



**Board Meeting, December 11, 2013 @ 6:00 pm**  
**Lowell City Hall**

**Attendance** - LARA Board Members; **Al** Halbeisen, **Mari** Stone, Jim Hall, Gary Goff, Betsy Davidson, Mark Anderson and Perry Beachum.

**Minutes** – October minutes were approved as presented. There was not a quorum in November.

**Treasurer's Report** – Davidson gave Treasurer's report – Beachum motioned to accept the Treasurers Report and pay the following bills: \$55 to Williams and Works; \$20 to Harding's for 20 feet of crack sealing @\$10 ft.; \$36.36 to Addorio for domain name, \$19,070.15 to Terre Verde for the Pavilion.

**Public Comment** –Beachum noted that the cement work has not been completed by Josh Grimm.

**Welcome new member, Jim Hall**, City of Lowell Council Representative. Discussion regarding the need to amend the agreement to address changing board/commission member's automatic seat.

**Dave Austin report – Austin sent the following summary:**

- Williams & Works will be meeting with MDEQ soon to talk about the regulatory issues related with the Phase II bridge crossing options (Grand and Flat).
- The concrete guys ran out of time, so the benches won't be moved to the H.S. and Wittenbach Center until spring.
- The final pay application was sent to MDNR last month for \$30k +. Should receive soon if you haven't already.
- Walked the entire trail on Sunday before any snow. Holding up pretty good; a few areas need attention (more crack sealing in the spring).
- The pavilion area looks great!! Remember we have a trail map and interpretive sign to install in the spring, so think about where you want those to go.
- Over the winter, we can talk about what you want to put in the other 3 interpretive sign frames we yet to install.
- Belding Rail trail bids came in 18% under estimate last Friday. Same contractor as the LARA Phase 1 project (K&R).

**Discussion/Agenda Items:**

**Phase 1** – Several small details have been addressed. See Austin report

**Phase 1-A and Phase 2 / Connections to FMRVRT** – Based on other work Halbeisen is doing, he estimates the bridge crossings at 1.5 M each. The connection project is in a holding pattern and we have some extra time to make good decisions.

## **Other Business –**

Beachum filled the Board in on the Bio-digester project the city is working on. There may be an opportunity to get an easement (joint) along the RR track from Foreman, near Litehouse, to Chatham.

We have 60K left from Phase I – discussed use of it. Ideas discussed were a second pavilion/trailhead, and using it for future phase seed money.

Stone reviewed the LARA Agreement for potential amendments. Terms and Limits need addressing. Discussion regarding the addition of committees for such items as maintenance found members not in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

*Mari Stone*

Respectfully submitted,  
Mari Stone  
LARA Secretary

### **Commonly used acronyms;**

Fred Meijer River Valley Rail Trails – (FMRVRT)  
Kent County Road Commission (KCRC)  
Lowell Area Schools (LAS)  
Lowell Education Foundation (LEF)  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)  
Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)  
North Country Trail Association (NCTA)  
West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition (WMTGC)  
Wittenbach – Wege Center (WWC)

Greenville to Owosso – (GO)  
Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA)  
Lowell Area Community Fund (LACF)  
Lowell Light & Power (LLP)  
Lowell Cable TV Fund (LCTV)  
Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance (MTGA)  
Safe Routes to School (SR2S)  
Trail Resources Enrichment and Development  
(TREAD)

For more information refer to the website [www.lowellareatrailway.org](http://www.lowellareatrailway.org)