**Boone Watershed Partnership - Board Meeting Minutes – May 15, 2018**

**TDEC-Johnson City, TN**

**Present:** Matthew Dake, Jacob Chandler, Casey Lambert, Bill Francisco, Deborah Wilkinson, Joseph Barnett, Martha Podren, Steve Henegar, Ingrid Luffman, David Rock

Matt called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm welcoming all.

* Matt read the minutes of the March 20, 2018 meeting. Minutes were approved (motion: Deb Wilkinson, Second: Ingrid Luffman).
* Matt summarized the YTD 2018 financial report.

**New Business**

1. Board changes - Jake Chandler must resign due to new job duties, and Casey Lambert was presented as a candidate to finish out Jake’s term. Casey is a civil engineer working for the City of Bristol. The board expressed thanks to Jake and welcomed Casey (he was voted in unanimously)
2. Awards picnic
	1. Reserve Meredith Pavilion Aug 25, 2018 from 1-3PM (**Bill)**
	2. Check on #plaques and bases on hand (**Ingrid**)
	3. Nominations needed **(Ingrid to send out form and list of previous awardees**, due June 15). Several potential nominations were discussed and will be considered:
		1. City of Johnson City (Mayor David Tomita) (**Martha**)
		2. Essex Design and Fabricators Inc (**Bill)**
		3. Annie Grant (**Ingrid**)
3. Board terms
	1. Terms are unbalanced (9 of 11 expire at end of this year, only Deb and Matt expire in 2019)
	2. **Bill Francisco, Casey Lambert, and David Rock** volunteered to extend their term to end of 2019.

4. The BWP board congratulates Dr. Cathy Landy on successfully defending her dissertation.

**Old Business:**

1. Brush Creek tire removal project-grant proposal status
* **David Rock will follow up** on grant award notice to make arrangements for contract funding
* Conference call with TDOT may be needed to bring in BWP folks with multiple areas of expertise
* Per grant application paperwork, contract shoudl be set up by 7/1/18

**Project Updates:**

1. Jacob’s Nature Park at Sinking Creek
* The What’s the Buzz fundraiser was very successful and well attended
* $1000 was pledged to Jacob’s Park – will likely be used for native plant purchases
* Jeff Keeling and co have identified 30 trees at the park which will be labeled – this will qualify the park as an arboretum.
* TDOC confirmed they can help with construction of outdoor classroom beginning in August 2018.
* Land acquisition of property adjoining Jacob’s Park is on hold pending a champion. The Board discussed options. Current price is $50K for ~5 acres of wetland. Price is high for wetlands. David Rock and Steve Henegar requested a copy of the draft grant proposal. General consensus was to sit on this for another year to see how price changes.
1. Gap Creek
* Installation of signage at Gap Creek along the Tweetsie Trail remains to be completed. Dennis reports that he is making progress on the sign.
* Deb asked where funds for sign were coming from as the grant has closed.
* Ingrid asked if permission/approval is needed from someone (John Hartman - interim city mgr for Elizabethton? Phil Pindzola (JC Public Works)? Tweetsie Trail Committee?) **Joseph will check with John Hartman**

**Upcoming Events:**

* **June 12** BWP General Meeting – need program – **Martha will check with Shannon O’Quinn (TVA)** about speaking on TWRA plantings along Boone Lake shoreline
* **Aug 24-25?** Meet the Mountains festival in Founders Park – may conflict with picnic **(Martha will check dates)**

There was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ingrid Luffman