

Friends of the Maple River
Minutes of September 17, 2008
Victor Township Hall
8643 E. Alward Road, Laingsburg

PRESENT:

Ed Mikula, Vice President
Joe Latoff
Dale Ladouceur
Anita Ladouceur, Secretary
Jim Ellickson, Treasurer
John Switzer
Jeff Wadell, President
Jack Nutter
Terry Link

CALL TO ORDER:

J. Wadell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The group said 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:

1. Elsie Dam
2. Maple Rapids Boat Launch

D. Ladouceur moved to approve the agenda. Ellickson supported the motion. Motion carried.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Wadell introduced guest speaker, John Switzer, Clinton County Conservation District
Emerald Ash Borer status and update in Michigan:

- The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) originated in China and came into Michigan in the mid 1990's.
- It attacks all ash trees and kills them in a short period of time. The canopy dies back year after year.
- The EAB makes a "D" shaped hole in the bark and tunnels just inside the bark.
- The EAB has spread to IL, OH, IN, WV, NY and Ontario.
- A few counties had an initial ban which has been revised several times.
- Moving firewood is the biggest cause of spread of the disease.
- The original strategy was to eradicate, but eventually they gave up.

- 400,000,000 trees have succumbed to the EAB.
- The market for ash wood has disappeared.
- Treating large groups of trees is expensive and time consuming.
- MSU is leading the US in EAB research, including using parasitic wasps from China that feed strictly on the EAB, with some success.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Regular Monthly Meeting, August 20, 2008

Ellickson moved to approve the minutes of August 20, 2008 meeting as presented. Mikula supported the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Checking Account Balance:

- Ellickson reported a balance of \$1,106 in the checking account. It is unknown why previous balances were reported as being much lower. This balance was obtained from the most recent bank statement.

Donations and Contributions:

None to report

Expenses:

None to report

Membership Dues:

Ellickson gave copies of membership forms he obtained from the previous Treasurer to A. Ladouceur to sort through and update the membership listing, if needed.

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

News Articles:

- Mikula sent the meeting notice out to all local newspapers.

Website:

- Information regarding the 319 Grant has been added to the website.
- Ladouceur will continue to update it when information from the Clinton County Conservation District (CCCD) becomes available.

Newspaper Insert:

- Latoff recommended having a newspaper insert put into the local papers to educate people on the watershed and how to protect it. It could also include information on the 319 Grant the FOTMR's activities.
- Latoff will get information on the insert and report back at the October meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:
WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:
Nutter reported for the committee.

Muskrat Lake Project:

- The final negotiation process is going on with the DEQ regarding the dam design, etc.
- Gary Fritz (CCCD) and Phil Hanses (Clinton County Drain Commission) are leading the effort.

Downed Tree/Tire Removal Team:
Nothing to report.

Elsie Dam:

- Latoff met with individuals regarding the plan to replace the dam, having a walkway, etc. This is all very expensive.
- Cofferdams that exist before the main dam could be done gradually and may possibly be funded by grant money.
- Latoff will attend a meeting on the 25th with Spicer Engineering and the township and will bring any design updates to the next meeting.

Maple Rapids Boat Launch:

- Latoff spoke with Mr. Underwood regarding the property he can donate to the FOTMR or sell to the Greenspace Commission to be used as a kayak/canoe launch.
- Latoff is waiting for a response back from Mr. Underwood.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:
A Chair is needed for this committee.

Fall Float Trip Summary:

- There were only 5 boats that participated.
- We need to market the float trip much sooner.
- Ellickson will get the 2009 date to Latoff who will market it.

WATERSHED MONITORING COMMITTEE:

Boersen did not attend the meeting.

319 Watershed Management Plan:

- Switzer reported that 20 people attended the informational meeting in Owosso.
- The next meeting will be in Gratiot County in approximately 6 months.
- The Monitoring Committee is in the process of prioritizing both good and bad sites.

OLD BUSINESS:

Michigan United Conservation Clubs:

- We need to list 10 members on the membership application, and it will be sent to MUCC.

Meeting Locations:

- A. Ladouceur shared a spreadsheet of the number of attendees at the 2007 and 2008 meeting locations.
- The group decided to keep the same meeting locations for 2009.
- To increase the number of attendees, everyone needs to help get guest speakers. Miklua recommended having someone from MUCC.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Open Comments from the Public:

- Terry Link stated that he is on the Clinton County Commission, and he will join the FOTMR.

Festival Participation:

- Latoff will attend the Ovid Carriage Days, but would like help. A. Ladouceur will get the names of FOTMR members who reside in Ovid to Latoff.
- Ellickson looked for a tent (to be used at festivals) at Dunhams. A 12'x12' was \$130 and a 10'x10' was \$90. However they didn't have sides. Ellickson will continue to look for ones with sides.
- FOTMR authorized Ellickson to find and purchase a tent.

ADJOURNMENT:

Latoff moved to adjourn the meeting. Ellickson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on October 15, 2008 at the Rainbow Lake Property Management Building, 11150 S. Luce Road, Perrinton.

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