

Friends of the Maple River
Minutes of February 18, 2009
Ovid Township Hall
1015 Baese Ct., Ovid

PRESENT:

Jeff Wadell
Ed Mikula
Jim Ellickson
Anita Ladouceur
Joe Latoff
Dale Ladouceur
Jack Nutter
Gary Fritz
Edwin Martinez
Pat White
Gloria Miller
Ione Berg
Bob Bishop
Mike Gray
Cara Clore
Duane Platner

CALL TO ORDER:

J. Wadell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

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:

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

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

- Friends of the Looking Glass (FOTLG)
- Gary Fritz, Clinton County Conservation District
- Cara Clore, Clinton County Waste Management

Discussion Topic:

Fritz lead a discussion on how the FOTMR and FOTLG can share resources and volunteers while bringing watershed education to the community and schools.

- Activities to work together:
 1. Local festivals such as the St. Johns Mint Festival and DeWitt Ox Roast.
 2. Meetings such as the Quiet Water's Symposium at MSU in March.
 3. Banquets such as Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, etc.

- The Clinton County Conservation District may be able to provide some funding for the 2 groups to work together.

Clore stated that Kathy Donahue, full time educator for Clinton County Waste Management (CCWM), was unable to attend the meeting.

- Donahue and Clore are both a resource and are available to work with volunteers to train and education them.
- They are also willing to provide information on both groups on their own display boards.
- They can help both groups develop brochures and other education materials and activities such as a geocaching activity with school kids for the Big Tree Program.

Gloria Miller, President of the FOTLG, discussed their educational activities and goals.

- They work with school kids and have a bridge sign program.
- They want to put their Michigan Heritage Water Trail Project into a brochure and have more information added to their website.

Latoff spoke on the education goals of the FOTMR, and the Historical River Tour Project.

- Mikula showed the large map depicting points of interest along the Maple River.
- The goal is to put the map into a usable brochure and put signs along the river.
- Mikula will be putting an article in the local papers on this project.

Fritz is going to get with Donahue to set up a joint meeting between the FOTLG and FOTMR to begin brainstorming joint activities. Fritz presented the FOTLG and FOTMR with nice macro invertebrates posters mounted on foam board that can be used at future events.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Regular Monthly Meeting, January 19, 2009

Ellickson moved to approve the minutes of January 21, 2009 meeting as presented. Mikula supported the motion. Motion carried.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Checking Account Balance:

- Ellickson reported a balance of \$759.56 in the checking account. Mikula moved to approve the Treasurer's report. D. Ladouceur seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Donations:

- Ellickson reported 2 donations totaling \$145, one for the website and one for the booth sign.

Memberships:

- Ellickson submitted 2 new membership totaling \$25.

COMMUNICATIONS:

News Articles:

- Mikula sent the meeting notice out to all 8 local newspapers, and also submitted an article on the Education Committee activities.
- MUCC needs information 2 months ahead of time if we want anything put in the Michigan

Out of Doors magazine. Mikula will work with Nutter on an notice regarding the river clean-up

Newspaper Insert: ON HOLD

Website:

- New links were added for our “Affiliate” organizations and “Award” recipients.
- Any other items, including photos, can be added to the website. Members just need to get the information to A. Ladouceur.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:

Nutter reported for the committee.

Spring River Clean-Up:

- We are ready to go on May 2nd.
- There is information on our website (“Events”) about it.
- CCWM is going to donate a dumpster again this year

Elsie Dam:

- Latoff reported that the project is moving along.
- The results of the engineering study will be available in June.

Muskrat Lake Project:

- Fritz reported that the DEQ has approved the letter for landowners to sign, but they had comments regarding other details.
- There will be a meeting set up with landowners, legislators, DEQ, etc.

Maple Rapids Boat Launch:

- The property owner is going to donate the 10 acres on the Maple River to set up a park and boat launch.

Downed Tree Removal Team:

- Nutter and Phil Hanses, Clinton County Drain Commissioner, removed 2 log jams by Shepardsville.
- The main goal is to be able to canoe from Ovid to Bannister easily.
- Anyone interested in helping with this activity should contact Nutter.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Latoff reported for the committee.

MUCC Affiliation:

- Latoff attended the District 20 meeting and discussed the need for the wetlands program and regulation to stay at the state level instead of being transferred to the federal government.

Great Lakes Basin Grant Opportunity:

- Latoff is going to write a grant to purchase \$15,000 in monitoring equipment to do monitoring in the sub watershed that contains Lake Ovid and Lake Victoria.

WATERSHED MONITORING COMMITTEE:

Boersen was absent from the meeting.

319 Watershed Management Plan:

- Fritz reported that things are going well.
- There is a meeting Monday to discuss the tillage (ground coverage) survey.
- They will be looking at solutions to problems in agricultural areas and what to expect when implementing those solutions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Logo Wear:

- Wadell asked if anyone is interested in purchasing shirts or hats with the FOTMR on it.
- Wadell will get further details on price and report back to the group.

Restoring River Project, Mott College

- Ellickson and Nutter attended the activity.
- The river in Flint was flooding all the time and flooding out buildings.
- A company redesigned the river to eliminate the reoccurring flooding.
- It was a very interesting project.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Quiet Water's Symposium:

- Latoff stated that FOTMR is registered to attend the symposium in March, and unfortunately, he is now unable to attend.
- Latoff is looking for volunteers to take his place at the FOTMR booth.
- We really need to sell the float trip and discuss the watershed at the symposium.
- FOTLG will also have a booth at the symposium.

Open Comments from the Public:

- Miller mentioned that the FOTLG will be hosting a Rain Garden/Rain Barrel talk on April 9th from 6:30-9:30pm at a location in DeWitt still TBD.

ADJOURNMENT:

D. Ladouceur moved to adjourn the meeting. Mikula seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on March 18, 2009 at Muir Lion's Club.

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