

## **Grand River Expedition 2010**

### **Steering Committee Notes – Monday, October 19, 2009**

Attendees: Patti O'Rourke, Rich Bailey, Curt Remington, Jeanne Bowersdorff, Pat Conley, Pat Harrington, Rita Jack, Larry Arbanas, Gloria Miller, Gary Haynes, David Ringlein and Doug Carter.

Approval of tonight's meeting agenda & notes from the September 21, 2009 meeting

#### Announcements

Doug Carter had the 3' x 4' Grand River Expedition banner updated by changing the year to 2010, but a new design is also a possibility. The banner is used to attract people to our display booth at festivals, meetings, conferences, etc.

The next Upper Grand Meeting will be at Darryl's Downtown in Jackson Wed, October 21, 2009 at 5:00 PM.

The Lower Grand meeting is also on Wed, October 21, 2009 at Timberland R C & D in Grand Rapids.

Michigan Trailways and Greenways is hosting a session on water trails in Kalamazoo on October 28. Contact Doug Carter for details.

Charlie Parmelee will lead color tours on the Grand River the next two Sundays, October 25<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>. Participants can meet in Portland for breakfast at 9:00 or at Charlotte Hwy at 10:30. Call Charlie for details – 517-589-5237.

#### Regional Coordination and Local Hosts

Upper Grand – GREAT has committed to clearing the river up to Maple Grove. Charlie Parmelee will try to organize clearing beyond that.

Middle Grand - LOAPC is meeting at 6:30 PM on October 27<sup>th</sup> at Reno's Eastside. Expectations are that they will take on some Middle Grand tasks. Organizing is proceeding on the Grand Ledge to Portland and Portland to Lyons portions. Woldumar has offered a campsite, and both Diamondale and Old Town have indicated an interest in hosting a lunch.

Lower Grand – Five local hosts have already been lined up as well as campgrounds and meals for many of the days.

Liability Insurance - Pat Harrington and Rich Bailey are putting together a proposal to contact various carriers.

Budget and Fundraising – Jim Woodruff purchased 40 signed copies of Kit Lane's book on the Grand River. We cannot sell the book, but we can receive donations and give it as a thank-you. Pat Harrington and Doug Carter will decide on a suggested donation, as well as develop model forms and financial procedures.

Data base and survey – Andy Bowman has agreed to conduct our survey using Zoomerang. Pat Harrington will coordinate with Andy.

Water Quality and Habitat Assessments – The DNR has located some materials from GRE1990, and DEQ has provided us with water quality assessments from 1988 to 2008.

Rita Jack has recruited a student intern to organize those water quality assessments, and to identify data generated by stormwater working groups, Project GREEN, conservation districts, community health departments and other sources. Doug plans to convene these groups to identify needs, and develop a plan for water quality sampling and assessment.

## Brainstorming

### T-shirts and artwork

- Curt Remington presented 4 new designs for T-shirts, and suggested a possible “theme” of “20 grand years of ...” Rita Jack suggested that the words “stewardship, exploration, education and recreation” appear on the shirt.
- Could involve high school and youth groups by using the design to paint murals on buildings in riverfront communities.
- Pat Conley, Doug and David Ringlein will work with Curt to develop recommendations to present at the November meeting.

### Possible funders

- Possible funders were suggested.
- Doug Carter is creating a letter to present to funding sources-would welcome help.
- Doug is finalizing the draft budget, identifying what needs to be provided both locally and Expedition-wide. A rough estimate for Expedition-wide activities is \$50,000.

### Brochures and posters

- A half sheet with basic GRE information is available to pass out to anyone interested and can be obtained from Rita or Doug.
- When all information is finalized a brochure will be posted in PDF, so that it can be printed out locally as needed to save cost and keep the project “green.” Rich Bailey and Stephanie Guild will draft the brochure – ideas are welcome.
- Posters will be made available as the event nears. May involve youth in the design.

### Beer and Wine

- It was agreed that the beer or wine would be dedicated to a celebration of the Grand River, not associated with the Grand River Expedition.
- Michigan Brewing Company has invited Dave Ringlein to Webberville to pitch the concept. Charlie and Dave will identify other manufacturers.

### Videography

- Rita, Doug and Gloria Miller will work to identify needs.

### Schools and educators

- Jeanne Bowersdorff will develop a proposal will be written up for school involvement.
- Contact should be made with schools involved in Project Green.
- Intern could organize the information schools have gathered on the river.
- Lansing District library (13 libraries) theme for this summer is “Bodies of Water.” Pat Conley has contacted them about coordinating with GRE, and will investigate involving other libraries as well.

The next meeting of the steering committee will be at 6:30 PM on Monday, November 16, 2009 at Impression 5 Science Museum, 200 Museum Dr., Lansing. All are welcome.