

Cass River Greenway Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2018
Vassar City Office 1:00 – 3:00 PM

NPS Water Trail Designation Project

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.

WaterTrail Access Site Signage

A full size paper copy of the kiosk watertrail map was displayed. Updated kiosk maps will be installed at each access site, thanks to a grant from Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) and various grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Caine Road Kiosk Plan

Russ Fall reported that Vassar Township is willing to help finance the purchase and installation of a kiosk stand at the Caine Road Launch. A grant request to Saginaw Bay WIN will be submitted. The kiosk panels will be purchased with funding already secured for the watertrail project.

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.

319 Implementation Grant – Livestock/Manure Management

Julia Miller reported that the project has not secured any commitments from livestock owners. The grant deadline is March 2018. Thus, the funding may need to be returned to the MDEQ. Michelle VanderHarr and Julia will investigate grant extension alternatives.

2018 Paddle and Swim

Bill Zehnder advised that this year's Paddle and Swim event between Vassar and Tuscola and Frankenmuth will be held on Saturday, June 23. It was suggested that more paddle events be promoted between all watertrail launches over the course of the summer.

2018 Phragmites Plan

The Tuscola County Road Commission will be considering a change to 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.

2018 River Cleanup Proposal

Gene Suoppi and Nancy Barrios reported on a plan to clean the river downstream from our Cass City area cleanup in 2017. 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 established by our next 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 and Nancy played the video for our meeting attendees. We plan to post the video on our website.

2018 Tri-Bavaria Triathlon

Bill Zehnder advises that a triathlon will be held in Downtown Frankenmuth on Saturday and Sunday, August 4 and 5. Many different events will be held over the two days. Volunteers will be needed.

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

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. He plans on scheduling this trip in the May/June timeframe, taking enough time to stop at the various launch sites to interview people and gather information for his articles and radio show. The trip is anticipated to occur over 4 or 5 days, at various timeframes. Tom is inviting our CRG members and the public to join him.

I will keep this distribution list updated on his plans. We would like to see a big turnout for this event.

2018 Quiet Water Symposium

Jim Hartwig reported that the 2018 Quiet Water Symposium will be held in East Lansing on March 3. It is a great event for interested paddlers.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 1:00 – 3:00PM
At the Vassar City Office**

Bob Zeilinger
February 15, 2018