

Healthy Pine River
Membership Meeting Minutes
March 13th, 2025
7:00pm

Call to Order: Shadain

Approval of Minutes: Gary

Financial Report:

Opening Balance as of 02/01/25: \$25,987.97

Deposits and Credits: \$5,088.00

Withdrawals and Debits: \$1,535.12

Closing Balance as of 02/28/25: \$28,987.97

HPR Update- This morning the Friends of the Pine River Campaign hosted a Before Hours Breakfast Event, a brief program on the river's current health, efforts to restore it, and how the community can help. Attendees generously donated and United Way matched donations up to \$10,000. At the PITCH-ER THIS! a youth development competition, the Alma Public School team, "Pine River Protectors," that partnered with HPR performed well and earned a \$5,000 scholarship from United Way to develop curriculum materials and expand their outreach efforts to schools across Gratiot County. The \$250,000 Planet Awards Grant from the Consumers Energy Foundation, for which we applied, was recognized as one of the top recommendations, though it was not awarded. However, the \$298,000 Dam Risk Reduction Grant, which includes a feasibility study, is still under review. The 2025 Membership Drive has raised \$6,000 in donations to date. At tonight's meeting, Alma College' LEAPS (Leaders for Environmental Awareness, Protection and Sustainability) liaison between HPR and Alma College students, Shadain, introduced herself and other EC members including the new liaison, Annie. LEAPS wants to spread awareness and is eager to collaborate with HPR to connect with a younger demographic of individuals passionate about supporting environmental causes.

Wolverine Pipe Line Company Oil Spill Update (Spencer Welling):

Program Guests: Spencer Welling, Field Regulatory Specialist at Wolverine Pipe Line Company. Sam Cameron, EGLE Incident manager. Brian Wilson, Alma Area Supervisor. Edwin Peters, Claims Support.

Wolverine Pipe Line Company responded to a leak reported on December 27th at the crossing of the pipeline and the Arcadia/Newark drain in Arcadia Township. The leak was discovered by a local resident who notified the Gratiot County Drain Commissioner. Investigations revealed that the incident occurred due to an excavator digging in the area without first calling 811: "Call Before You Dig." Fifty barrels (42 gallons per barrel) of petroleum were spilled and subsequently removed from the site. Water samples from the Arcadia/Newark drain were collected at three different locations, with no hydrocarbons detected. The personal wells of nearby residents also showed no signs of hydrocarbons. However, low levels of petroleum were found in the soil. Moving forward, Wolverine Pipe Line plans to remove the existing boom in the drain and conduct an internal investigation to strengthen their mitigation measures to prevent third-party damages. Remediation efforts are being carried out in collaboration with EGLE, PHMSA, the Gratiot County Drain Commissioner, first responders, and other relevant parties. Together with EGLE, Wolverine Pipeline will work to formally close out the site from a cleanup perspective. Important contacts to follow in case of an environmental emergency: Pollution Emergency Alerting System: (800)-292-4706 and Environmental Assistance Center: (800)-662-2978.

Meeting Adjourned: Shadain/Brittany

Next Meeting

April 10, 2025

7:00 P.M.

Alma Public Library