

Friends of the Maple River
Minutes of December 2, 2009
Pewamo Village Hall
131 Main Street, Pewamo, Michigan

PRESENT:

Ed Mikula
Gary Fritz
Gloria Miller – Guest Speaker
Dan Arens
Marilyn Thelen – Guest Speaker
Joe Latoff
Jon Morrison
Phil Hanses
Anita Ladouceur
Jack Nutter
Duane Platner

CALL TO ORDER:

President, Wadell was absent from the meeting.

Vice President, Mikula welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mikula led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

INTRODUCTIONS – GUEST SPEAKERS

Mikula welcomed Marilyn Thelen from the Clinton County Cooperative Extension & Gloria Miller from the Friends of the Looking Glass

Marilyn Thelen spoke about their manure management demonstration day:

- The demo day was done to encourage farmers to use best management practices (BMPs).
- There were 3 types of manure used:
 - Liquid swine – stored inside, no rainwater added
 - Liquid dairy – stored outside, rainwater added
 - Pelletized poultry
- They demonstrated different types of manure spreading methods, then planted crops on the fields, and then ran tests.
- The outcome of the demo was that 7% learned something they plan to apply to their farm.
- The conclusions were:
 - Nitrogen was difficult to manage.
 - Injection improved nitrogen available for the crop.
 - Demo day helped introduce BMPs to producers.

Gloria Miller spoke about the Grand River Expedition 2010:

- It is a 12 day trip (July 14th-26th) that covers 225 miles.
- The trip starts in Liberty, south of Jackson and ends in Grand Haven.
- The canoe/kayak trip was done in 1990 and 2000 also.
- Around 50 canoes participated those years.

- Some research was done in 1990, and 2000 was mostly observation.
- There are hosts for each section of the river. They plan meals, escort paddlers, and plan an evening program.
- The FOTMR and FLG will be co-hosts at the stop in Lyons. We would be responsible for the evening program on July 20th and the breakfast on July 21st.
- The website for the expedition is <http://tiny.cc/grandriverexpedition2010>.

AGENDA REVIEW, REVISIONS AND ADOPTION:

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

A. Ladouceur provided the minutes from the Regular Monthly Meeting, October 21, 2009
 Latoff moved to approve the minutes of October 21, 2009 meeting. Morrison 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 \$1868.35 in the checking account. Hanses moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Nutter seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Liability Insurance:

- Morrison met with Allaby and Brewbaker.
- We currently have 2 policies:
 - General liability - \$175/yr. covers special events
 - Director's and officer's liability - \$600/yr. covers personal assets
- We may not need the Director's liability coverage. Morrison will talk to an attorney for their opinion.
- Friends of the Looking Glass do not carry any liability insurance.

COMMUNICATIONS:

News Articles:

- Mikula sent the meeting notice out to all 8 local newspapers.

Website:

- Nothing new to report.

Newspaper Insert:

- Will be completed as the 319 report is written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:

Muskrat Lake Project:

- Fritz reported that discussions are ongoing with the DNR for long term maintenance.
- The financing still needs to be worked out.

Elsie Dam:

- Nothing new to report.

Maple Rapids Boat Launch/Park - North:

- The project is progressing.

Maple Rapids Boat Launch - South:

- The project is progressing.

Downed Tree Removal Team:

- Nothing new to report.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

River Guide Book:

- The project is progressing.

MUCC:

- The 2010 FOTMR meeting dates are now in the MUCC magazine.
- A. Ladouceur will also add our river clean-up and float trip dates when they are confirmed.
- Latoff wants the MUCC to accomplish 2 things:
 - Have a region-wide wetlands planning process.
 - Recruit more watershed groups.

WATERSHED MONITORING COMMITTEE:

319 Watershed Management Plan:

- Latoff reported that the first draft of the monitoring portion of the report is done, and the revision is underway.
- Fritz stated that there are many meetings on chapter reviews and the final public meeting will be January 13, 2010 at the Clinton County Courthouse.

OLD BUSINESS:

Logo Wear:

- A. Ladouceur emailed all members regarding the shirts and only 1 person responded.
- A. Ladouceur will email the final order form to Wadell.

Gratiot County Drain Commissioner:

- The inter-county drain board approved \$5,000 in match.

OTHER BUSINESS:

2010 Meeting Schedule

- A. Ladouceur will get the 2010 dates on the website.

Open Comments from the Public:

- Platner recommended welcoming all new faces to the meetings before it starts. The group agreed and this will be added to all future agendas.
- Fritz provided a handout regarding working with the NRCS on resource concerns locally. If anyone has additional concerns, please contact Fritz.

ADJOURNMENT:

Platner moved to adjourn the meeting. Nutter seconded the motion. Motion carried.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on January 20, 2010 at the Rusty Nail Restaurant, 10002 E. Carson City Road (M-57), Carson City.

Please direct any and all modifications to the minutes to info@friendsofthemapleriver.org.