

April 9, 2009 – GREN Executive Meeting

Present: John, Randy, Carole, Susan K, Theo, Bob Burt, Susan B

Minutes: Susan K.

April 16, 2009 Guelph Meeting Agenda

1. Description of GREN and its projects - 15 minutes Susan K – bring 1-pagers with logo, principles, mission statement
2. Current issues - Waterloo Moraine, ROPP, Greenbelt, Source Water Protection (comments), Referendum for Fluoridation, Pipeline
3. Guelph response to Places to Grow growth as seen through development practices. Low Impact Development by GUFF (Guelph Urban Forest Friends)
4. Moraine Protection -problems and possibilities
The Waterloo Experience – 10 minutes Lulu and David W.
The Guelph-Wellington experience - Norah

GREN Incorporation

Keep on file Lulu's recommendation for lawyer

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Media

1. Bob Burt drew up media plan
2. Chair will be spokesperson for GREN
3. Pros/cons to a) make announcement to all media in Grand River Watershed vs b) in response to "event" such as GREN's position on ROPP. Newspapers hurting/demoralized with cutbacks, if we wait to announce ourselves with issue, no one knows what GREN is
4. We need to spread ourselves beyond Waterloo Region – i.e. into watershed, to engage other NGO's
5. GREN can "own" pipeline issue
6. Bob and Susan K work on comprehensive media list
7. Ongoing relations – keep media involved on our positions/action/inactions of local government
8. If we hold an event – consider media involvement early on i.e. speaker – wouldn't get someone to cover the speech but could set up interview beforehand. T
9. Talkshows on TV – get GREN people to do circuit
10. Each issue may need its own campaign – e.g based on geography
11. Won't do initial press release to introduce GREN

Big Laugh

Raging Grennies (Theo's idea)

Randy's Memo

1. The Oil Drum newsletter – concern about NGO burnout, misdirection, do we want to be another NGO – or more of a network/broker

2. Can we start monitoring time-limited legislation, how to bring group up to level to get involvement.
3. Have to focus on communication, what is our focus?
4. How do we deal with issues that pop up?
5. GREN is still a collection of individual issues, should GREN take on specific projects as a group? i.e. pipeline. Council of Canadians has taken on bottle water issue.
6. “Backyard” projects that GREN supports offer lessons to be learned.
7. Need coherence in different issues, need to share same criteria – e.g reliability, consistency, clarity, transparency, harmonizing, avoid duplication, credibility - need to stay focussed, act when necessary, working for welfare of the group, act as catalyst to bring up member groups, tone/story is important
8. Need to find GREN’s niche, everything gets filtered through our policies and mandate
9. Need visioning exercises
10. Recommendation: Sources of Power book – models for decision making

Encourage everyone to take 21 bus to Elmira

GREN policies draft

1. Susan B drafted, accepted, new policies added as needed, need to harmonize. Will put on website when Susan B finishes draft

GREN Fundraiser/Participation in Earth Week Events

1. Friday June 12 Dance - \$10 ticket, proceeds split 50/50 Lulu and GREN, Theo gave Susan K. \$100 deposit. Calling it Rockin’ with the Raging GRENies
2. Living Earth Friday April 24 – Children’s Museum John will let me know – send email

Mailing List

1. Theo will send message. Clickhost offers 2 hours free programming/month - will develop calendar with database that we can load ourselves – dates will be highlighted on calendar with list below with details. Any calendars on other websites we like?
2. Can we have forums for members?

Adjourn