

Friends of the Maple River
Minutes of July 15, 2009
Hubbardston Community Center
305 Russell Street, Hubbardston, Michigan 48831

PRESENT:

Jeff Wadell
Joe Latoff
Ed Mikula
Gary Boersen
Duane Platner
Dale Ladouceur
Anita Ladouceur
Phil Hanses
Jon Morrison
Gary Fritz
Daniel Simmon
Kevin Craig
Heather Shaw – Guest Speaker

CALL TO ORDER:

J. Wadell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:17pm.

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 Heather Shaw, Ducks Unlimited (DU) and presented her with a FOTMR award to DU for the work they have done in the Maple River Watershed.

Shaw provided the following information:

- DU is a 70 year old nonprofit organization.
- One of the key problems is loss of habitat. Michigan has lost 75% of its wetlands in the Lower Peninsula.
- DU works with state and federal agencies and other organizations.
- \$1.41 million has been invested in 08/09 and \$22.4 million to date.
- 2,493 acres have been conserved and 14,062 acres have received technical assistance.
- Within the Maple River Watershed:
 - 419 upland acres have been restored/enhanced.
 - 3187 wetland acres have been restored/enhanced.
 - 1428 acres have been protected.
 - There have been 142 different DU projects.
 - DU's website is www.ducks.org

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, June 17, 2009
Platner moved to approve the minutes of June 17, 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 \$404.32 in the checking account. Latoff moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Platner seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Morrison provided a detailed written Treasurer's report.
- Latoff mentioned that he has volunteered FOTMR to be a nonprofit sponsor and work at a poker tournament fundraiser in St. Johns in August. FOTMR could earn several hundred dollars. Latoff is looking for volunteers to help out.

Donations & Contributions:

- D. Ladouceur notified Morrison that he will be donating \$250 to FOTMR from the sale of a canoe.
- Platner presented Morrison with a \$1,000 check from the Platner family.
- The group thanked them for their generous gifts.

Membership Dues:

- A. Ladouceur will email those individuals with memberships due.
- A. Ladouceur and Morrison will refine the membership database.

Insurance for Board of Directors:

- Nothing new to report.

COMMUNICATIONS:

News Articles:

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

Website:

- Nothing new to report.

Newspaper Insert:

- Nothing new to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:

Nutter was absent from the meeting. Fritz reported for the committee.

Muskrat Lake Project:

- The DEQ is going to get with Fritz regarding a timeline for their responses.
- The DNR is supportive of the project.

Elsie Dam:

- Duplain Township received the \$19,000 grant for the survey and design by Spicer Engineering.

Maple Rapids Boat Launch/Park:

- Nothing new to report.

Downed Tree Removal Team:

- Hanses spoke with the gravel pit and they are willing to help remove 2 log jams on their property.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Latoff reported for the committee.

Committee Update:

- Self-Guided Flip Booklet of the Maple River
 - Sara Morrison is working on the project.
 - The Conservation District is working on the maps.
 - We are able to get sponsors to cover the cost of the booklets.
 - We will be able to sell the booklets for \$10 each.

MUCC:

- Latoff and Platner attended the MUCC meeting.
- One major concern to the MUCC is there is a depletion in the number of outdoors people.
- MUCC is selling the building in Lansing and downsizing.
- Latoff stressed to MUCC the need for them to reach out to the watershed organizations.

WATERSHED MONITORING COMMITTEE:

Boersen reported for the committee.

319 Watershed Management Plan:

- There have been brainstorming sessions to discuss directions and solutions and to encourage everyone to think outside the box.

Little Maple River Monitoring Grant Application:

- Nothing new to report.

Tillage Survey:

- Fritz thanks all who volunteered and completed the surveys.
- The Conservation District is still evaluating the data.

OLD BUSINESS:

Logo Wear:

- Wadell is still following-up and getting information from the printer.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Open Comments from the Public:

- Kevin Craig introduced himself and is willing to help volunteer in the FOTMR booth at the Maple Rapids Lamplighter Festival.

Upcoming Festivals:

- Latoff is looking for a volunteer to involve us in the Gratiot County Ag Expo.
- Ovid Carriage Days is September 26th-28th.
- Maple Rapids Lamplighter Festival is August 21st-23rd.

ADJOURNMENT:

Morrison moved to adjourn the meeting. A. Ladouceur seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on August 19, 2009 at the Maple Rapids Community Center, 209 Union, Maple Rapids.

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