

Friend of the Maple River
Minutes of September 19, 2007
Victor Township Hall
6843 E. Alward, Laingsburg

PRESENT:

Joe Latoff, President
Ed Mikula, Vice President
Anita Ladouceur, Website Coordinator
Gary Fritz, Clinton County Conservation District
Kathleen Donahue, Clinton County Solid Waste
Pat White
Rich Nichols
Byron Townsend
Stan Fedewa
Ken Greenfield
Russ Lapham
Connie Lapham
Jeff Wadell
David Jewison
Shari Dann
Lena Ely
Jon Bartholic

CALL TO ORDER:

Latoff welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Latoff stated the purpose of the group.

AGENDA:

Latoff welcomed guest speakers Gary Fritz and Kathleen Donahue.
Mikula moved to approve the agenda as presented. Wadell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

Anita Ladouceur volunteered to take minutes.
Lapham moved to approve the minutes of June 20, 2007 meeting as presented. Townsend supported the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Checking Account Balance:

- Latoff reported a balance of \$372 in the checking account.
- Latoff reported that FOTMR will be receiving a debit card for purchases and website billing.

Fundraising - Pontoon Boat & Canoe Raffle:

- The project is progressing.

Mikula moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Wadell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Website:

- Ladouceur reported that we are just waiting on the debit card to set up billing and then Jack Fritz, our website developer will be able to post the new site.

News Articles:

- Latoff thanked Mikula for the recent newspaper articles.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Watershed Committee:

- Latoff reported for the committee.
- Elsie Dam Project is on hold.
- Maple Rapids Boat Launch & Park Project is on hold.
- New Launch Site, Clinton County Green Space Commission is on hold.
- Muskrat Lake Project
 - Fritz reported that the major hurdles have been taken care of.
 - The type of structure (3 level modified rock weir) has been determined and it will be located entirely on DNR property.
 - They are working on the wording for the DEQ application.
 - There is a meeting on the 28th at Fritz's office.
 - Some area landowners expressed a concern over possible flooding of the area.

Education Committee:

- Latoff reported for the committee.
- Fall Float Trip – cancelled due to low water levels.
- Signage Project is still underway.
- Oral History Project is still underway.

Watershed Monitoring Committee

- Latoff reported for the committee.
- Pine Creek Project
 - A meeting was held.
 - The previous grant project fell through.

NEW BUSINESS:

Membership Renewals

- Latoff stated that we need better record keeping for renewal fees and membership tracking.

319 Grant Authorization for MRW Management Plan

- Gary Fritz updated the group on the grant (4th attempt), which will be controlled and monitored by Fritz's office.
- DEQ funds have been allocated \$311,000+ for 2 years (\$254,000 from DEQ).
- Meetings are being planned with stakeholders.
- Fritz will promote getting other government agencies involved in attending the meetings.
- Fritz donated a nice wetland book to the FOTMR for recognition of their support of the grant.
- Fritz stated that any activity of the FOTMR related to the 319 Grant will qualify for matching dollars.
- Latoff will call a special meeting to review the FOTMR structure to see how they can best serve the project and meet their obligations. Fritz recommended inviting Bob Bishop from the Friends of the Looking Glass to that meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Guest Speaker – Kathleen Donahue, Environmental Educator from Clinton County Solid Waste

- Donahue teaches kids to take ownership in the environment.
- Ecosystems, biodiversity and water quality are just some of the modules taught to the kids.
- After completing the modules, kids are able to do stream monitoring.
- Docent Program – Adults interpret facts for kids
 - 5 week program in cooperation with Clinton County schools
 - Requires an interview, background check, and Tb test.
- Donahue shared some of the exercises she does with the kids to get them to understand

- water usage, land use, water movement, and best management practices.
- Kids need mentors to take them into the field.
- Latoff might want to do a newspaper article to seek volunteers for the Docent Program.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ladouceur moved to adjourn the meeting. Lapham seconded the motion. Motion carried.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on October 17, 2007 at the Rainbow Lake Maintenance Corporation, 11150 S. Luce Road, Perrinton. The building is located approximately 2 miles north of Maple Rapids on the west side of the road. A social time will take place from 6:30pm to 7:00pm.

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