

Friends of the Maple River
Minutes of May 21, 2008
Clinton County Courthouse
100 E. State, St. Johns, MI 48879

PRESENT:

Jeff Wadell, President
Ed Mikula, Vice President
Anita Ladouceur, Secretary
Joe Smolka, Treasurer
Gary Boersen
Joe Latoff
Phil Hanses
Jon Morrison
Jim Ellickson
Dale Ladouceur
Clare Koenigsknecht
Daniel Simmon
Jason Kimbrough
Byron Townsend
Dave Ivan, MSUE
Gary Fritz, Clinton County Conservation District
John Switzer, Clinton County Conservation District

CALL TO ORDER:

Wadell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Latoff lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

Wadell stated the purpose of the group.

AGENDA REVIEW, REVISIONS AND ADOPTION:

Mikula moved to approve the agenda as presented. D. Ladouceur seconded the motion. Motion carried.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Wadell welcomed guest speaker, Gary Fritz & John Switzer, Clinton County Conservation District. Upper Maple River 319 Management Watershed Plan –

- The main reason for the grant is there are currently 5 streams currently don't meet water quality standards and have an abundance of algal growth.
- There are many different partners, committees and subcommittees in the project.
- The goals/objectives are:
 1. develop an EPA approved watershed plan
 2. address non-point sources and restore water quality

- The next step is to identify the watershed characteristics.
- 15 sites will be monitored using software (HIT) to help prioritize the 15 sites based on sedimentation levels.
- Eventually the watershed management plan will be developed and written.
- Lastly, the project will be closed-out and they will apply for an implementation grant to carry out the project.
- The current grant is scheduled to be completed in Spring 2010.
- The next meeting is June 11th.
- FOTMR will put a link to the grant information on our website.
- Dave Ivan, from MSUE discussed an alternate method of receiving information from the audience in a public forum – handheld units. It is an excellent way to receive accurate data.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Regular Monthly Meeting, April 16, 2008

Latoff moved to approve the minutes of April 16, 2008 meeting as presented. Smolka supported the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Checking Account Balance:

- Smolka reported a balance of \$ 332.69 in the checking account.

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

News Articles:

- Mikula sent the meeting information to all the newspapers.
- Latoff will work with Mikula on developing a laminated document to display at various locations in the watershed. Partial funding could come from the grant if grant information is put on the display (or in our revised brochure).

Website Funding:

- A. Ladouceur said that we are paid up through the end of June for the website.
- Wadell checked with Farm Bureau to see if they will pay for a portion of our website. They will discuss it at their next meeting. They may volunteer to pay for 3 or 6 months of the website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:

Wadell reported for the committee.

May 3, 2008 Spring Cleanup Project Results:

- The clean-up went well.
- Approximately 14 people participated.
- 2 others cleaned-up the bridge crossings between Muir and Maple Rapids.
- 30 tires were removed today in Ovid.

Muskrat Lake Project – Landowner Agreement Letter:

- Latoff and Simmon attended a meeting with the Muskrat Lake property owners.
- The property owners have a concern that by raising the level of the lake, their property may become flooded.
- The property owners want a drain installed to control water levels.
- Latoff read a draft letter to the property owners. The letter states FOTMR's support of the property owners. By supporting the property owners, there is no cost to FOTMR. It is just a show of support.

Latoff moved to send the letter. Simmon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Downed Tree Removal Team:

- Hanses has a site that needs trees removed east of Shepardsville Road.
- Hanses will contact Jack Nutter regarding tree removal.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Latoff reported for the meeting.

Fall Float Trip Plans:

- The float trip will be this summer, in conjunction with the Maple Rapids Festival (August 22nd-24th).
- The same property owner will let us use his property as a pull-out point.

Road Signage Project:

- We are waiting on funding and the final design from the sign company.

Explorer's Scout Post:

- Latoff has been involved in the program working with high school kids.
- George Ayoub is the contact person.

WATERSHED MONITORING COMMITTEE:

Boerson reported for the committee.

Upper Maple River Watershed Monitoring Plan:

- We will eventually need volunteers to do some sampling to develop a baseline and see what impacts are there.

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership Signs:

- Wadell has received many comments on the signs and 2 phone calls.
- Fritz received comments from a couple of people.
- Members need to take the signs down by the end of May due to mowing.
- Hanses said the signs can be stored at the Clinton County Road Commission, if needed.

Festival Participation & Membership Outreach:

- We need members to sign-up and commit to manning a table/booth at one of the festivals in the watershed and hand out information.
- D. Ladouceur and A. Ladouceur volunteered to attend the Carson City Festival in June.
- J. Morrison volunteered to attend the Maple Rapids Festival in August.
- A. Ladouceur put together a 2 page information sheet on the organization to hand out, along with membership applications.
- The booth will have our display board and map also as visual aids to attract new members.
- Ellickson has a 10x10 tent that we could use, if we want.
- A. Ladouceur will work with Latoff on our brochure revision. By including information on the watershed management plan, we will be eligible for some funding to pay for the printing.

NEW BUSINESS:

Insurance Provided by Allaby & Brewbaker:

- They agreed to provide insurance to us free of charge again.

Bylaw Revision – Renewal Date:

- Wadell read the bylaw revisions to change the membership renewal date to January 1 to make the renewal tracking easier.

Latoff moved to make the bylaw change. Mikula seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Election of Board of Directors:

Latoff moved to re-elect the existing officers. D. Ladouceur seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Pontoon:

- We need to do something with the pontoon frame stored in the Ladouceur's polebarn.
- A scrap metal company in Lansing will pay \$180/ton and one in Ovid will pay \$205/ton.
- Wadell will contact D. Ladouceur regarding transporting the pontoon to the scrap metal place.

Latoff moved to scrap-out the pontoon. Ellickson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

A. Ladouceur moved to adjourn the meeting. Smolka seconded the motion. Motion carried.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on June 18, 2008 at the Duplain Township Hall, 145 W. Main, Elsie.

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