

Friends of the Maple River
Minutes of March 18, 2009
Lyons/Muir Lions Club
545 Superior, Muir

PRESENT:

Phil Hanses
Jeff Wadell
Ed Mikula
Jim Ellickson
Jon Morrison
Mark Brooks
Daniel Simmon
Gale Powell
Dennis Phillips
Gayla Phillips
Edwin Martinez
Joe Latoff
Ben Bierstetel
Jack Nutter
Charles Babcock
Gary Boersen
Fred Kehagen

CALL TO ORDER:

J. Wadell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

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. Ellickson supported the motion. Motion carried.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Scott Piggott, Michigan Farm Bureau, Ecology Department Manager

Mr. Piggott discussed water legislation from 2008. The Great Lakes governors signed a compact to prohibit water with Great Lakes basin to outside of the basing. Water users of 70 gallons per minute or greater (pump capacity) must file annual usage reports. Piggott demonstrated a web-based water use assessment tool. Users can enter parameters such as location, depth of well, gallons per minute of withdrawal, times of withdrawal, and others and the tool says whether the withdrawal will cause an adverse resource impact in the watershed. The website address for the assessment tool is www.miwwat.org.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Anita Ladouceur, Secretary, was absent from the meeting.

Phil Hanses volunteered to take minutes.

Regular Monthly Meeting, February 18, 2009

The meeting dated on page 2 was corrected to Jan. 21.

Ellickson moved to approve the minutes of February 18, 2009 meeting as corrected. 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:

- Ellickson reported a balance of \$794.56 in the checking account. 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 8 local newspapers.
- MUCC needs a 90 day advance notice of event to include in its magazine.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:

Nutter reported for the committee.

May 2nd Spring River Clean-Up:

- A dumpster will be located at the Elsie Dam.
- Nutter will coordinate volunteers. He needs to hear from people desiring a specific location to clean-up if they are not meeting at the dam.
- Mikula will provide a clean-up notice to newspapers.

Muskrat Lake Project:

- Gary Fritz and Phil Hanses met with five affected property owners hoping to get signatures on a statement approving the project that would be forwarded to the DEQ.
- Three of the five have signed to date.

Downed Tree Removal Team:

- Nutter is removing jams between Elsie and Bannister.
- Nutter did a presentation about the FOTMR to the Elsie Women's Literary Club. The club donated \$150 to the FOTMR. Wadell will send a thank you note to the club.
- The Stony Creek Conservation Club will be working Saturday, March 21 to remove nuisance trees from along the Stony Creek. Volunteers should meet at the Hinman Road Bridge to help.

Motion by Latoff to give a complimentary Organizational Membership to the Elsie Women's Literary Club. Wadell supported the motion. Motion carried.

Elsie Dam:

- Duplain Township is waiting for word on their grant application. Word is expected in June.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:
Latoff reported for the committee.

Quiet Water's Symposium:

- Martinez of the Clinton Conservation District reported on the Quiet Water Symposium. He manned the FOTMR display, and handed out 100 brochures promoting the FOTMR float trip.

Committee Update:

- Latoff distributed the Education Committee goals, Projects, and Activities.
- No new news on the watershed history project.
- Morrison is receiving a few calls about the Big Tree Program.
- A brochure describing the Land Conservancy Program is under development.
- The annual float trip is scheduled for Saturday, August 22nd. This year volunteers will shuttle people back to their vehicles after the trip rather than taking them and their canoes to the put-in locations.

Latoff motioned to present a FOTMR to a Cub Scout pack for their work in installing and maintaining Wood Duck nesting boxes. Motion supported. Motion carried.

Latoff motioned to approve \$105 to laminate watershed maps for displays. Boerson supported the motion. Motion carried.

WATERSHED MONITORING COMMITTEE:

Boersen reported for the committee.

319 Watershed Management Plan Development:

- Boerson reported that a tillage survey will be completed as part of the 319 Watershed Management Plan grant. Volunteers are needed to observe tillage practices at targeted locations. The work should be able to be completed without having to get out of the car.

Monitoring Grant Application:

- Getting ready to submit application to the Capital Area Community Foundation.
- The grant would allow the FOTMR to purchase monitoring equipment.
- Areas upstream of Lake Ovid will be monitored for turbidity and other things.

OLD BUSINESS:

Logo Wear: ON HOLD

OTHER BUSINESS:

Open Comments from the Public:

- Fred Kohagen displayed a plat map of Clinton County from 1864. One of only a few left in the state from that time.
- Charles Babcock, Lyons Township Supervisor welcomed the group to Muir.
- Friends of the Looking Glass – “The Benefits of Rain Gardens and Rain Barrels” presentation will be held at the DeWitt Fire Station on west Main Street on April 9th from 6:30 – 8:30. Contact Gloria Miller for more information.

ADJOURNMENT:

Bloomer moved to adjourn the meeting. Morrison seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:11pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on April 15, 2009 at the Central Michigan Sportsman Club, 4251 E. Stanton Rd., Stanton, Michigan.

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