

Friends of the Maple River  
Minutes of October 21, 2009  
DeWitt Township Community Center  
16101 Brook Road, DeWitt, Michigan

PRESENT:

Joe Latoff  
Gary Boersen  
Jeff Wadell  
Jim Ellickson  
Jon Morrison  
Phil Hanses  
Dale Ladouceur  
Anita Ladouceur  
Jack Nutter  
Duane Platner

CALL TO ORDER:

J. Wadell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

J. Wadell led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA REVIEW, REVISIONS AND ADOPTION:

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

'2010 Meeting Dates' was added to the agenda under 'Other Business'.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

A. Ladouceur provided the minutes from the Regular Monthly Meeting, September 16, 2009  
Latoff moved to approve the minutes of September 16, 2009 meeting. Hanses supported the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting minutes are posted on the FOTMR website prior to the next meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Checking Account Balance:

- Morrison reported a balance of \$1888.35 in the checking account. Boersen moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Hanses seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Morrison reviewed the donations and contributions received, along with 1 outstanding bill to Allaby and Brewbaker for \$174.

A. Ladoucuer moved to approve FOTMR paying \$20 for Mikula to attend the RC&D banquet on behalf of the FOTMR. D. Ladouceur seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## COMMUNICATIONS:

### News Articles:

- Mikula sent the meeting notice out to all 8 local newspapers.
- Mikula does a great job on the newsreleases.

### Website:

- Photos have now been posted by category.
- Members should email Maple River photos to A. Ladouceur to put on the website.

### Newspaper Insert:

- Latoff hopes that the newspaper insert will help to increase membership.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:

#### Muskrat Lake Project:

- Hanses reported that Gary Fritz met with Debbie Stabenow's office regarding the change in funding qualification requirements.
- Her office may have other ideas for funding sources.

#### Elsie Dam:

- Nutter reported that the initial topographical survey has been completed.
- They are in the process of developing plans and a hydrologic model.
- They may do additional surveying.

#### Maple Rapids Boat Launch/Park - North:

- Nothing new to report.

#### Maple Rapids Boat Launch - South:

- Latoff reported that the Clinton County Road Commission is willing to deed over a piece of property on the south side of the river to the FOTMR for a boat launch.
- Hanses is going to follow-up with the Road Commission on this.
- Latoff recommended sending a letter to the county and Greenspace Commission thanking them for the improvements they made at the boat launch at French and St. Clair Roads.

#### Downed Tree Removal Team:

- Nutter reported there is still 1 small section of the river that is still blocked with several log jams between Colony and Farather Roads (off of Shepardsville Road).
- Morrison stated that the Friends of the Looking Glass does a log jam removal day annually.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

- The booth items for festivals are stored in Latoff's garage, if anyone needs to borrow them.

#### 319 Grant Flyer:

- The flyer on the results of the 319 grant will be ready to go in the spring.
- Morrison recommended having a social event in conjunction with the 319 flyer.
- Latoff is currently working on a list of brochures to develop.

River Guide Book:

- Morrison reported that the final rough draft is done, and it is ready to take to potential advertisers.

MUCC:

- Latoff reported that the Board meeting he attended was very useful and helpful, and the Board is composed primarily of non-water groups.

WATERSHED MONITORING COMMITTEE:

319 Watershed Management Plan:

- The monitoring committee's work is winding down, and the review committee's work is now picking up.
- Aaron Snell from the monitoring committee wants input from FOTMR on the monitoring plan. Morrison will follow-up with Snell.
- The final public meeting is in January.
- The final plan adoption should be March-April 2010.
- FOTMR is going to meet with MEAP officials to see about FOTMR partnering with the MEAP program to encourage farmers to help improve the watershed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Logo Wear:

- A. Ladouceur will email all members regarding the FOTMR shirts.

Letter to Drain Commissioner:

- Latoff moved to repeal the letter to the Gratiot County Drain Commissioner. Boersen seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Hanses is going to schedule an inter-county drain meeting to formalize the expenditures for the grant.

OTHER BUSINESS:

2010 Meeting Schedule

- Wadell shared the dates of the 2010 meetings. There will be 6 membership meetings.
- A. Ladouceur will get the 2010 dates on the website.

Open Comments from the Public:

- None to report

ADJOURNMENT:

Morrison moved to adjourn the meeting. Ellickson seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on December 2, 2009 at the Pewamo Village Hall, 131 Main Street, Pewamo.

Please direct any and all modifications to the minutes to [info@friendsofthemapleriver.org](mailto:info@friendsofthemapleriver.org).