

Friends of the Maple River
Minutes of January 21, 2009
Rusty Nail Restaurant
10002 E. Carson City Road (M57), Carson City

PRESENT:

Anita Ladouceur
Ron Barton
Pete Ondrus
Joe Latoff
Gary Werner
Dick Abbott
Jon Morrison
Ed Mikula
Gary Fritz
Jeff Wadell
Jim Ellickson
Jack Nutter
Rich Nickols – Guest Speaker

CALL TO ORDER:

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

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

J. Wadell stated the purpose of the group.

AGENDA REVIEW, REVISIONS AND ADOPTION:

Ladouceur moved to approve the agenda. Ellickson supported the motion. Motion carried.
2009 Event Dates and Quiet Waters Symposium were added to the agenda.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Wadell introduced guest speaker, Rich Nickols, Clinton County Conservation Officer

- Nickols gave an overview of his duties, which include enforcing all hunting, fishing, boating and ORV laws; instructing safety classes; investigating trash, trespassing, and float hunting complaints.
- Nickols also spoke briefly on feral hogs, hunting ranches, unconfirmed cougar sightings in the lower peninsula, and the increase in poaching in 2008.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Regular Monthly Meeting, December 3, 2008

Morrison moved to approve the minutes of December 3, 2008 meeting as presented. Mikula supported the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Checking Account Balance:

- Ellickson reported a balance of \$589.56 in the checking account. Latoff moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Morrison seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Membership:

- Ellickson submitted 1 new membership.

COMMUNICATIONS:

News Articles:

- Mikula sent the meeting notice out to all 8 local newspapers.
- Mikula is also working on a news release to be sent out soon.
- Fritz is putting together a list of all science teachers in Clinton County, which could be used for future mailings.

Website:

- New links will be added for our "Affiliate" organizations and "Award" recipients.
- The issue with our site being blocked by server software at various government offices has been resolved.

Newspaper Insert:

- The Clinton County Conservation District is going to do a newspaper insert also.
- Latoff will coordinate with Fritz on the insert.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:

Nutter was absent from the beginning of the meeting.

Muskrat Lake Project:

- Fritz reported that the DEQ said if the landowners support the project, they might not need a drainage structure on the back of the property and they would be able to approve the existing application.
- There is a meeting with the landowners in the next month.

Elsie Dam:

- A grant for a feasibility study has been applied for, and we won't know the status of the grant approval until this summer.

Maple Rapids Boat Launch:

- The property owner still plans to donate/sell the property to the Village of Maple Rapids.
- The process is ongoing.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Latoff reported for the committee.

- Videotaping project is being coordinated by Mikula.
- Big Tree Program is being coordinated by Sara Morrison. Information can be put on our website and include a small article about it in the newspaper insert.
- Latoff is working on a brochure for the Land Conservancy Program.
- The Float Trip is August 22, 2009.

- There is a map being developed for the History River Tour Project.
- The tent's sign with our name was made and on display at the meeting.
- There is an opening for a coordinator for the Explorer's Post Program. Please let Latoff know if you are interested in filling that position.

Great Lakes Basin grant opportunity

- Latoff, along with the RC&D, will apply for a grant to construct the table top watershed model. The cost of the model is \$12,000 to \$13,000.
- Morrison moved to approve Latoff to apply for the grant. Mikula supported the motion. Motion carried.
- There is also grant money available for landowners to do erosion control.

WATERSHED MONITORING COMMITTEE:

Boersen was absent from the meeting.

319 Watershed Management Plan:

- Fritz shared current maps of priority areas. These areas may change as the study progresses.
- Wadell is going to contact Boersen regarding his committee chair position.

NEW BUSINESS:

FOTMR Awards:

- Wadell presented Rich Nickols with a FOTMR Award for his investigative work on the illegal trash dumping complaint at Muskrat Lake.
- Art Bloomer, property owner, was also to receive a FOTMR Award for his work on the same complaint, but he was absent from the meeting.

2009 Event Dates:

- Quiet Water's Symposium
 - This is held on March 7, 2009 at Michigan State University.
 - Latoff is going to attend the symposium and would like help to man the booth.
 - Latoff is going to contact the Friends of the Looking Glass (FOTLG) to coordinate the activity.
 - Visit www.quietwatersymposium.org for details.
- River Clean-up date is May 2, 2009.
- Float Trip date is August 22, 2009.
- Information regarding all FOTMR events will be put on the website asap.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Open Comments from the Public:

- Latoff stated that we received our notice from MUCC regarding our membership in District #20. Latoff is our contact person with MUCC.

ADJOURNMENT:

Nutter moved to adjourn the meeting. Mikula seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on February 18, 2009 at Ovid Township Hall. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the FOTLG. Fritz also invited all Conservation District offices to attend.

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