

Friends of the Maple River  
Minutes of April 15, 2009  
Central Michigan Sportsman's Club  
4251 E. Stanton Road, Stanton

PRESENT:

Joe Latoff  
Ed Mikula  
Jon Morrison  
Jeff Wadell  
Anita Ladouceur  
Dale Ladouceur  
Lois Ramsey  
Ken Kline  
Duane Platner  
Gary Fritz  
Jim Ellickson

CALL TO ORDER:

J. Wadell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

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. Morrison supported the motion. Motion carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

A. Ladouceur provided the minutes from the Regular Monthly Meeting, March 18, 2009  
Morrison moved to approve the minutes of March 18, 2009 meeting. 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 \$833.26 in the checking account. Morrison moved to approve the Treasurer's report. D. Ladouceur seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## COMMUNICATIONS:

### News Articles:

- Mikula sent the meeting notice out to all 8 local newspapers, along with photos of the FOTMR awards.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:

Ellickson & Fritz reported for Nutter and the committee.

### May 2<sup>nd</sup> Spring River Clean-Up:

- A notice of the clean-up will run twice in the newspapers.
- Volunteers should contact Jack Nutter at 989-862-5541.

### Muskrat Lake Project:

- Two property owners don't want to sign-off on the project.
- Fritz is going to send an amended application to the DEQ.

### Elsie Dam:

- There is an engineering study in progress.
- A grant application is going to be submitted for funding the project.

### Maple Rapids Boat Launch/Park

- It is on schedule for 2010.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Latoff reported for the committee.

### Committee Update:

- Latoff displayed 3 laminated maps.
  1. Historical water trails project – points of interest and cultural information.
  2. Watershed information – where the smaller maps are located within the watershed.
  3. Road signs – where the watershed boundary signs will be located.
- Latoff is working on a booklet with information sheets on all of the FOTMR activities.
- FOTMR will wait for the 319 grant to be done before we revise and print out own brochure again.

### MUCC:

- Latoff will be attending an MUCC function in Mt. Pleasant the end of June.
- MUCC will be putting information on our float trip on their website.

## WATERSHED MONITORING COMMITTEE:

Fritz reported for Boersen and the committee.

### 319 Watershed Management Plan Development:

- The initial project ends in April 2010.
- The monitoring work is almost done.
- There will be a public meeting in Gratiot County on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Monitoring Grant Application:

- FOTMR applied for a grant to purchase \$15,000 in monitoring equipment.
- We will know by the end of May if we will receive the grant.
- The Sleepy Hollow Park area and the sub-watersheds will be the focus of the monitoring.

Latoff motioned to create a large laminated map for the sub-watershed project. D. Ladouceur supported. Motion passed.

Tillage Survey:

- There are 5 sub-watersheds that will be surveyed.
- Those volunteers who helped with the road crossing surveys will be asked to help first.
- Each volunteer will receive a detailed booklet on the survey.

OLD BUSINESS:

Logo Wear: ON HOLD

OTHER BUSINESS:

Open Comments from the Public:

- Kline and Ramsey introduced themselves.
- Kline asked for clarification on the tillage survey.

Upcoming Festivals:

- The list of festivals is on our website under "Events".
- FOTMR members are encouraged to attend one of the festivals and work in the booth.
- Wadell will bring the list of festivals to the next meeting.
- We will know by the end of May if we receive the grant money for the table-top watershed model.

Tillage Practices:

- Wadell lead a discussion on the 3 different types of tillage practices used by farmers.
  1. no till
  2. conventional tillage – till in spring or fall, opportunities for erosion, chemicals may be used
  3. organic farming – tillage several times to break down vegetation, erosion problems are increased, no chemicals are used

ADJOURNMENT:

Morrison moved to adjourn the meeting. Ellickson seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on May 20, 2009 at the Clinton County Courthouse, 100 E. State Street (M-21), St. Johns, Michigan.

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