

Grand River Expedition 2010

Notes from the June 15, 2009 Meeting

Attendees: Doug Carter, Charlie Parmalee, Rita Jack, Pat Conley, Jay Hanks, Rick Berry, Allen Bryant, Paul Rentschler, Gloria Miller, Marion Norwood, Pat Harrington, Erik Larson

Charlie Parmelee confirmed that the format of the trip would be the same as that of Grand River Expedition 2000 and that the dates are July 14, 2010 to July 26, 2010.

Doug Carter noted that the DEQ is making a new display map in electronic form that will highlight towns along the way with the itinerary in white space. Doug has compiled an email list of about 150 people who have expressed interest in the expedition.

Functions of the various standing committees needed to organize the expedition were discussed. Tasks were identified for the following committees:

Rivermaster

- Plan logistics for a safe and enjoyable experience.
- Work with local groups and public safety personnel in advance of trip to prepare for possible emergencies.

Budget and Financing

- Identify an organization and/or regional organizations to act as fiduciaries for the project.
- Draft a budget and set expenditure priorities.
- Through fiduciaries, accept, distribute, allocate and track finances.
- Through fiduciaries, manage fundraising activities.

Communications - this committee will encompass the former Press and Public Relations and Awards and Recognition committees.

- Coordinate media contacts.
- Promote the Expedition.
- Identify individuals and groups for awards and recognition.
- Arrange for awards and recognition.
- Update the official Expedition website.

History and Education – previously separate committees

- Identify and contact individuals and groups who can contribute historical and other general information concerning the Grand River.
- Identify and contact schools, conservation groups, scouts and campfire groups to promote involvement in the project.

Environment and Natural Resources

- Plan and carry out (with the help of trip participants) water sampling and habitat assessment.
- Interpret findings.
- Provide information to the general public enroute.

Data Wrangler – new committee

- Gather process and preserve expedition data.

Regional coordination is proceeding.

Upper Grand – An organizing committee will be meeting in mid-July.

Middle Grand – A list of interested participants is being prepared.

Lower Grand – Committed leadership, but no report this meeting.

Although some of these tasks overlap those of the standing committees, the following projects were suggested for the Steering Committee:

- Brainstorm T-shirt and logo use.
- Locate data from previous expeditions.
- Contact Project Lakewell.
- Produce new River Guide.
- Help identify a fiduciary organization for general shared expenses.
- Create a data base of interested parties.
- Develop a promotional flyer.
- Develop an operational template for use by the regional coordinators.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held at 6:30 PM, August 17, 2009 at the Impression Five Museum in Lansing.