



**Board Meeting, February 12, 2014 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell City Hall**

Attendance - LARA Board Members; Al Halbeisen, Mari Stone, Jim Hall, Betsy Davidson, and Perry Beachum. Guests: Greg Pratt, Mark Howe, Mark Fritsma

Minutes – December and January minutes were approved, with amendments to the January meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Davidson gave Treasurer's report –Bills to be paid: \$2290 to BHT&D for Audit, \$200 to LACC for Expo booth and dues. Motion to approve payables by Beachum, second by Hall, motion carried.

Public Comment –Mark Fritsma encouraged all to view the video and check out the Facebook page for FMRVRT at www.rivervalleyrailtrails.org.

New Business – Friends Group – Deb Pavcek and Barry Getzen have agreed to participate in a Friends group. There will be a meeting in April that will be an open call to the public to join in.

Phase 1-A and Phase 2 / Connections to FMRVRT – The MDEQ has issued a letter regarding the potential Grand River crossing. Background: Lowell Township owns property on the river to the south of Walgreens. The Township would like to put a 1500 foot bridge span across to their park on the south bank of the Grand. This area is heavily wooded wetland, which would need aquatic and plant mitigation.

Flat River crossing option would also have some issues and the same biological surveys would be needed. The Flat crossing would not be in the Flood Plain, and would be shorter at 750 feet. No fill would be needed. Either option would cost around 1.5 M and both would receive high scrutiny from MDEQ.

There is activity around the Bio-digester project and easements are being addressed. This is an opportune time to piggy-back on that portion of the connection.

Other Business –

Maintenance Agreements – Snow piles need to be removed from problematic areas and snow pack taken down to 4 inches on the rest of the trail. This will allow users to stay on the trail and not use roadways as alternatives. Clean Cut bid \$75 to mow every 2 weeks, \$150 to brush hog Gee Dr. to the high school, and \$75 a plow. Stone motioned to accept, Hall seconded, and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 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