

Healthy Pine River

March 14, 2024

7:00 pm

Call to Order: Gary Rayburn

Approval of Minutes: Doug/Sara

Financial Report: Opening Balance: \$29,152.63

Closing Balance: \$333,459.07 outstanding: Triterra bill and Monies for Alma College Summer program

Brittany: Bill HB 205/SB663 introduced into the MI Senate 2/20/2024. HPR supports bill.

This bill will remove provisions that prohibit EGLE from creating any rules under Part 31 of the Natural Resource and Environmental Act (Part 31 gives EGLE the authority to protect and conserve surface/ground water in Michigan).

Highland Festival: Does HPR want a presence? Float, HPR Booth. Festival is Memorial weekend

Guest Speaker: Logan Banning, Farm Bill Biologist, Gratiot Conservation District- Filter Strips. Logan primary job is provide wildlife habitat restoration assistance to private land owners across Gratiot, Clinton and Saginaw Counties. Currently writes habitat grants - in Gratiot County working on pollinator habitat. Prior experience includes water quality analyst. Filter strips are used to enhance water quality and provide habitat for wildlife. Basically filter strips are a strip of vegetation that traps sediment, nutrients and manure from running into water. Many types of and benefits to strips. Cool season grasses are used to trap sediment, as a hay crop and around as food for deer rather than deer eating crops. Warm season grasses, switch grasses good for wildlife as well as their deep roots filtering nutrients. Ideal filter strip is Riparian Forrest Buffer. Multiple age, range, type of grasses, trees. Filter strips provide homes for pheasants, turkeys, deer, ducks and more. Do they work? Study in Iowa showed a three meter filter strip (warm season grasses) can prevent 69% sediment from runoff, while a 6 meter strip prevent 78% of potential runoff. Cool grass barriers are a little less at 62% and 75%. Sediment carries nutrients like phosphorus, nitrogen which are additionally trapped. Other studies have shown strips beneficial. Individuals along shorelines can plant grasses, plants, trees for restoration. Info available on Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council website. Strips do cost, programs available to help with those cost. Grasses capture nutrients and utilize it for their growth. Management of strips -generally let grow tall for a couple years, then mow or burn (mid-July-Aug). Need to spot treat invasive species. Active discussion

EGLE Watershed Council Grant: 3 parts: Septic (continue with rural guidance), Landowners (meeting with farmers won which best management practices they'd like to see implemented), Outreach (schools, Townships for providing septic info, service organizations).

Working HPR messaging- getting word about what's going on with HPR as well as statewide environment agencies.

Good of the Cause: Earth Day- April 20th in St Louis City Hall Parking Lot 10am-1pm. Metal Recycling Celebrate HPR Success: Thursday April 11 at monthly meeting

Meeting Adjourned Doug/Sara

Next Meeting

Thursday April 11, 2024

7:00pm

Alma Public Library