

Cass River Greenway Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2019
Vassar City Office 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Log Jam Update

Bill Wheeler reported the contractor was able to remove approximately 75% of the log jam near the waste treatment facility, thereby opening up the river for paddling purposes. However, since the spring thaw and flooding, a new smaller log jam has formed about ½ mile downstream of the original log jam. Bill is working with the contractor and property owners to address both sites.

Hoffmann Park Launch Update

Modifications to the launch will begin as soon as weather permits and completion is expected by the beginning of the summer paddling season.

Wickes Park Launch and M-13 Boat Launch Updates

Wickes Park on the Saginaw River is the end point of the Cass River Water Trail. Funding has been secured to install a floating dock launch similar to what is in place at Heritage Park, Davis Park and Hoffmann Park. Also, other improvements are being planned to make the park more useable for a variety of activities.

M-13 Boat Launch improvements are planned for 2019, including parking lot improvements and additional signage.

Potential Water Trail Expansion

Evergreen Park, on the South Branch of the Cass River in Sanilac County, is interested in participating in an Upper Cass River Watertrail.

Cass City is exploring potential public access sites for a kayak/canoe launches in their area.

The Tuscola County Parks & Rec. Commission is pursuing acquisition of Michigan Land Bank property along the Cass River downstream of Caro that would provide for a very desirable location for a kayak/canoe launch site.

2019 Calendar of Events

The Cass River Greenway website has been updated for the 2019 activity events. The first one scheduled in the 8th Annual Paddle and Swim scheduled for June 22.

Terrain360 Project

Bob reported on a major new project being planned in the Thumb Region. The project has been initiated by the I-69 Thumb Region who will hire a company to “photo map” portions of the Cass River, Shiawassee River, Flint River, Tip of the Thumb Water Trail and others. Because portions of these rivers lie outside the I-69 Thumb Region (ie. Saginaw County), the Saginaw County Parks organization has secured funding to include river and land trails in Saginaw County.

The company uses a camera mounted in their “boat” and shoots 360 degree photos of the river at 40 meter intervals. The photo data will be made available to us for our use. This would be a great addition to our website. They plan is to “map” the Cass River the week of May 20th. Local volunteers will be needed to float the river before hand to insure no blockages are encountered and potentially to accompany the photographers on their journey.

The plan is to begin the Cass River mapping at Evergreen Park on the South Branch of the Cass and continue mapping the river to Chippewa Landing Park in Caro. Tom Lounsbury will lead a team to paddle and scout that portion of the river prior to May 20.

The mapping will resume downstream of the Caro dam, putting in off Washburn Road and proceeding downstream to Frankenmuth. Russ Fall agreed to lead a team to paddle and scout the river from Washburn Road to Vassar. Volunteers are needed to paddle the Vassar to Frankenmuth segment.

The mapping will resume downstream of the Frankenmuth rock ramp and continue to Bridgeport. Again, volunteers are needed to paddle that segment and scout out the potential log jams downstream of Bridgeport. The final segment is from M-13 Boat Launch to Wickes park in Saginaw. Again volunteers are needed for that segment.

11th Annual Cass River Clean Up – September 21

Gene Suuppi and Nancy Barrios updated the group on plans for this year’s clean up. Volunteers will gather at Kappan Tree Service, 2799 Hurds Corner Road and clean approximately 4 miles of river downstream of Cass City. See our website for more details.

Tuscola County Stars Award

Gene Suuppi was honored with the Individual Volunteer Award for his dedicated work on organizing clean ups of the Cass River. Congratulations Gene.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 7, 2019 1:00 – 3:00PM
At the Vassar City Office

Bob Zeilinger
May 3, 2019