

Healthy Pine River

November 14th, 2024

7:00 PM

Call to Order: Brittany Sommerville

Approval of Minutes: Gary/Doug

Financial Report:	Opening Balance:	\$19, 403.22
	Closing Balance:	\$18,874.05

HPR Updates: We are currently in the grant writing process of two EGLE grants. The first is a 2025 Watershed Council Grant that is meant for organization capacity building. The second is a Dam Risk Reduction Grant, which would be used to fund a dam feasibility study on the State Street Dam in Alma. The 2025 membership drive is coming up soon. Members should look to their mailboxes for our membership drive mailer in late December/early January. Members should also look in their emails for our Fall Newsletter to stay up-to-date with what the organization has been working on. HPR was awarded three Americorps Vista Volunteers. These volunteers will assist us in communications, technology, grant writing, and fundraising efforts. There will not be a membership meeting this December. The next membership meeting will be January 9th, 2025.

Program Guest: Mike LeValley, Executive Director of the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy. The CWC has projects within Gratiot, Mecosta, Montcalm, Clare, and Isabella Counties. They protect land in two ways; purchasing land and operating that land as nature preserves and through conservation easements. A conservation easement is a voluntary agreement between a land conservancy and a private landowner. These agreements are to protect the land, such as prohibiting logging, farming, further developing, and adding structures to land. A conservation easement is permanent. If land changes hands, the new owner must still abide by the conservation agreement. In the past, the CWC allowed easements as small as filter strips along ditches, but now look for land of 40 acres or larger (enough land so that protecting the property is actually preserving the ecological systems within that property). The staff and volunteers at the CWC do annual monitoring visits to make sure the contract between them and the landowner is being enforced. Additionally, the CWC operates 27 nature preserves. They host public events such as themed hikes. Their goals for the future are to focus on restoration and maintenance for property that they already own. Visit www.cwc-mi.org for more information.

Next Meeting

Thursday, January 9th, 2025

7:00 PM

Alma Public Library