

Cass River Greenway Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2014
City of Vassar Office 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Announcements

Charlie Baurer has been named to a new position with the DEQ. He will be the Saginaw Bay Supervisor for Water Resources Division – West, which cover the following counties; Iosco, Ogemaw, Gladwin, Clare, Isabella and Midland. The CRG thanks Charlie for all his support since the inception of the organization.

Vassar Launch Project

Brad Barrett reported that he presented the Vassar proposal to the Natural Resources Trust Fund in August and has since received a preliminary score. Vassar will respond with some additional information which should improve the final score. Pending funding, the new launch and park site will be constructed in 2015.

M-46 Launch Site

Joe Toth reported that the launch site plan and permit request has been submitted to the DNR staff in Lansing and we are awaiting a response. He will continue to follow up with them.

Bridgeport Launches

Bill Wheeler reported that he has received preliminary scores for both the Davis Park site proposal and the Huffman site proposal. His team will reply with some additional information by October 10.

Funding requests are also in process for the Wickes Foundation, McNally Foundation and Anderson Foundation. 2015 is targeted for construction.

2014 Phragmites Control Plan

Michelle Zawerucha reported that the Tuscola Road Commission has treated the 3 townships surveyed – Elkland, Novesta and Elmwood. Many thanks to the Tuscola County Road Commission for their continued support of this project. We have now treated 9 townships in Tuscola County and 2 in Saginaw County.

Additionally, four private properties were treated with volunteer help. Also, on October 3 Jerry Peterson and Bob Zeilinger met with the new owners (Blasius Inc.) of the “pickle factory property” on Ormes Road. At the

conclusion of the meeting the new owner stated he was appreciative of the information shared and very interested in establishing a treatment plan for the property. He agreed to keep in touch and that we could use this plan and project as a promotional piece for the CRG.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

RCPP leadership has been advised that their “pre-proposal” was successful and they have been invited to submit a full proposal for consideration by October 2, 2014. The pre-proposal included a five year action plan to promote conservation practices that are proven to reduce nutrient and sediment laden runoff in the most high risk areas across the Saginaw Bay Watershed, at a scale that ensures ecological results. Of importance to us, the Cass River Watershed is included in the Tier 1 targeted area. This initiative is a perfect compliment to our Cass River Watershed Management Plan.

Update: On October 3 Mary Fales announced that the final proposal was completed and submitted. Funding feedback is expected in the 4th quarter.

Watershed Management Plan

Fiffany has reported that the EPA has approved the Cass River Watershed Management Plan.

On October 2 Charlie Bauer, Jim Hergott and Tiffany Foco hosted a meeting to begin pulling implementation plans together.

Streambank Erosion Control

No update

Vehicle Tire Disposal

Russ Fall inquired about disposing of tires pulled from the river between organized clean ups. It appears there is a fee for this unless a formal disposal effort is sponsored by Misquitoe Control. Craig Kirkpatrick agreed to research alternatives.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 3, 2014 1:00 – 3:00PM
Vassar City Office**

Bob Zeilinger
October 3, 2014