

Grand River Expedition 2010  
Steering Committee Notes – May 17, 2010

Attendees: Gloria Miller, Rich Bailey, John McPhail, Liu Gedvilas, Chuck Amboy, Doug Carter, Pat Harrington, Pat Conley, Theresa Eickholt, Paul Yauk, Bill Kantor, Joe Lessard, Thad Vance, Robin Barfoot, Gary Haynes, Paul Rentschler, Jeanne Brewersdorff

Doug Carter began the meeting with an overview of the twelve day float for the benefit of the new attendees. He went over the structure of the organizational aspects, including the regional coalitions and local hosts. He further explained the purpose of the trip was to reintroduce the public to the Grand River as a resource and develop a sense of stewardship for the river.

Notes from the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting and the agenda for the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

### Regional Reports

Upper Grand & Lower Grand– Doug Carter gave a brief update on these two sections. The Upper Grand's wine tasting and silent auction fundraiser was a success. The Lower Grand has made progress on providing meals. It now appears that the temporary campgrounds may need to be licensed and this may be costly. Doug will be checking to see if a portion of the costs can be waived.

Middle Grand – Pat Harrington reported that there would be a riverfest in Dimondale, our lunch stop. After camping at Woldumar on Saturday night we will be stopping at the Brenke fish ladder in Old Town. This event should draw the biggest crowds. Paddlers will be able to choose among four stops to take a break between Lansing and Grand Ledge. Gloria Miller added that she and Pat Ballentine are putting together some historical information for the Middle Grand.

Rivermaster report – (by Doug Carter in Charlie's absence) Charlie Parmelee and Rich Bailey have contacted all emergency personnel along the route. Charlie is putting together the River Guide and maps with detailed information on each day's itinerary, including campsites. In addition, the Rivermaster will be coordinating the morning orientation with the local hosts. We will be buying 10 two-way phones for \$160 from Nextel for the ground crew and rivermasters to use. We may need older Nextel car chargers, if anyone has one. Summit Sports will donate 4 throw bags (weighted bags to pull boats to safety). They may also provide 250 safety whistles and paddles for pass-the-paddle ceremonies.

Registration – Although we have contracted with Trailspotters to run registration, there have been some problems with the online registration. Trailspotters is accepting the hard copy registration forms, which can be obtained on their website. Liu Gedvilas has stepped forward to manage registration and has been working with Trailspotters on these issues. Liu confirmed that we had 17 people registered before we had to close the site. He is getting together software to update daily hosts through our gmail account. Passwords are needed to access these documents.

Financial Status – Chuck Amboy distributed a five page treasurer's report, itemizing all the income and expenditures for the past five months. Rich Bailey announced that the Quiet Water Society had voted to contribute \$2,000 to the Expedition. The Steering Committee asked Rich to convey our gratitude to the Society for this generous donation.

FAQ's – A list of frequently asked questions has been finalized and passed on to Rita Chapman for posting on the website. A list of what to bring is also ready to go, as well as information on insurance and rules of the river. Chuck Amboy suggested that we add a production date to any information. Since there are likely to be revisions as we go along, we'll then be able to tell if someone has the latest version.

### Action Items

Promotions

Doug Carter encouraged attendees to take posters and brochures to distribute. There is a press release on the website, which can be taken to local media. He recommended a personal visit from someone in the community as an effective way to obtain press coverage. Registration should be stressed in any press contacts. Joe Lessard mentioned that it would be helpful to know who has already been approached and suggested that the Heart of Michigan Girl Scouts should be contacted. Doug stated that we should check with local hosts or regional coordinators as we were relying on them to spread the word to the press and scouting groups.

The Expedition would like to obtain as many proclamations from local governments as possible. We already have Lansing Township, the Governor, Grand Ledge, and Dimondale. There are sample ideas and wording on the website.

#### Education

The Tri- County Regional Planning Commission, DNRE, and MSU Fisheries and Wildlife and Institute of Water Research will be providing educational materials. We need someone to organize the material, have it printed or put on the website and put together displays for the Expedition. Displays will also need updating as we go along.

#### Need to Document the Expedition

We need volunteers to document and archive information. A goal of the Expedition is an 8 minute educational piece on the Grand River watershed including a section on the Expedition.

#### Evening Programs

We're looking for a committee to coordinate the evening programs –to set policy and invite speakers and entertainment (non-political).

#### Natural Resources and Environment

Rita is putting together a water sampling program. Each evening DNRE will examine and discuss the invertebrates in each day's water sample. They will be checking water clarity and temperature as we go along, but not doing a chemical analysis. Gary Haynes daughter Katie will have an evening program for the kids with prizes for all who participated in activities such as counting turtles or damselflies. We still need a coordinator to identify and generate interest from other government agencies, schools, etc.

#### Mapping

Although the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission will make sure that we're using consistent legends and scale in our daily maps, we could use help adding local resource information to the maps and updating them with non-Expedition campsites for use after the trip.

#### Marketing

Pat Harrington is looking for someone to manage the inventory of T-shirts, books, canoe flags and water bottles.

The next meeting of the steering committee is scheduled for 6:30 PM, Monday, June 21, 2010 at the Impression Five Museum in Lansing.