

Friend of the Maple River
Minutes of July 18, 2007
Maple Rapids Community Center
209 W. Union

PRESENT:

Joe Latoff, President
Ed Mikula, Vice President
Joe Smolka, Treasurer
(vacant), Secretary
Phil Hanses, Clinton County Drain Commissioner
Anita Ladouceur, Website Coordinator
John Switzer, Clinton County Conservation District
Jason Kimbrough, NRCS – Guest Speaker
Cara Clore, Clinton County Waste Management
Byron & Ruth Townsend
Lena Edeg
Becky Latoff
Daniel Simmon
David Jewison
Dale Ladouceur

Joe Latoff , President, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Latoff stated the purpose of the group.

AGENDA:

Latoff added “Storm Drain Marking Project” to the agenda.

Phil Hanses moved to approve the agenda as presented. Joe Smolka seconded the motion. The motion carried.

MINUTES:

Ed Mikula moved to approve the minutes of June 20, 2007 meeting as presented.

Joe Smolka supported the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Checking Account Balance:

- Joe Smolka, Treasurer, reported a balance of \$396.69 in the checking account of the FOTMR.

Fundraising - Pontoon Boat Raffle:

- The project is underway.
- New carpet and sandblasting to be done.
- Dale Ladouceur volunteered to check on getting 4 bags of sandblasting sand donated.
- Dale Ladouceur, Joe Smolka, and David Jewison volunteered to help work on the boat.
- Dale and Anita Ladouceur are willing to donate a brand new canoe for the raffle.

Phil Hanses moved to approve the Treasurer’s report. Ed Mikula seconded the motion. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Website:

- Anita Ladouceur shared a draft homepage layout from Jack Fritz, website developer.

- Anita will get together with Latoff to get the specific website content electronically, so that she may relay it to Jack as soon as possible.
- Anita will contact Jack to obtain his schedule regarding taking over the current website from Allen Nelson, payment for his services, etc.

New Articles:

- Ed Mikula continues to draft and distribute articles regarding the organizations activities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Watershed Committee:

Joe Latoff reported for the committee.

Elsie Dam Project

- This project is still under discussion.

Maple Rapids Boat Launch & Park Project

- Mr. A. J. Underwood flew in from California and was very impressed with the float trip. He is considering donating property for the project.

New Launch Site, Clinton County Green Space Commission

- This project is on hold for now.

Education Committee:

Joe Latoff reported for the committee.

Fall Float Trip

- This trip is on hold for now.
- The Maple River Kayak group may be interested in the float trip and river clean-up.

Signage Project

- Mike Rabe is in the process of working to get the signs donated. They will be placed along select roads and read "Entering the Maple River Watershed".

Oral History Project

- This project is ongoing.

Watershed Monitoring Committee

- Joe Latoff reported for the committee.
- Joe put together a budget for the committee.
- Joe read an email from Amy Noren, Committee Chair, which stated where Amy thinks the committee should focus their efforts.
- Amy needs help with the project.

Pine Creek Meeting Report

- The Pine Creek feeds Rainbow Lake in Gratiot County, which is located within the Maple River Watershed.
- The EPA and DEQ invited the FOTMR to help monitor clean up the creek.
- Amy agrees feels this would be a good direction for the FOTMR.
- There was a general consensus that the Monitoring Committee should take this on as a project.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sediment Prediction Computer Model

- John Switzer is in the process of doing field verification and testing the accuracy of the model, which has proven to be accurate.
- John is working with the Monitoring Committee on locations to monitor.

Muskrat Lake Project

- The project is proceeding.
- Joe Latoff reported that there were a few problems with the project that are being resolved.
- The DNR Fisheries is going to discuss the design of the plan.
- Steve Law will make a presentation at the August meeting regarding the project.

NEW BUSINESS:

Membership Renewals

- Renewal fees are due now.
- Anita will make sure a notice is put on the website.

Storm Drain Marking Project

- Joe Latoff is working with Cara Clore from the Clinton County Waste Management to get the project underway.
- Cara offered to help on a watershed management plan, and she will follow-up with the DEQ on the status of the grant submittal.
- Local units of government should be contacted to obtain the location of the municipal catch basins.
- Phil Hanses moved to recommend the FOTMR work with Clinton County Waste Management and Green Space Commission to work on the drain marking project. Dale Ladouceur supported the motion. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Guest Speaker – Jason Kimbrough from the NRCS

- Jason discussed the origin and purpose of the NRCS which is to provide federal funding to implement conservation practices such as:
 - Chemical storage buildings
 - Sillage leachate collection systems
 - Animal waste storage plans
 - Erosion control practices
 - Wetland protection
- The FOTMR offered to contact individuals to formally show support for the Farm Bill.
- There are currently 85 contracts in Clinton County, paying out \$1.7 million.
- The FOTMR is willing to help the NRCS in their efforts.

Meeting Reminders & Minutes

- Phil Hanses offered to contact Kris Voight to get the email list and email minutes and meeting reminders to members.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Ed Mikula to adjourn. Supported by Dale Ladouceur. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on August 15, 2007 at the Hubbardston Village Hall, 126 N. Washington. A social time will take place from 6:30pm to 7:00pm.

These minutes were written by Anita Ladouceur & Joe Latoff. Currently the FOTMR is looking for a Secretary to fill the vacancy created when the previous Secretary completed their term.

Please direct any and all modifications to Joe Latoff, 989-224-2085.