

GRAIN TRAIN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Candidate Statements 2026

GREG FULLER (INCUMBENT)

EDUCATION: Bachelor's of Elementary Education, Spring Arbor University



Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors of Grain Train Co-op?

I have served the board for the past 3 years, and in that time I have come to appreciate the importance of board leadership of our co-op. The Grain Train board has excellent communication and rapport with a variety of voices in our community, and board service has been a great opportunity to learn and share my perspective as a member/owner of the Grain Train.

What are you passionate about? How could we see that passion in action in your day-to-day life?

I am passionate about the outdoors, fitness, and healthy food. I am a frequent user of Center City Gym, and I ride bicycles on the Little Traverse Wheelway and our local TOMMBA trails. I love living in the tight-knit community of Petoskey, and in the summer you'll find me swimming in our beautiful Little Traverse Bay. Healthy food has always been crucial to myself and my wife Mary Bea, and we shop at the Grain Train almost every day for most of our staple foods.

Describe an experience where you worked on a team. What did you offer the team? How did you compromise for the team's benefit?

I served as a manager for local bike shops in Petoskey and on Mackinac Island, and I always tried to offer leadership through listening and understanding the customer. I believe that most people have a need to be heard and understood, and it was my specialty to listen to my customers and coworkers to try to understand them and find common ground. Compromise and empathy are critical to working on a team, and I hope to continue to bring these traits to the boardroom at the Grain Train.

Do you have other experiences that you see as being related to the work of the Board?

Other than serving this board for the past three years, I also am self-employed in a small local art business with my wife, Mary Bea. This business is in frequent collaboration with other local businesses, and it is this same spirit of collaboration I hope to bring to my role as a director.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?

The Grain Train is a pivotal business in the communities we serve. We operate to support focused ends that fulfill many needs within our community, and unlike many other businesses we can tailor our operations to those needs as a matter of principle. We see this business as more than the bottom line profit, and we track successes in how well our communities are supported by our presence. That's something that makes our co-op special and important.