

**Cass River Greenway Meeting Minutes**  
**August 8, 2018**  
**Vassar City Office 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Cass River WaterTrail Website Update**

Progress continues on the website development. Graphics work on the watertrail maps is complete. Photos of the launches and trail trips are being loaded. We hope to have a soft launch of the website by September.

**2018 Canoe the Cass with Tom**

Outdoor writer Tom Lounsbury attended the meeting and talked about his five trips down the Cass River. Each trip was well attended with interested paddlers. Tom commented how the scenery changed as they paddled from Cass City to Wickes Park in Saginaw. However, no matter where they paddled, there was a sense of solitude and quietness with the ever presence of wildlife and fish.

John Scollon accompanied Tom on the entire journey and video taped the entire trip. John will be editing the video to create short segments, narrated by Tom Lounsbury, which will be posted on the new website.

**June 23 Paddle and Swim Recap**

Bill Zehnder reported on this year's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Paddle and Swim event between Vassar and Tuscola and Frankenmuth that was held on Saturday, June 23. There were approximately 60 paddlers and 3 swimmers. The Frankenmuth Jaycess hosted the arrivals in Heritage Park to brats and refreshments. The event will be held again in June, 2019.

**August 4 & 5 Tri-Bavaria Triathlon Recap**

Bill Zehnder reported that a successful triathlon was held in Downtown Frankenmuth on Saturday and Sunday, August 4 and 5. Saturday's events involved youth events and Sunday featured the formal triathlon events (swim, bike, run). There were about 250 participants for the Sunday triathlon. The event will be held again in August, 2019.

**August 17 – 19 The Great Lakes Rendezvous**

This event will be held in Davis Park, Bridgeport Township. It will be the 36<sup>th</sup> annual gathering hosted by The Great Lakes Historical and Educational Association. Visit [www.greatlakeshea.weebly.com](http://www.greatlakeshea.weebly.com) for more information.

### **2018 River Cleanup – August 18**

Gene Suppii, Dennis McCabe and Nancy Barrios reported on the plan to clean the river downstream from our 2017 Cass City area cleanup. The Kappan Tree Service located at Hurds Corner, 2799 South Hurds Corner Road, will provide the headquarters site. River sections and put-in and take-out access sites have been identified.

Volunteers will meet at Kappan Tree Service between 8:00 and 8:30 am for breakfast and orientation. The clean up will begin at 9:00 am and conclude by noon.

See [www.cassriver.org](http://www.cassriver.org) and click on the Events tab for more information.

Bob emailed details of the clean up plan to the Cass River Greenway distribution list.

### **Hoffmann Community Park Launch**

Bill Wheeler reported the park will remain closed until a problem with the launch pathway to floating dock connection is resolved. No solution has been decided upon at this time.

### **Bridgeport Launches and Trail Head Grand Opening**

Bill Wheeler reported that the Davis Park launch is operational while the Hoffmann Community Park launch remains closed. Finishing touches are being made at the Trail Head site and a ribbon cutting is targeted for late August.

### **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.

No funding sources have been identified. We need to develop a plan and funding sources. Ideas/suggestions welcome.

### **319 Implementation Grant – Livestock/Manure Management**

No report.

### **Caine Road Kiosk**

Russ Fall reported that improvements have been made to the pathway from the parking lot to the river access site. He thanked the Tuscola County Road Commission and the DNR Vassar State Game Area for their support. The kiosk and map panels have arrived and Russ will have it installed soon. The kiosk project was funded by Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN), Vassar Township, and Cass River Greenway.

### **New WaterTrail Brochure**

Jeanna Rogner, Premier Promotions Graphic Design/Marketing, has begun design work on a new, updated Cass River WaterTrail Brochure. This was made possible with grants from The Scollon Family Foundation and Saginaw Bay WIN. We hope to have new brochures available in a month or so.

### **Phragmites Control Project for 2018**

Michelle reported that Tuscola County Road Commission will fund the treatment of 3 townships (Juniata, Indianfields and Fremont) in late August/early September. Pending commission approval, next year they will treat, Tuscola, Vassar and Millington townships.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 7, 2018 1:00 – 3:00PM  
At the Vassar City Office**

Bob Zeilinger  
August 12, 2018