

Cass River Greenway Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2018
Vassar City Office 1:00 – 3:00 PM

NPS Water Trail Designation Project/Website Update

Progress on the National Parks Service Water Trail Designation project continues. UM Flint is nearing completion of the new, updated water trail kiosk maps and ancillary kiosk panels. The Greenway Collaborative Inc. has been contracted to design our new Cass River WaterTrail web site and is making good progress. We anticipate launch of the website in time for the upcoming paddling season. Committee work is beginning to explore sustainable organization options for the water trail management.

2018 Canoe the Cass with Tom

Outdoor writer Tom Lounsbury attended the meeting and talked about his plan to canoe the Cass River from Cass City all the way downstream to Wickes Park in Saginaw. Tom is a lifelong resident of the Cass River area and has spent countless hours on and around the river.

Tom is planning 4 day trips in total. The first trip from Cass City to Caro, Chippewa Landing is scheduled for Saturday, April 28 beginning at 7:00 am. Interested paddlers are welcome to accompany Tom. For more information contact Tom at tlounsburyoutdoors@gmail.com or 989-872-2398.

The second leg of the journey from Indianfields Park, Caro to Frankenmuth is scheduled for Saturday, May 5.

The third leg from Frankenmuth to Davis Park, Bridgeport is scheduled for Saturday June 9 and the last leg from M-13 Boat Launch to Wickes Park, Saginaw will occur on Sunday, June 10.

2018 Paddle and Swim

Bill Zehnder advised that this year's 7th Annual Paddle and Swim event between Vassar and Tuscola and Frankenmuth will be held on Saturday, June 23. Paddlers will leave Vassar at 7:00 am, Tuscola at 9:30 am, and swimmers will leave the 9000 block of Ormes Road at 9:00 am.

The participants will gather at Heritage Park about noon for refreshments and fellowship.

T-shirts will be available for a modest fee. If interested in participating or a t-shirt contact Lori at 989-652-9941 or bzehnder@bavarianinn.com.

2018 Tri-Bavaria Triathlon

Bill Zehnder advises that a major triathlon will be held in Downtown Frankenmuth on Saturday and Sunday, August 4 and 5. Saturday's events will involve youth events and Sunday will feature the formal triathlon events.

Volunteers will be needed. Volunteers can contact Bill at bzehnder@bavarianinn.com.

For more information see info@3disciplines.com/tribavaria.

August 17 – 19 The Great Lakes Rendezvous

Bill Wheeler reported this event will be held in Davis Park, Bridgeport Township. It will be the 36th annual gathering hosted by The Great Lakes Historical and Educational Association. Visit

www.greatlakeshea.weebly.com for more information.

2018 River Cleanup Proposal

Dennis McCabe and Nancy Barrios reported on a plan to clean the river downstream from our 2017 Cass City area cleanup. The Kappan Tree Service located at Hurds Corner will provide the headquarters site. River sections and put-in and take-out access sites have been identified. A July/August date is anticipated and will be announced at our June 6 CRG meeting.

John Scollon, a Cass City resident, took photos and videos of our 2017 Cass River CleanUp. He developed a great video of the event. We plan to post the video on our website.

Bridgeport Launches and Trail Head Grand Opening

A Grand Opening event will be held late spring to highlight the new Davis Park Launch, the Hoffmann Community Park Launch and the Trailhead site modifications.

Log Jam

A large log jam has been reported to be downstream of Bridgeport between Davis Park and the M-13 Boat Launch (near the Bridgeport Waste Water Treatment Plant). Portage around the log jam is not a viable option. Bill Wheeler has begun to investigate. To date, the cost estimates to remove and dispose of the logs run \$20,000 or more. A MDEQ permit has been issued for removal.

We are looking at alternatives and funding. Ideas/suggestions welcome.

319 Implementation Grant – Livestock/Manure Management

Julia Miller reported that the project timeline has been extended to later this year. Julia has studied the area and identified 25 high value sites for consideration. The information has been forwarded to the Tuscola Conservation District for their followup.

2018 Phragmites Plan

The Tuscola County Road Commission has proposed to modify the past procedure for our annual phragmites treatment project. It is proposed to hire a contractor to drive specified township roads and treat phragmites they find, thus eliminating the need for volunteers to drive and map their location. The following townships have been recommended for treatment; Juniata, Indianfields and Fremont.

Scollon Family Foundation Grant

Nancy Barrios coordinated a grant request to the Tuscola Community Foundation to fund the design of a new Water Trail map brochure. We have received \$500 from the Scollon Family Foundation. Thank you Dr. Ed and Dorothy Scollon.

WIN mini grant requests

Russ Fall, on behalf of Vassar Township submitted a \$750 matching grant request to Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative (WIN) for the purchase of a 3 panel kiosk stand for the Caine Road access site. We have recently been advised that WIN has awarded Vassar Township \$750 for the project. Bob Zeilinger also submitted a WIN mini grant request for \$500 to help fund the design of a new Water Trail map brochure. This request was also approved. Thank you WIN.

Tuscola Stars Recognition

On Thursday, April 19 the Cass River Greenway was awarded the Group Community Service award by the Tuscola County Stars committee at the 16th annual “Celebrating Tuscola’s Stars Awards ceremony. We were recognized for our efforts in cleaning up and promoting the Cass River over the past 10 years. Joe Toth and Bob Zeilinger accepted the award on behalf of all of the CRG volunteers.

New Cass River Canoe/Kayak Livery

Chris Sergent attended the meeting and announced the coming of a new business coming to Vassar. Cass River Outdoors, 475 Goodrich Street, Vassar is a new business featuring hunting and fishing equipment and supplies as well as a canoe/kayak rental and livery service. The venture is in the development phase and Chris hopes to be in the livery service this summer.

Cass River Outdoors will be the second new canoe/kayak livery business coming to the Cass River. Earlier this year Frankenmuth Kayak Adventures, 445 S. Main Street, Frankenmuth announced a livery rental service that is now open for business.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 6, 2018 1:00 – 3:00PM
At the Vassar City Office**

Bob Zeilinger
April 26, 2018