

Cass River Greenway Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2020
Vassar City Office 1:00 – 3:00 PM

2020 River Clean Up

Gene and Nancy reported on a plan for cleaning the remaining stretches of river between Caro and Cass City not yet addressed. The primary stretch of river is between Forks Road and Romain Road. We will schedule the clean up for Saturday, September 19, 2020, which coincides with National Clean Up Day.

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 jam downstream of the first. Bill has received permission from the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge to deposit logs on their property away from the river. This will reduce the cost, because chipping or trucking will not be required. Bill is now working to obtain permission from the powerline company to use their right of way to access the river. Once that permission is granted he can work on getting cost estimates. We will probably have to wait until next winter to do the work. On a related note, an April 6 scheduled seminar on log jam removal techniques is being held and Bill Wheeler and Daren Kaschinske indicated they would attend.

Terrain360 Project

Bob reported that he has been working with The Greenway Collaborative, our water trail website developer, to imbed some of the paddling video onto our website. The plan is to imbed a two to three minute segment of each section onto its “planning page”. That way, someone can see a sample of what they will see when they paddle that stretch of river. We hope to have this complete by the beginning of the 2020 paddling season.

2020 Phragmites Plan

Last meeting Will Green, Tuscola County Road Commission, indicated he will once again request Road Commission approval for treatment budget in 2020. If approved, the CRG recommends treatment of Tuscola, Juniata and Indianfields Townships.

Sturgeon Releases Planned for 2020

Michelle reported on two sturgeon releases to be held in August and September on the Cass, Flint, Shiawassee and Tittabawassee Rivers. Approximately 250 sturgeon will be release 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.

2020 Cass River Calendar of Events

Each year the main events occurring on or near the river are posted on our CRG website. Bob requested information for this year's posting.

Caro Dam Discussion and Resolution

Jim McLoskey and Steve Erickson, representing the Tuscola County EDC, reported on the current initiative regarding the sale of the privately owned Caro dam to the Tuscola County EDC, who in turn would would work to repair the failed dam and restore the Caro Lake to its past condition. The group had much discussion regarding the potential of this action and unanimously approved a resolution for CRG support for the acquisition and repair of the dam.

“Camp Tuscola” State Land/Tuscola County Parks

Robert McKay reported that the potential acquisition of Cass River frontage is moving forward in a positive manner. The land surveys of the property have been completed and forwarded to the State. The Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Commision is requesting the acquisition from the Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority. This acquisition, along with the potential sale and repair of the Caro dam, would open up opportunities for expansion of the Cass River Water Trail and significant increased use of the river.

2020 Cass River Kayak/Canoe Race

Bob reported on the potential intrest of a Frankenmuth club in sponoring a Cass River kayak/canoe race. This may be an event that the CRG could support and generate interest and involvement from neighboring communities.

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

Bob Zeilinger, March 5, 2020