

Grand River Expedition 2010  
Steering Committee Notes – April 19, 2010

Attendees: Gloria Miller, Rich Bailey, John Riley, Eric Ditchman, Paul Rentschler, John McPhail, Liu Gedvilas, Chuck Amboy, Doug Carter, Pat Harrington, Charlie Parmelee, Rita Chapman, Pat Conley

Doug Carter opened the meeting by passing around the framed copy of Governor Granholm's proclamation.

Regional Reports

Upper Grand – Paul Rentschler met with Leoni Township to get an official variance for the campground. They will be having a band, but no alcohol will be allowed. There will be a fundraiser for the Expedition on Friday, May 7, 7-11 PM at the Bone Island Grill, Vandercook Lake. The event will include a wine tasting, a silent auction, and a band.

Middle Grand – Pat Harrington confirmed the boathouse will be available for storing kayaks while we camp at Woldumar. Planning continues for the Grand Ledge segment. The Governor has been invited to participate while the Expedition goes through Lansing.

Lower Grand – Doug Carter conveyed Andy Bowman's report. Significant progress has been made in obtaining donations for the meals that haven't been covered in addition to some half cost meals. GVSU will provide 2 meals. For the Grand Haven to Lake Michigan segment, they have been working with the Coast Guard on permits. The Coast Guard has offered to accompany those who want to go all the way to Lake Michigan. GVSU ROTC has offered to provide fresh water.

Financial Status – Chuck Amboy reported that the Expedition has received \$6,700. Two T-shirt purchases have been made and part of the donation from an upper Grand donor will be used to cover GREAT's insurance increase (due to use of chainsaws for clearing the channel for the Expedition). These expenditures are awaiting formal approval. Chuck went over the details of a spreadsheet showing proposed, budgeted, appropriated (authorized) and paid funds.

Fundraising – Prospective sponsors or donors should be directed to Doug Carter if they have a general contribution to the Expedition, and to the area coordinators with donations specific to that area. We are still looking for a \$2,500 sponsor for an exclusive logo on the water bottle. If we don't find a \$2,500 sponsor, we may look for smaller donations.

There is a "request for sponsorship" template on the website. It is also available through our g-mail account.

Tributes – We have received additional tributes from Lansing Township and the Governor's council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment - Doug met with the new DNRE. They have committed to an on-water and evening educational presence. They appointed a department coordinator for expedition activities. If anyone has ideas for educational materials or programs, let Doug know. MSU Fisheries and Wildlife will not be on the river as much as last time, but has committed to rally the troops to help out. The Drain Commissioners have also been invited to have a role in the Expedition. Local river groups are being asked to clear the river of tree falls a couple of

weeks before the trip. GREAT will be starting this process soon. Call Paul Rentschler if you can help out.

Mapping - The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission has volunteered to help us standardize maps from each of the regions (using the same icons and scale). These will be the daily maps distributed during the trip and will be part of the River Guide. They may also be packaged for fundraising purposes at some time.

River Master – Charlie Parmelee has been discussing communication needs with phone providers. He is considering 2-way, walkie-talkie and push-to-talk options. So far, Nextel has offered ten 2 way phones for \$160. We will need to obtain power strips for charging.

DALMAC will be loaning us first-aid kits. John McPhail will put together an informal first-aid course. However, the Expedition will not take on the responsibility of being the primary first-aid provider. To prevent long lines at water stops, Pat Harrington will look into finding a water octopus for the trip.

Events - We had a table at Adopt-a-River, but did not have as much traffic as expected. Greener Delta and the Hugh Heward Challenge are upcoming events where we can pass out brochures and sell t-shirts. Suggestions were made to add the dates of the Expedition to the t-shirt and to explore the use of different fabrics.

Registration - Online registration is operational. Chuck Amboy described the form. Paper applications will also be accepted. Additional size choices will be added for t-shirts. There was discussion about having a separate registration form for daily sign-ups after June 15<sup>th</sup>. Chuck and Rita Jack will work on language explaining the form change. Rich Bailey volunteered to put together the registration packets consisting of a registration confirmation, a waiver and insurance form, and a list of what to bring along.

#### Other Action Matters

A supply of posters and brochures is now available.

Doug Carter will be working on a press release.

Attendees were invited to add to the FAQ's section on the google site and brainstorm evening program ideas.

Sandy Carter is assembling a list of canoe liveries to provide participants without boats.

Documentation of the Expedition is needed. We're still looking for a videographer. At a minimum, we need to enlist photographers on the trip to supply photo disks.

We encourage the sub-basin rivers (Flat, Red Cedar, Maple, Thornapple, Rogue, and Looking Glass) to form trips to join with ours. Because GRE resources are limited, we won't be able to support these trips. Interested boaters should contact their regional organizations.

The next meeting is Monday, May 17, 2010 at the Impression Five Museum, Lansing, at 6:30 PM.