

Friends of the Maple River
Minutes of June 17, 2009
Duplain Township Hall
145 W. Main, Elsie, Michigan 48831

PRESENT:

Jeff Wadell
Joe Latoff
Ed Mikula
Gary Boersen
Duane Platner
Dale Ladouceur
Anita Ladouceur
Phil Hanses
Charles Wadell
Jack Nutter
Jon Morrison
Dave Wittkop – Guest Speaker

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

J. Wadell stated the purpose of the group.

INTRODUCTIONS:

J. Wadell introduced Dave Wittkop, Plant Manager for MMPA's Ovid plant. Wittkop provided the following information:

- The MMPA plant expansion is to be completed by March 2010.
- The plant takes in raw milk and separates it into cream and skim.
- The plant provides a market for producers and helps to balance the market.
- The plant currently processes 3,000,000 gallons per day and it will eventually process 5,000,000 gallons per day.
- MMPA has to adhere to strict discharge levels and is trying to be a good environmental steward.

AGENDA REVIEW, REVISIONS AND ADOPTION:

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

A. Ladouceur provided the minutes from the Regular Monthly Meeting, May 20, 2009
Platner moved to approve the minutes of May 20, 2009 meeting. Nutter 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 \$694.32 in the checking account. Platner moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Boersen seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Morrison provided a detailed written Treasurer's report.

Donations & Contributions: None to report

Membership Dues:

- Latoff said there is software for nonprofit groups to use to monitor membership renewals.
- A. Ladouceur and Morrison will discuss this before the next meeting.

Insurance for Board of Directors:

- J. Wadell is waiting to hear back from our attorney regarding the need for insurance.

COMMUNICATIONS:

News Articles:

- Mikula sent the meeting notice out to all 8 local newspapers, along with a photo of the FOTMR award-winning scouts.

Website:

- The Annual Report has been posted on the website.
- Hanses said we might have the July meeting date missing from our website.
- A. Ladouceur will look into this and correct it.

Newspaper Insert:

- Mikula has created a 4 page draft and is currently designing the layout.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:

Nutter reported for the committee.

Muskrat Lake Project:

- Nothing new to report.

River Clean-Up:

- Nutter feels the clean-up should be earlier so we can see the trash easier with less vegetation. However, the flooding could be worse.
- It would also be easier to get rid of tires through Clinton County if we did the clean-up earlier.
- Nutter read a letter from a dad about his son cleaning up the river.

Elsie Dam:

- Nothing new to report.

Maple Rapids Boat Launch/Park:

- Latoff reported that the Maple Rapids Parks and Recreation Plan is being re-worked, which will allow the park to be built.
- Latoff reported that another landowner may donate property as well.

Downed Tree Removal Team:

- Nutter will make sure the river can be canoed from Baldwin Road to Bannister.
- There are 2 log jams that currently need addressing.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Latoff reported for the committee.

Committee Update:

- Latoff is using a monthly report to document all of FOTMR's activities.
- Latoff passed around a small flip chart of laminated river trail maps that the Friends of the Looking Glass created.

FOTMR Award:

- Mikula will contact Duck's Unlimited to see if they can attend the July meeting to receive a FOTMR award and make a brief presentation.

MUCC:

- Nothing new to report.

Sleepy Hollow Event:

- There is an environmental event at Sleepy Hollow State Park on June 20th.
- We could have a booth at the event or just provide information at the interpretive center by the beach.
- Latoff will make sure that we have information there.

WATERSHED MONITORING COMMITTEE:

Boersen reported for the committee.

319 Watershed Management Plan:

- Public meeting at the Fulton Township Hall on June 16th.
 - 25 people attended the meeting.
 - There will be a draft version of the plan at the next public meeting.
- DEQ Meeting
 - There is a DEQ meeting on July 14th at the Clinton County Courthouse, Commissioner's Room regarding phosphorus in the watershed.

Monitoring Grant Application:

- Grants applications will be reviewed again this week.
- Boersen and Latoff will be doing more fieldwork.
- We need to find rain gauges in the sub-watershed to help monitor rainfall and how it relates to runoff.

Tillage Survey:

- All surveys are in and the Conservation District will be processing the data.
- They are hoping to use the data to support other data.

OLD BUSINESS:

Logo Wear:

- Wadell made contact with a business in DeWitt regarding having shirts printed.
- There is a \$75 set up fee for a 4 color logo.
- Shirts are \$11 for a jersey cotton golf shirt.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Open Comments from the Public:

- None to report.

Upcoming Festivals:

- Elsie Dairy Festival is July 9th-11th
 - There is a \$30 booth fee, which J. Wadell will donate if we have a booth.
 - Nutter volunteered to work in the booth 3-4 hours.
- St. Johns Mint Festival
 - Latoff agreed to work part of the festival.
- J. Wadell will contact Pat White to see if she will work our booth at a festival.

Breakfast on the Farm:

- Saturday, June 20th
- If anyone is interested in attending, they need to contact the county extension or Farm Bureau.

ADJOURNMENT:

D. Ladouceur moved to adjourn the meeting. Morrison seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on July 15, 2009. The location had to be moved, but has not yet been determined.

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