

Cass River Greenway Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2015
City of Vassar Office 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Streambank Erosion Grants/Project

Tiffany reported on the implementation of the Streambank Stabilization project. Five sites have been identified and data is being gathered to submit DEQ permits. The first site to be addressed is in Bridgeport Township near the Fort Road Bridge. The other sites are located in the western portion of Tuscola Township. The tree revetment work will be scheduled for August and September. 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).

We are also waiting to learn whether our funding request for additional streambank stabilization work will be approved by the Great Lakes Commission. There is potential for an additional \$30,000 in funding.

7th Annual Cass River Clean Up – July 25

Bill Wheeler reported on the clean up planned for Saturday, July 25, 2015. We will gather at Davis Park, located behind the Bridgeport Township Office at 8:00 AM for breakfast and orientation. Bill will issue a press release for the local papers. We will clean the river from Dixie Hwy to the Historic Bridge in Bridgeport. A grant request has been approved by the Great Lakes Commission and local sponsors been lined up.

Additional volunteers are needed – contact Bill Wheeler at bwheeler@bridgeport.org.

Visit www.cassriver.org and click on the “Events” tab for more information.

4th Annual Float and Swim – June 27

Bill Zehnder reported on the successful event held despite the wet weather. Eleven swimmers (3 of which swam nonstop from Tuscola to Frankenmuth) joined with approximately 20 kayaks/canoes.

Professional photographers sponsored by The Nature Conservancy joined the event to help promote the RCPP program. Photos will be made available to the Cass River Greenway and we will add them to our web site.

3rd Annual Triathlon – August 1

Bill also reported on the Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn Experience Triathlon scheduled for August 1. The event takes place at RiverPlace in Frankenmuth, and 400 to 500 participants are expected. The swim event is the first event scheduled beginning at around 9:00 am. It is a great event to watch. For more information log on to **3-Disciplines.com**.

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.

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.

M-46 Launch Site

Joe Toth reported that concept work continues with Spicer Engineering. Cost concerns are being addressed. He is hopeful that a design contract can be agreed to in the near future. Joe is also working on the MDOT ROW use permit.

Caine Road River Access Project

Russ Fall reported that the culvert tube and access drive across the ditch has been completed. Vehicles are already parking in the undeveloped lot – indicating there is a need for this facility.

Russ also reported that the DNR will issue a contract to clear and install a parking lot – work should be complete by October.

Phragmites Plan for 2015

Bob reported that the Tuscola Road Commission has approved funding for phragmites treatment again this year. We have prioritized three townships for treatment in 2015; Millington, Fremont, and Watertown.

Volunteers are needed to survey these township roadsides. Contact Bob Zeilinger if interested.

Upper Cass River Launch Access Sites

Gene reported that several sites were assessed as potential launch sites in the upper reaches of the Cass River (between Cass City and Caro). Much of this section of the river have high banks making access difficult. The two most likely sites observed were near Hurds Corner Road and near Tomlinson Road. Gene and Joe will continue to pursue.

Bob reported he met briefly with an Indian Fields Township official to inquire if they would be interested in working together to install an access site at their Indian Fields Township Park. Feedback was positive and Bob will follow up with them.

Summer Events on the Cass

2nd Annual “FrankenMudder” – July 18 - Frankenmuth

7th Annual Cass River Clean Up – July 25 - Bridgeport

3rd Annual Triathlon Bavarian Inn Experience – August 1 – Frankenmuth

The Great Lakes Rendezvous –August 14, 15, 17 - Bridgeport

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 2, 2015 1:00 – 3:00PM
Vassar City Office

Bob Zeilinger
July 16, 2015