers gathered various items to fill a 10 yard dumpster. A newspaper article on the event was published in the local papers.

Special Cass River Clean Up Scheduled – October 19

Daren Kaschinske is organizing a special river clean up scheduled for Saturday, October 19. Due to a lowered water level because of the Frankenmuth Fish Passage project, it was agreed to conduct a clean up from Tuscola to Frankenmuth. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to clean this portion of the river while the water is so low. Volunteers are needed. Contact Daren at the Frankenmuth City office.

Streambank Erosion Grants/Project

Tiffany reported on the implementation of the Streambank Stabilization project. Five sites have been identified and DEQ permits are in various stages of approval. One site to be addressed is in Bridgeport Township near the Fort Road Bridge. The other sites are located upstream of Frankenmuth in Frankenmuth and Tuscola Townships. The tree revetment work will be scheduled for September and October. Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks – the more volunteer time, the more streambank stabilization can be accomplished. Volunteers are encouraged to contact Tiffany Foco at Saginaw Bay RC&D, (email saginawbay@aol.com).

Tiffany also reported that we have received an additional \$30,000 from the Great Lakes Commission for streambank erosion control work.

Bridgeport Launch Projects

Bill Wheeler reported that the Davis Park project design is complete and he is waiting on DEQ permit authorization. Once received, the project will go out for bid. Bill is targeting construction later this year or early next year depending on the timing of the DEQ permit.

Bill also reported that he is waiting for preliminary scores from the MNRTF grant application for the Hoffman Park launch project. He is planning construction in 2016.

Vassar Launch Project

Robert McKay reported that the Vassar project is also complete from a design standpoint and a permit application to the DEQ is in process. Bids will go out after receipt of the DEQ permit. Construction will most likely occur in 2016.

M-46 Launch Site

Joe Toth reported that concept work continues with Spicer Engineering. A right-of-way permit application has been submitted to MDOT. A DEQ permit request has not yet been submitted. Construction is now planned for 2016.

Caine Road River Access Project

Russ Fall reported that the parking lot has been completed and is now in use. The next step is to clear a walking path from the parking lot to the river.

Phragmites Plan for 2015

Bob reported that three Tuscola County townships have been surveyed for phragmites and the survey maps given to the Tuscola County Road Commission for treatment. The townships surveyed are Millington, Fremont, and Watertown. Thank you Tuscola County Road Commission for your support, also thank you to the survey volunteers; Tom Lynes, Jim Vandavelde, Gene Suoppi, Larry List and Bob Zeilinger. Also, CRG volunteers treated 2 private properties and touched up three previously treated sites.

319 Implementation Grant Request

Tiffany reported on the status of the 319 Implementation grant request to the DEQ. A Notice of Intent (NOI) submittal has been approved and we have been invited to submit a formal, detailed grant request. The due date for the formal request is in October 9, 2015.

The grant proposal will request funding to address bacteria pollution in four key tributaries of the Cass River. This issue has been documented in prior DEQ water testing and confirmed in our recent CRG water monitoring project completed in 2013.

Great Lakes Rendezvous

Bill Wheeler reported on a very successful event held in Bridgeport for the first time. 25 camps participated and it was decided to hold the event in Bridgeport again next year.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 4, 2015 1:00 – 3:00PM
Vassar City Office

Bob Zeilinger
September 11, 2015