

Grand River Expedition 2010
Steering Committee Meeting Notes
Monday, August 17, 2009

Attendees: Doug Carter, Karen Mitchell, Rueben Green, Kim Byerly, Don Wyckoff, Lisa St. Clair, John McPhail, Su Butler, Rita Jack

Doug Carter reviewed the itinerary and purpose of the expedition for those who had not attended previous meetings. He added that since the headwaters are not considered a navigable part of the trip, the committee and upper grand regional coordinators are looking into a driving tour of that area. A dedication of the Verlen Kruger memorial at the stop in Portland is shaping up as well as a possible tie-in celebrating Grand Valley State University's 50th anniversary.

After approval of the agenda and notes from the June 15th meeting, the following announcements were made:

The GREAT River Cleanup is September 12th in Jackson.

October 11th is Lansing Adopt-a-River day.

The Looking Glass River Guide is for sale for \$10 at the DeWitt Ox Roast this weekend or contact Gloria Miller (517-626-6625)

Regional coordination was discussed. The Watershed Assembly and GREAT have been meeting and making progress on the Upper Grand. Rita Jack gave a report on the Middle Grand's first meeting, highlighting Woldumar Nature Center's possible involvement and commitments by the Friends of the Looking Glass and Maple Rivers to host the Portland to Lyons leg. The Lower Grand has not scheduled their first meeting.

The committee reviewed a list of tasks for the local hosts and outlined the responsibilities of the expedition's standing committees (Rivermaster, Budget and Financing, Communications, History and Education, Environment and Natural Resources, and Data Management). Local hosts will be responsible for conduct of one day of the trip, starting after breakfast with an orientation for that day's trip, the float trip to their city, dinner, camping and breakfast the next morning.

The role of the standing committees will be to support the local hosts and fill in for items that the hosts in a particular area may not be able to provide. Examples given of this support included the development of brochures and media announcements which local hosts would be able to print off and produce for their areas, registration of trip participants, budgeting, and help with float trip safety and logistics.

Pat Harrington shared a template that could be used as a guide for a group when considering the commitment to be a local host. There was general agreement that the local hosts will be much more successful than a central committee at identifying sources of support, the local people who need to be involved, and which aspects of the Expedition would be most helpful to their community.

Doug Carter presented a draft budget and finance plan which listed expense categories and possible sources of donations. Dollar amounts will be added as information becomes available.

Other points discussed included an estimate of the number of participants based on prior trips, timing of registration, the need to determine a cost before registration can occur, organization of contact lists for each region, and the availability of videos from previous expeditions.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee is planned for 6:30 PM, September 21st, at Impression Five Museum.