

Minutes of the Michiana Watershed

April 13, 2010

Members Present: Jonathon Geels, Simeon Geels, Ken Sauer, Henry Scott and Don Sporleder

Officers for Next Two Years:

The current officers have agreed to continue in their current capacities for another two years, and there was unanimous approval of this slate of candidates.

Updates:

National Landscape Architecture Month: Jonathon has organized local events, including a river cleanup, to celebrate NLAM in the Michiana area for the month of April. He has created a flyer with event highlights.

River Map: Karla Cruise is soliciting information and suggestions for a revised Paddler's Guide, under grant from Arcelor-Mittal. First draft expected at end of August.

Paddlefest: Ken presented updates from information he has received from Ted Beatty (who is currently out of the country on sabbatical). Paddlefest 2010 will be on June 27th.

Green Weekend: The WNIT Green Expo and the DTSB EcoFest will be combined this year into a "Green Weekend" on June 11 and 12th. We briefly discussed the possibility of manning a both during the event. Note: sponsor and exhibitor registration deadline is June 4.

Trails:

Ken provided updates on several trail projects.

- **"Missing Link":** The city has been taking steps to continue the South Bend river walk to the west past the IUSB campus and has sought public input. Notably, one option would involve closing portions of Northside Blvd to manage traffic in an effort to keep the trail as close to the river as possible. There appears to be strong neighbor support in the areas that would be directly affected.
- **LaSalle Trail:** The Cleveland Rd. crossing continues to be a major obstacle for further trail progress. Traffic measurements have been made, and bids are being solicited to complete a detailed traffic study to explore options.
 - Chris Dressel, from the mayors office, recently wrote to the Sisters of Holy Cross to open a dialog about possible routes for continuing the trail south, potentially through Holy Cross. Their response so far has been that they want to remain private and not facilitate trail access.
 - The South Bend Tribune ran an article on March 23rd announcing that the Niles city council formally endorses the North Central Indiana / South Western Michigan trail project.

Reminders of Upcoming events:

- April 17: Leeper Park cleanup
- April 22: Earth Day

- April 23: Arbor Day fest in Roseland
- April 25: Roseland kite-flying contest
- April 30: Design charrette at Botanical Conservatory
- June 11/12: Green Weekend in South Bend (Howard Park and Century Center): MW was present last year (Ted with kayak). Need volunteer(s)