

Friends of the Maple River  
Minutes of October 15, 2008  
Rainbow Lake Property Management Building  
11150 S. Luce Road, Perrinton.

PRESENT:

Gary Fritz  
Joe Latoff  
Lean Ely  
Dale Ladouceur  
Anita Ladouceur, Secretary  
Ed Mikula, Vice President  
Phil Hanses  
Dan Simon  
Jim Ellickson, Treasurer  
Jeff Wadell, President  
Fred Olmstead  
Gayle Bloomer  
Art Bloomer  
Jon Morrison  
Edwin Martinez, Guest Speaker

CALL TO ORDER:

J. Wadell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

J. Wadell stated the purpose of the group.

AGENDA REVIEW, REVISIONS AND ADOPTION:

Hanses moved to approve the agenda. D. Ladouceur supported the motion. Motion carried.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Wadell introduced guest speaker, Edwin Martinez, District Conservationist with the NRCS.

- Edwin replaced Jason Kimbrough in the Clinton County office.
- He is from Puerto Rico and worked there as well as California and Nebraska.
- Much of his work has been in sediment and nutrient loads and their effects on surface water.
- Edwin highlighted portions of the new Farm Bill:
  1. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) which covers mainly conservation activities.
  2. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) which has a payment limitation, practices for different land uses, and energy conservation.
  3. Health Forests Reserve Program
  4. Watershed Program
  5. Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
- Edwin will be working with his staff in Clinton County on all conservation measures and providing technical and financial assistance.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Regular Monthly Meeting, September 17, 2008

D. Ladouceur moved to approve the minutes of September 17, 2008 meeting as presented. Morrison supported the motion. Motion carried.

## TREASURER'S REPORT:

Checking Account Balance:

- Ellickson reported a balance of \$834.53 in the checking account after 3 expenses: post office box rent, MUCC membership, and tent purchase.

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

## COMMUNICATIONS:

News Articles:

- Mikula sent the meeting notice out to all local newspapers.
- Mikula must have the Guest Speaker information from Wadell by no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month.

Website:

- Fritz will get 319 Grant information to A. Ladouceur to put on the FOTMR website.

Newspaper Insert:

- The I & E Committee Meeting (319 Grant) was not supportive of a newspaper insert.
- Latoff will follow thru and get cost estimates to see if FOTMR still wants to proceed on their own.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:

Nutter did not attend the meeting.

Muskrat Lake Project:

- Fritz updated the group on the project.
- The permit application was turned down by the DEQ.
- A 3<sup>rd</sup> party group is working as a go between to resolve the issues and handle conflicts.

Downed Tree/Tire Removal Team:

Nothing to report.

Elsie Dam:

- Latoff stated there have been meetings with the consultant, township, etc. regarding the an alternative approach (series of smaller dams upstream) to replacing the main dam.
- The group was receptive to the idea, and the project is currently in the planning process.
- There are different funding options, including through the Farm Bill (35% local match).

Maple Rapids Boat Launch:

- Latoff is still waiting to hear back from the landowner regarding the property.
- Hanses stated that the Greenspace Commission is looking for this type of project.
- Mr. Underwood could receive up to 75% of the cost of the property.

#### EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Latoff volunteered to be the Chair for this committee.

- Latoff will get information to A. Ladouceur to put on the website.
- A. Ladouceur will update the website with Latoff's name as the Chair.

#### WATERSHED MONITORING COMMITTEE:

Boersen did not attend the meeting.

319 Watershed Management Plan:

- Fritz updated the group on the project.
- They have obtained good information from sampling the roadside crossings, the DEQ, etc.
- They are beginning to prioritize the sites.
- The last 5 macro invertebrate sites will be done by Friday.
- They will be doing a fly-over of the watershed at a low elevation. The cost should be somewhere around \$500.
- They are working on another assignment (late November through Spring) for volunteers to do at the priority sites.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Michigan United Conservation Clubs Membership:

- The final 3 FOTMR member names were added to the application so that it can be processed.

Tent Purchase:

- Mikula purchased a tent for \$50. It is commercial grade, 10x10', and has side curtains.
- Latoff is going to get an estimate for having FOTMR's name put on the canvas portion.
- The Clinton County Conservation District (CCCD) has tables and chairs that can be checked-out to use with the tent.
- Latoff is working on a desktop watershed model that could be used at events.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

Open Comments from the Public:

- D. Ladouceur stated that he and A. Ladouceur collected more trash at the bridge crossings from Bannister to Maple Rapids.
- Fritz stated that the Clinton County Commissioners want to reduce funding to the CCCD from \$22,000 to \$12,000. There is a Financial Committee meeting tomorrow to discuss it.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

Mikula moved to adjourn the meeting. Morrison seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

#### NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on December 3, 2008 at the Pewamo Village Hall, 130 Main Street, Pewamo. D. Ladouceur recommended members get together for dinner before the meeting at the Oakwood Lounge in Pewamo.

Please direct any and all modifications to the minutes to Anita Ladouceur, 989-981-6869.