

Friends of the Maple River
Minutes of June 18, 2008
Duplain Township Hall
145 W. Main Street, Elsie

PRESENT:

Jeff Wadell, President
Ed Mikula, Vice President
Anita Ladouceur, Secretary
Joe Smolka, Treasurer
Gary Boersen
Joe Latoff
Phil Hanses
Jon Morrison
Dale Ladouceur
Gary Fritz, Clinton County Conservation District
Larry Martin
Charles Wadell
Gail Wadell
Kam Washburn, Duplain Township Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER:

J. Wadell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

J. Wadell lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

J. Wadell stated the purpose of the group.

AGENDA REVIEW, REVISIONS AND ADOPTION:

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

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Field Trip to Elsie Dam:

- Kam Washburn, Duplain Township Supervisor gave some background into the history of the dam, why it needs to be repaired, who should be responsible for fixing it, and potential future plans.
- Latoff assured Washburn that the FOTMR would support developing a plan to repair the dam.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Regular Monthly Meeting, May 21, 2008

Mikula moved to approve the minutes of May 21, 2008 meeting as presented. Smolka supported the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Checking Account Balance:

- Smolka reported a balance of \$ 372.69 in the checking account.
- Smolka will resign as Treasurer effective in August. His teaching schedule will not allow him to continue as Treasurer. Smolka recommends that someone who lives closer to St. Johns become Treasurer so they can check the PO Box regularly. The FOTMR checking account is also in St. Johns.
- Latoff recommended the FOTMR become an affiliate member of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs. There are no other watershed groups affiliated with it. Latoff volunteered to attend the MUCC meetings on behalf of the FOTMR.

Latoff moved for Fritz and J. Wadell to investigate the FOTMR becoming an affiliate member to the MUCC. D. Ladouceur seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

News Articles:

- Mikula sent the meeting information to all the newspapers.

Display Boards:

- Mikula created 2 new FOTMR display boards, which were at the meeting.
- Latoff will be producing a laminated display to post at boat launches, etc.

Website:

- FOTMR will be able to link to various maps and information (provided by the Clinton County Conservation District) regarding the Upper Maple River Watershed Monitoring Plan. Fritz will get that information to A. Ladouceur when it is available.

G. Wadell moved to fund the website for the remainder of 2008 (\$150) from the checking account. Morrison seconded the motion. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:

Latoff reported for the committee.

Muskrat Lake Project:

- The letter to the property owners has not gone out yet. It will be sent out in conjunction with documents from the Clinton County Conservation District and Clinton County Drain Office.

Downed Tree/Tire Removal Team:

- Latoff and Nutter will be going back to Ovid to remove more tires.
- Latoff will also clean-up the boat ramp in Ovid.
- Martin said trees are currently down and he is willing to get a couple people (and possibly a backhoe) to help remove them.
- Martin will get with Jack Nutter to coordinate a tree clean-up.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Mick Rabe has resigned as Committee Chair.

Fall Float Trip Plans:

- Latoff reported that the FOTMR have been invited to be part of the Maple Rapids Festival.
- We would need to secure a 1 day special insurance policy for the float trip.
- “Jim” and “Fred” worked with Mick Rabe last year on organizing the float trip. J. Wadell will contact them to see if they would be in charge again this year.

Road Signage Project:

No discussion

WATERSHED MONITORING COMMITTEE:

Boersen reported for the committee.

Upper Maple River Watershed Monitoring Plan:

- There won't be any actual monitoring until fall.
- Volunteers will be needed to help with the monitoring.
- Training volunteers will be done August or September.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Membership Signs:

- If anyone sees one of our signs still up, please take it down.

On a side note, Fritz thanked the FOTMR for the use of their logo for the Upper Maple River Watershed Monitoring Plan project.

Festival Participation:

- D. Ladouceur and A. Ladouceur summarized their experience working the FOTMR booth at the Carson City Festival. They thanked Hevel Auto Repair for letting them set the booth up in front of their business (to avoid having to pay a \$25 fee to the festival committee). They gave out very little information. They feel it is very important to attend those festivals where the Maple River runs through town (Maple Rapids, Elsie, Ovid) and also the St. Johns Mint Festival due to the large crowds.
- A. Ladouceur will email the festival list to Latoff.
- A. Ladouceur gave the booth handouts to J. Wadell.
- FOTMR members should contact J. Wadell regarding attending a festival.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mikula moved to adjourn the meeting. D. Ladouceur seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36pm and the group drove to the Elsie Dam.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on July 16, 2008 at the Maple Rapids Community Center, 209 W. Union Street, Maple Rapids.

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