



Friends of the River Valley Rail Trails
Meeting Minutes July 9, 2025
At the Belding Depot 6:00 PM

- I. Call to Order: Chair Ron called the meeting to order at 6:00.
- II. Board Members Present: Ron Gunderson, Mark Fritsma, Wayne Addis and Lynn Mason. Board Member Absent: Jennifer Meirendorf. Mark moved and Wayne seconded to excuse her absence. Motion carries.
- III. Guests: Don and Gail, and Alan Teelander
- IV. Approval of the May 14 Minutes: They were moved by Wayne and seconded by Ron to approve. Motion carries. As a mention, the June meet was canceled.
- V. Approval of the Agenda: Two additions were added to New Business. Fundraiser Letter and a new Board Member. It was moved by Lynn and seconded by Wayne to approve. Motion carries.
- VI. Public Comment: Ron and Gail commented that our trail is one of the best kept trails they have seen in multiple states!
- VII. Officer Reports: Chair Ron reported that reimbursements are taking longer than normal.
- VIII. Treasurer Report: Jennifer was absent and Ron shared her report.
 - She is working on the second quarter budget for the Authority
 - June ending balance is \$24,168.28. There was a deposit from the MWMA for \$10,000 and a \$50 swipe card donation. Expenses were \$2,919.89. (Post office box, Litchfield for mowing, Belding Hardware and Bridge Deck Builder. There is approximately \$25,000 owed from the DNR.
 - Bills: Gas cans
- IX. Authority Report: there was no meeting in June. The 10 year lease for the River Valley and CIS trails have been signed.
- X. Maintenance Report:
 - A lot of trees were down. Approximate YTD total is 120. Grapevines and storms are the causes.
 - There is a large sinkhole, caused by woodchucks, near Lincoln Lake and 3 Mile.
 - Replacement of some deck boards on a bridge near VFW in Belding.

- Some approaches to bridges need work.
- Mowing is next week.
- Chad has 97% of the trail sprayed
- 2 more trees just this week.
- Seal coating in Ionia could be done. The contractor said it could wait. We need to be safe with our budget.
- Ron picked up the trash.
- The blower needed an oil change.

XI. Events: none. Jill, DNR, approved a Triathlon in Lowell. We were unaware. She will inform us in the future.

XII. Unfinished Business: none

IX. New Business:

- Fundraiser Letter written by Lynn. Discussed some minor amendments. We will reimburse Lynn for mailing expenses. Ron moved and Wayne seconded to approve. Motion carries.
- New Board Member: Alan Teelander has expressed interest. He lives in Kent County and has been doing maintenance at Foreman. Lynn moved to approve and Wayne seconded. Motion carries.
- We discussed obtaining shirts and possibly hats for volunteers

XIII. Public Comment: None

Director Comments:

Mark attended a LARA meeting. Due to environmental study there will be NO construction this year.

E- Bikes signs, 10 are ready. We will need more.

Adjournment: 7:15

Next Meeting: August 13, 2025