

Friends of the Maple River
Minutes of April 16, 2008
Crystal Township Hall
414 S. Main St., Crystal, MI 48818

PRESENT:

Jeff Wadell, President
Ed Mikula, Vice President
Anita Ladouceur, Secretary
Joe Smolka, Treasurer
Gary Boersen
Joe Latoff
Jim Ellickson
Jack Nutter
Dale Ladouceur
Brian Barclay, Guest Speaker

CALL TO ORDER:

Wadell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Wadell lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

Wadell stated the purpose of the group.

AGENDA REVIEW, REVISIONS AND ADOPTION:

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

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Wadell welcomed guest speaker, Brian Barclay, NRCS District Conservationist, Montcalm County.

- Barclay discussed agricultural statistics for Montcalm County and shared the soil moisture/soil type pamphlet.
- Montcalm County has a lot of sandy soil and is second in the state for most acres under irrigation = 47,000 acres.
- Barclay works with farmers on water conservation programs/practices:
 1. re-use water from plate coolers
 2. irrigation efficiency evaluations.
- Barclay provided data from a particular irrigator that helped him diagnose and fix a problem.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Regular Monthly Meeting, March 19, 2008

Nutter moved to approve the minutes of March 19, 2008 meeting as presented. D. Ladouceur supported the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Checking Account Balance:

- Smolka reported a balance of \$367.69 in the checking account.

D. Ladouceur moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Nutter seconded the motion. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

News Articles:

- Mikula sent the meeting information to all the newspapers.

Website:

- Wadell will check and see if Farm Bureau will pay for 6 months of our website = \$210.
- A. Ladouceur said that we would be able to add a "Thanks to our Financial Contributors" link on the website and then list the names (e.g. Allaby & Brewbaker Insurance, attorney, Clinton County Conservation District, etc.).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Watershed Improvement Committee:

Nutter reported for the committee.

May 3, 2008 Spring Cleanup Project:

- The dumpster has been secured at the Elsie Dam.
- Mikula will put a river clean-up notice in the newspapers.
- Nutter said we might need a second pick-up truck.

Downed Tree Removal:

- Nutter has received calls from people angered about the cutting of trees along the river in Ovid.
- Latoff moved for the FOTMR to send a letter to the Clinton County Drain Commission regarding alternative methods to cutting down the trees. Nutter supported the motion. Motion carried.

Education Committee:

Rabe did not attend the meeting.

Fall Float Trip: no discussion

Signage Project:

- Members voted on which sign design they preferred.
- The signs will read, "Help Protect the Maple River Watershed. www.friendsofthemapleriver.org"
- Wadell will follow-up on securing funding for the signs.

Educator Awards: no discussion

Watershed Monitoring Committee:
Boerson reported for the committee.

MRW Monitoring Plan: no discussion

319 Watershed Management Plan:

- Gary Fritz, Clinton County Conservation District, will speak at the May meeting regarding the plan.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fundraising Raffle Status:

- D. Ladouceur, Raffle Co-Chair, reported on the raffle.
- We are not in a position to have a raffle yet this year. To make it worthwhile, we need many members to sell tickets and there isn't enough time left this year to do it.
- The recommendation is to sell tickets this summer, fall and winter and have the raffle in the spring at the annual meeting.

Membership Drive:

- A membership drive is needed to boost membership.
- Wadell, as FOTMR President, will chair the membership drive.
- We may need to re-evaluate the committees due to lack of membership.
- D. Ladouceur has a list of festivals, dates, and contact persons. He will email it to Wadell and Wadell will get members to sign up and volunteer to man a booth at the festivals to increase members.
- A. Ladouceur will make a one page flyer to hand out at the festivals.
- Mikula volunteered to make a second set of display materials.
- Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Whitetails Unlimited, Wild Turkey Federation, Trouts Unlimited, Steelheaders are organizations that may allow us to have a table at their banquets.
- Wadell brought the membership signs to the meeting and members took them to post at various locations near the river.
- Wadell will apply for a blanket approval from the Clinton County Road Commission to put up the signs.
- Members are expected to monitor the signs and make sure they remain upright and in good condition.

NEW BUSINESS:

Insurance:

- Our insurance expires April 20th.
- Wadell stated Allaby & Brewbaker Insurance is going to get back with him.

Brochure:

- We need to have more brochures printed.
- A. Ladouceur will make minor revisions (list activities and remove Latoff's contact information) to the brochure and get it to Wadell for approval and printing.

ADJOURNMENT:

D. Ladouceur moved to adjourn the meeting. Ellickson seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on May 21, 2008 at the Clinton County Courthouse in St. Johns.

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