

2010 Grand River Expedition

DRAFT Notes from Tuesday, April 14, 2009 meeting

Doug Carter and Charlie Parmelee called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. The 27 participants introduced themselves and briefly described their interest in the Grand River Watershed. Doug noted that Secretary Pat Conley could not attend due to the death of her father – the group expressed its concerns and condolences.

The group approved the agenda with some additions, and the notes of the March 24 meeting.

Pat Harrington discussed the DRAFT 2010 Expedition Goals that he and Robin Barfoot had revised. Discussion centered around the need to clarify that recreational canoeists are encouraged to join the “core” group of paddlers for all or any of the journey. Pat and Robin did a great job, and will present a final draft at the May meeting.

Charlie led discussion on the format and timing of the Expedition. Building on decisions made at the last meeting, the group agreed that the Expedition would begin in Liberty on a Wednesday and end a week and a-half later on Monday in Grand Haven. This would put the Expedition into the major metropolitan areas of Lansing and Grand Rapids on weekends. Two sets of dates were selected – July 7-19 and July 14-26. Doug was empowered to make the decision based on avoiding conflicts with the Coast Guard Festival and other major events along the river in 2010, and a “straw vote” of folks interested in GRE 2010.

Rita Jack discussed the website she set up on the Sierra Club site. She also mentioned that Gary Haynes has set up a GRE list serve group on Yahoo that folks can join.

Doug talked about the need to organization on a “regional” basis, with Upper, Middle and Lower groups taking the lead on organizing and coordinating daily trips, which would be led by “local hosts”. Doug agreed to contact key regional organizations, and revise the list of “responsibilities” to reflect that change.

Rita reported that Sierra Club events insurance would not be convenient for GRE 2010 – too many rules and hoops to jump through. She recommends using American Canoeing Assoc.

Doug talked briefly about the need to organize committees to address “Partnership Development” and “Budget and Fundraising”. Talk then centered on how to recruit folks to help with all aspects of planning and conducting Grand River Expedition 2010.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, May 18 – 6:30 pm, Impression 5 Science Center

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Doug Carter

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