

Friend of the Maple River  
Minutes of March 19, 2008  
Lyons/Muir Lions Club  
228 Superior, Muir

PRESENT:

Jeff Wadell, President  
Joe Smolka, Treasurer  
Anita Ladouceur, Secretary  
Mick Rabe, Education Committee Chair  
Jack Nutter, Watershed Improvement Committee Chair  
Joe Latoff  
Becky Latoff  
Phil Hanses, Clinton County Drain Commission  
Gary Fritz, Clinton County Conservation District  
Jim Ellickson  
Gale Rowell  
Dan Simmons  
Caleb Stewart, Guest Speaker

CALL TO ORDER:

Wadell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Wadell lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

Wadell stated the purpose of the group and the supporting statement, and stated that the activities of the FOTMR will expand to include 3 additional items:

1. We could promote/endorse those individuals or companies who do things right environmentally.
2. We could promote a forum where information is heard from both sides.
3. We could encourage political actions with legislators located within the watershed.

Rowell recommended adding the word "stewardship" to the Statement of Purpose (SOP). Wadell will review the SOP to evaluate the feasibility of adding the word to it or to the SOP supporting statement.

AGENDA REVIEW, REVISIONS AND ADOPTION:

J. Latoff moved to approve the agenda as presented. Hanses seconded the motion. Motion carried.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Wadell welcomed guest speaker, Caleb Stewart of Dennings & Associates, Elsie.

- Dennings and Associates is a technical service provider for the agricultural community.
- They handle nutrient management (manure and fertilizer) service for 200 farms.
- There are 3 main areas of service:
  1. comprehensive nutrient management plan
  2. site selection for new and expanding farm facilities

### 3. DEQ permits completion

- They also construct different types of maps and do all the engineering.
- There are only 3-4 companies total in MI that provide this service.
- Ultimate goal is long term sustainability.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Regular Monthly Meeting, February 20, 2008 Minutes

Smolka moved to approve the minutes of February 20, 2008 meeting as presented. Hanses supported the motion. Motion carried.

#### Membership Forms:

Ladouceur will bring membership forms to all future meetings to boost membership.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

##### Checking Account Balance:

- Smolka reported a balance of \$347.69 in the checking account.

Donations & Contributions: None to report

#### Fundraising Raffle Status:

Jon Morrison and Dale Ladouceur (Raffle Co-Chairs) have been in contact with each other regarding the raffle. They will give an update at the April meeting.

#### Insurance Policy:

J. Latoff recommended checking with Allaby and Brewbaker on our policy renewal. Wadell will check on that.

J. Latoff moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Nutter seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### COMMUNICATIONS:

News Articles: None to report.

#### Website:

Ladouceur still encourages membership feedback on the website.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

##### Watershed Improvement Committee:

Nutter reported for the committee.

##### May 3, 2008 Spring Cleanup Project:

- Hanses will make contact to get the free dumpster.
- Nutter will need to be notified where workers are leaving trash so he can pick it up.
- Wadell created a flyer to advertise the clean-up. The flyers need to be posted in early April.

##### Maple Rapids Boat Launch & Park Project:

- Latoff stated that the property owner isn't interested in donating his property. Latoff will contact him to see if the FOTMR can use it for the float trip.

Ovid Area Tree Cutting:

- Clinton County Drain Commission has been cutting trees along the river to prevent old trees from falling in and creating log jams.
- Nutter volunteered to get a group together to remove the log jams for the county so that trees don't have to be cut down.
- Hanses will notify Nutter of future log jams that need to be removed.
- Fritz said that the Clinton County Conservation District can donate trees if the landowner wants to replant trees.

Clinton County Green Space Commission Launch Site: No discussion

Muskrat Lake Project:

- Some issues need to be resolved in 2-3 weeks.
- Late summer/early fall would be proposed start time.
- Application isn't approved yet from DEQ.

Education Committee:

Rabe reported for the committee.

Spring Float Trip Plans:

- Rabe recommended changing the spring float trip to a fall float trip since the cleanup is in the spring.
- Rabe will contact the Maple Rapids festival contact person to possibly coordinate the float trip with their festival.

Signage Project:

- Signs cost \$48 each and we need approximately 30 signs = \$1,440 total cost.
- There was a discussion regarding the design of the sign. [www.mywatersheds.org](http://www.mywatersheds.org) is a website to review sign options.
- Wadell is applying for grant money to fund the sign project.

Educator Awards:

- We will accept written nominations until April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Watershed Monitoring Committee:

Boersen did not attend the meeting.

MRW Monitoring Plan: No discussion

319 Watershed Management Plan:

Fritz gave an update on the plan.

- Paperwork has been completed for the DEQ.
- Start April 1, 2008 for management plan for the upper Maple River.
- Contract will be signed and sent back, and committees will be set up.
- FOTMR appreciates Fritz's hard work and the time he has devoted to this project.
- FOTMR will be able to link their website to the Conservation District site to review the report.
- Fritz will speak on the grant at the annual meeting in May.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Signs for Membership Drives:**

- Fritz recommended temporary signs to be placed at a few locations (in the spring) along the roadside where the river is exposed to boost membership.
- The cost would be \$10/sign and we would need approximately 15 signs = \$150 cost. The Clinton County Road Commission would put the signs up for us as long as we had permission from the landowners.
- The Clinton County Conservation District would be willing to split the cost of the signs with the FOTMR.
- J. Latoff moved to approve the purchase of the signs (\$75). Ladouceur seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- J. Latoff stated how we need flyers to put up in businesses to advertise and boost membership.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Latoff moved to adjourn the meeting. Ladouceur seconded the motion. Motion carried.  
The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on April 16, 2008 in Crystal Township Hall, Crystal.

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