

Guardians of the West Fork Teleconference June 17, 2020 6:30 PM

President John Ciesla brought the meeting to order via Zoom at 6:30 PM. Those attending via Zoom were John Ciesla, Martin Christ, Lisa deGruyter, Robert Helfer, Sally Egan, Randy Kesling. John Ciesla moved and Lisa deGruyter seconded that the minutes of the March meeting be approved. Motion passed. John presented the financial report as of 5/31/20: Regular Account - \$8,945; Water Trail Acct. - \$9,676; Site 9 - \$82,636; OSM - \$2,209. The Guardians' "Go Daddy" subscription is ending. A 5-year renewal costs \$480, but they had already charged us \$200 plus for the year.

Discussion was held on how to organize paddling events in light of Covid-19. Lisa deGruyter suggested that we don't do shuttles at this time. Events could be announced on our facebook page. An email list of paddlers may be helpful as well as a Google group (groups.google.com). If kayaks are needed, Allen from Day Trippin would be helpful. Suggestions should be emailed to John.

Plan Going Forward – Lisa deGruyter suggested that we identify broad goals and smart objectives. A broad goal would be that the West Fork River will be clean. Then objectives would be developed to attain that goal, such as, trash being removed and developing a plan to track pollution sources. Identifying community stakeholders, such as, water trail and rail trail people is important and pulling these stakeholders into the process with continued involvement. Lewis County, a Blueprint Community, is wanting to connect a rail trail with the Harrison Co. rail trail. State agencies, which Lisa has identified, are an important component in accomplishing goals. How do we best proceed? What exact methods would people be happy with? Martin Christ has webinar computer access. It was suggested that we try to set up documents and google groups. In an email group, participants can talk back and forth. People can make editable documents on google docs.

Events – Everything has been cancelled because of the pandemic.

Lambert's Run Site 7 – Paint mixing experiment at the top of Pond One. Two, three, or four people are needed. July 2nd and 3rd are possible good dates.

Shinnston Boat Access Site Development - Dave Wellman from the DNR stated that the DNR would fund the project. DEP money will not have to be used and a one year extension can be requested. A permit from the DOH is required.

New rounds of AGO money is available for non-point source projects (pollution that doesn't come out of a pipe). Examples are: sediment washing off roads, out-of-town septic problems, abandoned mines, excessive fertilizer, Lambert 2 & 3. Money can be used for monitoring, rain gardens, vegetation, invasive plants removal.

New Business – Martin Christ will send out an invitation for watershed network discussion - wwvn@googlegroups.com. Members of the group can get a daily digest of watershed discussions. The WV Rivers' Coalition is considering having a Virtual Water Celebration Day. They have a large number of resources on their website. Randy Kesling is doing river monitoring in Buckhannon. River access at Kincheloe needs earthwork done to improve the steep embankment. River access is also needed at Broad Oaks.

The next meeting will be held on July 15th, possibly via Zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 8 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Egan, Recording Secretary