

**Grand River Expedition 2010**  
**Steering Committee Notes – Monday, November 16, 2009**  
**Location: Impression 5 Science Museum, 6:30pm**

Attendees: Bill Kantor, Gloria Miller, Larry Arbanas, David Ringlein, Murdock Jemerson, Gary Galbraith, Rita Jack, Jeanne Bowersdorff, Geneva ?, ? Foster, Win Stebbins, Pat Harrington, Paul Rentschler, Don Potter, Marilyn Potter, Charlie Parmelee, Pat Conley, Doug Carter, Emma & Richard Bailey, Gary Haynes, John Hesse, Craig Sparks.

Approval of tonight's meeting agenda and notes from the October 19, 2009 meeting.

Regional Coordination and Local Hosts

Upper Grand – Paul Rentschler reported that the camp area in Michigan Center has been confirmed and that they have a band for that evening. He has checked out the landing site across from Consumers for the next day in Jackson. From there participants will walk to the Farmers Market for the 2 hour expedition display and historical reenactment. Canoes and shuttle provisions are shaping up, but the cost is still up in the air. Planning is going on for a K - 12 poster contest and Paul has received a commitment of \$5,000 from an anonymous donor. Clearing the 17 miles of channelized river is still a major issue. GREAT and several other groups have offered to help.

Middle Grand – Lansing Oar and Paddle Club has volunteered to host days 4, 5 & 6 and the club has authorized up to \$500 for expense reimbursement of members who are helping with transport or for miscellaneous expenses. Friends of the Looking Glass and Friends of the Maple River are hosting day 7 as an adopted part of the Middle Grand responsibility.

It was suggested that emphasis be given to the overflows closed due to the Combined Sewage Overflow Project and signs be put in place indicating the closures as we go through Lansing. Murdock Jemerson of Lansing Parks and Recreation confirmed that Brenke Fish Ladder, a proposed stop on day 5, is a part of the park system and volunteered his support.

The next meeting of the Middle Grand planning committee is December 8, 2009 at Woldumar Nature Center (side green door on the ground level) at 6:30 PM.

Lower Grand – Doug Carter stated that Andy Bowman has three coordinators working on the 7 days we travel on the Lower Grand and that they have all but two days covered.

Liability Insurance – Pat Harrington reported that he and Rich Bailey were still working on proposals, but it's likely that paddlers will need to join the American Canoe Assn. for insurance purposes. On the last expedition, the cost was approximately \$25. Costs for 2010 are expected to be under \$50 with the cost to be borne by the individual paddlers as part of their registration.

Budget Fundraising & Financial Procedures – Timberland RC&D is our fiduciary. Doug Carter and Pat Harrington presented a sample income and expense statement and a draft of procedures for reimbursement of expenses through Timberland. All expenses must be pre-approved by the finance committee and reimbursement request must be accompanied by itemized receipts. Doug confirmed that restricted funds will be used only for restricted purposes and a motion was passed to thank the anonymous Upper Grand donor.

Database & Survey – Rita Jack explained that our database of contacts would be used for the Zoomerang survey that Andy Bowman was setting up and the results would enable coordination of involvement.

T-shirt Design – Pat Conley presented the design by Curt Remington which was recommended by the T-shirt committee. It was well received and no changes were proposed.

Beer & Wine Commemoratives – Dave Ringlein and Charlie Parmelee will continue to explore possibilities.

Water Quality & Habitat – Neither MSU nor GVSU has located past data, but we should be able to use the water quality data collected by DEQ since 1972. Although it is done for different portions of the river in various years, our intern is putting together the reports from 1988 through 2006 in order to measure changes in 2010.

Doug plans to pull in MSU, GVSU, Project Green and others to design a water quality assessment plan for the expedition. In addition, assessment plans will be developed for fish, wildlife, river corridor development, and riverbank erosion, etc. Doug, Charlie Parmelee, Rita Jack and Gloria Miller offered to work on the Natural Resource Committee.

Win Stebbins noted that the DNR and MDOT have infrared photos of the Grand made on flights from 1970-1980. Rita Jack and Paul Rentschler proposed a spring 2010 water quality survey to have as we set up displays in each town. A number of school groups do spring sampling, allowing time to chart and analyze the data.

Videography – Doug stated that although a production of a video of the entire trip would not be possible because of the expense, a goal could be set to document some of each section and edit it down to an informative 10 minute video for promotional and educational use. He estimated that, absent a volunteer, \$10,000 likely would provide an archive of the trip and the 10 minute video for the public.

#### Assignments

Quiet Water Symposium - is the first Saturday in March and we have been invited to set up a display. Dave Ringlein will develop a display. Volunteers are needed to man the booth. Doug Carter will gather land based photos and Charlie Parmelee will organize Dan Smith's videos from the past trip.

Draft proclamations for Governor, Legislature and Local Communities – Doug will send Robin Barfoot examples and she will draft proclamations by the January meeting.

Celebrity spokesperson – various suggestions were made and follow- up will be done.

Expedition Brochure – Need 2 brochures-one with the nuts and bolts for participants and the other an educational brochure about the river - how one can become involved, facts (Can you swim in it?) etc. Rita will have a draft of the nuts and bolts version ready for the January meeting.

Historic Re-enactments- Project Lakewell has committed to a few days on the lower Grand, probably Grand Rapids to Grand Haven. We will need to pay mileage and help identify re-enactors. Doug will contact Smoke & Fire to put a call out for re-enactors. Grand Rapids Tri County Museum will be involved. Kevin Finney, who has built dug-outs and birch bark canoes, plans to participate.

Miscellaneous – Jeanne Bowersdorff will be making corrections to the river guide. Charlie noted that Chuck Amboy has volunteered to work on promotions. There was a question about including motorized watercraft on the trip. Although there was some concern about safely accommodating a large number of craft, both motorized and nonmotorized, the initial response was that all use of the river should be promoted.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be on January 18, 2010 at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held in the Lions Club Meeting Hall at Impression Five. The entrance is the first door on the right as you pull into the parking lot for Impression Five, the River Walk theatre and the Surveyor's Museum.