

Healthy Pine River

October 10th, 2024

7:00 PM

Call to Order: Brittany Sommerville

Approval of Minutes: Gary/Mikie

Financial Report: Opening Balance: \$19,843.33

Closing Balance: \$19,403.22

Brittany: HPR Updates, September Septic Smart presentation at Sumner Township Hall co-hosted by HPR and Gratiot Conservation District. The presentation brought together EGLE and Mid Michigan District Health Department to discuss septic practices, potential loan opportunities for septic replacements, and positive impacts of healthy septic systems on the Pine River and our watersheds. HPR applied for an EGLE Accelerator 40 grant - a grant that would have walked us through the winding process of applying for larger federal grants for larger projects. Unfortunately we were not selected; the grant had 97 applicants, and only 25 placements. We filed a sustainability grant with the Gratiot Community Foundation on Oct. 1, and we also have an Environmental Justice Impact grant and Climate Change impact grant that has been submitted, the status of those applications are TBD. In good news, Alma College was awarded three Vista Volunteer Positions. HPR submitted an application for assistance provided by the Vista Volunteers, as they were a great help to the organization last year. The EGLE Watershed Council Grant is ending at the end of this month. This grant has greatly increased HPR's capacity building, including funding of our liaisons in the field, purchasing need equipment, hiring a director, and developing and printing educational materials. HPR is working on a list of 2025 priorities and projects and a budget.

Guest Speaker: Alma College Environmental Studies Department Head Dr. Murray Borrello and Alma College Graduate Olivia Ayers

Alma College and new Great Lakes Watershed Institute to develop a 2025 strategy.

Goals for 2024 season: monitoring upstream, main trunk, and downstream of Alma Dam.

Continue to sample downstream to assess potential algal bloom sources in St. Louis. Put together historical data: compare how the river is now to 4 years ago.

All tested streams are above concentration of nutrients (phosphorus/nitrogen) for 'healthy' streams. Blanchard rd. *E. coli* levels decreased from last year. Riverdale has decreased in *E. coli* and nutrient concentrations than prior years. Sugar Creek nutrient concentration is 10x other locations. Sugar Creek pollutant source is unknown. The presentation and data from this membership meeting will be posted to www.healthypineriver.org.

Next Meeting

Thursday, November 14th, 2024

7:00 PM

Alma Public Library