



Minutes

Date: July 15, 2009

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

Attendees Present: Dan Hunt, Jeff Heston, Jack Ripstra, Glenn Chinavare, Rick Berry, Kenny Price, Kathy Kulchinski, Doug Carter, Russell Bodell, Joe Schuada, Ken Gaiser, Geoff Snyder, Brad Whaley, Cecilia Govrik, Lisa St. Clair, Dennis Dack, Pat Searing, Jim Seitz, Charles Parmelee, Nancy Hawley, Paul Rentschler

The meeting was held in the Rose Room at Daryl's Restaurant at 7:00 p.m.

Doug Carter provided an overview of the goals and objectives for the Expedition, describing how previous events had been conducted in 1990 and 2000 and the differences for 2010 given the lack of dedicated funding, General Motors logistical support, and 501(c)(3) nonprofit status.

We briefly reviewed the list of task and volunteer responsibilities then began working our way through the itinerary for Days 1-3 to identify any changes and/or contacts that need to be made.

The following items were discussed:

Day 1, Wednesday July 14, 2010

- Opening ceremonies on Day 1 are tentatively planned near the dam and fire hall in Liberty Township.
- Jim Woodruff wishes to have water from various Grand River tributaries to pour over the "headwaters rock" in Liberty Township for the opening ceremonies.
- Charlie Parmelee suggested that a similar ceremony may be held at the Verlen Krueger statue site further downstream.
- Charlie wishes to facilitate side tributary trips joining the main expedition wherever possible.
- It was noted that July water levels would make paddling upstream of Liberty Township difficult.
- A possible Auto Tour of the headwaters area was discussed.

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

- We will need to contact the new owners of the store in Michigan Center for permission to launch behind the store.
- Kenny Price suggested staging an historic reenactment of the founding of the City of Jackson with the lunch take-out at the Trail Street Bridge. Other historic and future points of interest the Riverwalk and Armory Arts complex, and the history of the cap in Jackson.
- There was still some debate about whether Trail Street (the proposed site of a re-enactment) or the Farmers Market are best for attracting a lunch-time crowd in the City of Jackson.
- We may need to contact Consumers for access.
- There are a number of Audubon sanctuaries along the way and Audubon may be able/willing to provide interpretive talks.
- This is a long day, but people will need to be responsible for their own shuttles.



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

- Russe Bodell, Grand Adventures Canoe and Kayak Livery, offered the free use of his livery's canoes, paddles, PFDs, and shuttle service within the stretch of river covered by his rental business (Day 3).
- **Further planning for Day 3 to be discussed at our next meeting.**

AllDays/General Notes

- For meals/donations assume approximately 100 people at any time on the trip
- We will need to establish a registration cutoff approximately 1 month prior to the event to finalize headcounts for meals, etc.
- The GRE 2010 Steering Committee is looking into a centralized on-line registration system.
- We will need to arrange for a gear/luggage truck to carry gear to each night's camping location.
- The Lansing Area Paddle Club (LAPC) holds an event in March in the Lansing Pavilion – a good opportunity to advertise the event.
- We will need to notify local law enforcement and emergency personnel of each day's itinerary.
- We will need to check with County Road Commissions to make sure there is no bridge construction scheduled.

To Do List:

- Dan Hunt and Geoff Snyder will contact the Michigan Center Lions Club re: camping/meal arrangements for the 1st night, morning of Day 2.
- Dan and Geoff will also make arrangements for porta-johns
- Paul Rentschler will follow up with Leoni Township re: use of Township Park
- Kenny Price will talk with the Jackson Historical Society about a re-enactment of Jackson European settlement for lunch break on Day 2.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted 07/20/09
Paul Rentschler

NOTE: The next Upper Grand River regional planning meeting for GRE 2010 will be 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday August 19 at the Blackman Charter Township Hall, 1990 W. Parnall Road, Jackson.