

Friends of the Maple River
Minutes of August 20, 2008
Hubbardston Village Hall
126 Washington Street, Hubbardston

PRESENT:

Joe Smolka, Treasurer
Ed Mikula, Vice President
Ron Curtis
Ken Klune (sp?)
Pete Ondrus
Anita Ladouceur, Secretary
Dale Ladouceur
John Switzer, Clinton County Conservation District
Phil Hanses
Gary Boersen, Committee Chair
Joe Latoff
Jack Nutter, Committee Chair
Jeff Wadell, President
Jim Ellickson
Fred Olmstead
Jon Morrison

CALL TO ORDER:

J. Wadell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

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:

Additions to the Agenda were as follows:

- Elsie Dam
- Meeting Locations
- Treasurer Position

The group recommended having a permanent agenda item for 'Open Comments' from meeting attendees.

Mikula moved to approve the agenda. Latoff supported the motion. Motion carried.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

All meeting attendees introduced themselves.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Regular Monthly Meeting, July 17, 2008

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Checking Account Balance:

- Smolka reported a balance of \$442.49 in the checking account.
- Smolka also stated that he is resigning as Treasurer due to a new work schedule.
- The attendees thanked Smolka for his service the past 2 years.

Donations and Contributions:

None to report

Expenses:

Printing

- Latoff provided a bill for \$18 for printing and laminating maps.

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

News Articles:

- Mikula sent out the news release to 8 area newspapers. The St. Johns Independent will be added to the newspaper list.
- Mikula needs the meeting information to get to the newspapers by the first of the month.

Display Board:

- Latoff discussed what should be a standard display set-up for future festivals.

Website:

- A. Ladouceur reported that the Float Trip information was added to the website.
- A. Ladouceur still plans to link to the 319 Watershed Management Plan information when it becomes available.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:

Nutter reported for the committee.

Muskrat Lake Project:

- Latoff met with all property owners regarding the project and they are all on-board except one.
- Hanses attended a project meeting and will be meeting with the DEQ to discuss the project of controlling water levels on private and state properties.

Downed Tree/Tire Removal Team:

- Nutter reported that for now, all log jams have been removed.

Elsie Dam:

- Latoff spoke with an individual who is knowledgeable about funding dam projects.
- Latoff will meet with township/village officials to help get the project moving forward.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

A Chair is needed for this committee.

Fall Float Trip Plans:

- Ellickson reported that he and Olmstead met with individuals from Maple Rapids.
- The parking lot area will be mowed.
- 2 volunteers are still needed. Volunteers will meet at the parking area at 7am.
- The Float Trip is the same time as the parade. We may change the time of the Float Trip next year, if needed.
- Latoff stated that he received the insurance policy for the Float Trip.
- Next year we need to remember to contact other canoe/kayak groups and attend the 'Quiet Waters Symposium' to promote the Float Trip.
- We should also develop a map of access points for individuals floating the river on their own.

WATERSHED MONITORING COMMITTEE:

Boersen reported for the committee

319 Watershed Management Plan:

- Switzer reported that the stream surveys went very well and he has some preliminary results.
- Volunteers need to report any additional expenses such as gas, mileage, film developing, etc. to Switzer.
- Classifying sub-watersheds and identifying problem areas is an objective of the project.
- Switzer shared several maps and a new brochure. The brochure contains information on the FOTMR, and highlights the Upper Maple River Watershed Management activity.
- There is an informational meeting at Baker College Welcome Center, Conference room B, in Owosso on September 9th at 7pm regarding the project.
- Latoff will be attending a meeting in DeWitt on August 28th to discuss funding for future monitoring efforts preferably at the sub-watershed outflows.
- Local water treatment plants may test future water samples for free.
- Latoff showed a display for state or private launch sites. He will continue to add more displays and will monitor their status over time.

OLD BUSINESS:

Michigan United Conservation Clubs:

- Latoff reiterated the reasons why the FOTMR should become a member of MUCC.
- There was a discussion regarding the \$180 membership fee. Some members were concerned regarding if the group could afford the annual membership fee.
- Latoff stated he would attend the MUCC meetings and volunteered to pay the \$25/month that goes to the website developer for his work.
- The majority of the group agreed to join the MUCC.

Latoff moved to join the MUCC for \$180. Mikula supported the motion. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Festival Participation:

- Latoff reported that his time at the Mint Festival went well.
- Morrison is going to man the display at the Maple Rapids festival. Latoff offered to help Morrison at the festival. We have been given approval to speak about our group on the stage between musical events.
- Ellickson is going to get prices on a tent to purchase for use at festivals and other events.

Meeting Locations:

- Hanses asked if we should consider eliminating some of the meeting locations to make it easier for the public to keep track of the locations. We could consider 4 main locations at 3 times each.
- A. Ladouceur will compile the number of attendees from each meeting location and it will be revisited at the September meeting.

Treasurer Position:

- Wadell stated that Ellickson has shown interest in taking over the Treasurer position.
- The board approved Ellickson as Treasurer.
- Smolka will be meeting with Ellickson to transfer things over.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hanses moved to adjourn the meeting. D. Ladouceur seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on September 17, 2008 at the Victor Township Hall, 6843 E. Alward Road, Laingsburg

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