



Minutes

Date: August 19, 2009

RE: Grand River Expedition 2010 Upper Grand Regional Planning – Meeting Notes

Attendees Present: Rick Berry, Kathy Kulchinski, Pegg Clevenger, Doug Carter, Ron Shankland, Jeff Heston, Linda Huthinson, Lori Fitzgibbons, Kenny Price, Jack Ripstra, Jim Seitz, Paul Rentschler

The meeting was held at Blackman Charter Township Hall at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting began with those present introducing themselves. Paul Rentschler suggested that the daily agendas for the first 3 days of the GRE serve as the framework/agenda for the discussion.

Day 1, Wednesday July 14, 2010

- It was noted that Senator Levin was invited to the opening ceremony in 1990, but that his staff and his arrival then dominated the schedule.
- Lieutenant Governor Cherry's interest in rivers was noted and it was suggested that he be invited to the opening ceremony. Doug Carter suggested that it may be better to have him participate in the closing ceremonies at Grand Haven, but that it was most likely that he would participate in Lansing.
- It was suggested that all mayors in the watershed be invited and encouraged to bring representatives of their on local media/press. Doug Carter said that he thought the press is likely to simply wait until the Expedition reaches their own communities.
- The idea of a headwaters Auto Tour was discussed further:
 - Could we get buses instead of individual cars?
 - Could we end the tour at a local winery?
 - This last question resulted in discussion of whether a local brewery and/or winery might name/label a special wine or beer for the Expedition. Doug agreed to investigate beer labeling and Kenny Price agreed to speak with contacts at local vineyards.
 - Doug Carter agreed to serve on a subcommittee to further brainstorm activities and locations for a headwaters tour. A number of possible locations/activities were suggested, including:
 - One can see Grand Lake from the dam at Mirror Lake (Jack Ripstra)
 - Kathy Kulchinski said she would talk with Scott TenBrink of the Jackson Fitness Council about the possibility of a bus.
 - MacCready Reserve has put on headwater walks, there are fens and other unique features at the Reserve. Jim Seitz will talk with his wife Janet (MSU Extension) about their experiences and suggestions.
 - We could involve Audubon to point out birding sites (PeggClevenger)
 - The Dahlem Center
 - Ella Sharpe Park/Museum
 - It was suggested that the Jackson County Conservation District (JCCD) might be able to point out and discuss conservation practices implemented in the headwaters area.



- Doug Carter suggested that we might even have 2 tours; one related to the natural features of the headwaters and another focused on history. He stated that in the past (1990 & 2000) as many as 200 people have attended the opening ceremonies.
- Kenny Price suggested a cannon for the opening ceremony.
- Kathy Kulchinski agreed to contact local bands, Act 3 and Bigfoot Bob to play at Michigan Center the 1st night.
- Rentschler reported that Geoff Snyder, the Jackson County Drain Commissioner could not attend tonight's meeting, but had received the following commitments:
 - Todd Britain, Leoni Township Supervisor, had said that the Township would waive their restrictions on camping so that the 1st night could be spent at Leoni Township Park
 - The Michigan Center Lions' Club will provide both dinner on the 1st evening and breakfast the following morning.
 - All American Porta-Johns would provide portable toilets for the events in Liberty Township, Michigan Center, and the City of Jackson.
- In a meeting earlier in the day, Geoff had noted that thanks and acknowledgement of these donations would be important, as the Lions' Club felt they were not adequately thanked following the 200 event.

Day 2, Thursday July 15, 2010: Michigan Center to Youth Haven Ranch (?), Rives Township

- We still need to contact the new owners of the store in Michigan Center for permission to launch behind the store.
- Someone suggested we have a bugler play reveille to wake everyone up in the morning(s).
- It was agreed that the Farmers Market was a better mid-day stopping point (vs Trail Street) and location for displays to catch lunch-time crowds in downtown Jackson on Day 2.

Day 3, July 16, 2010: Youth haven Ranch (?) to City of Eaton Rapids

- Not discussed. Further planning for Day 3 to be discussed at our next meeting.

AllDays/General Notes

- Discussion of a band for the 1st evening prompted the idea that we should ask local artists (Armory Arts tenants and others) to write a song for the Expedition (perhaps other river inspired art as well).
- The GRE2010 Steering Committee will develop a brochure to be posted on the website. It will be up to individual groups to print hard copies they wish to distribute.
- The questions was raised whether local groups might have to front some seed money for some items until registrations and donations begin to come in.
- It was suggested that we could set up geocaching sites along the length of the river ala the Huron River.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted 09/15/09

Paul Rentschler