

Friends of the Maple River
Minutes of August 19, 2009
Maple Rapids Community Center
209 W. Union, Maple Rapids, Michigan

PRESENT:

Jeff Wadell
Joe Latoff
Ed Mikula
Gary Boersen
Duane Platner
Dale Ladouceur
Anita Ladouceur
Phil Hanses
Jon Morrison
Gary Fritz
Fred Olmstead
Jack Nutter
Gary Werner
Tom Eitniear – Guest Speaker

CALL TO ORDER:

J. Wadell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

INTRODUCTIONS:

Morrison introduced Tom Eitniear, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Local Agent/Biologist.

Eitniear provided the following information:

- “Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program” is working through partnerships to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat on private lands.
- Since 1988, they have been working with landowners to restore wetlands, restore stream banks, and establish grasslands.
- They also work with government agencies, conservation organizations, and business and industry.
- They use ditch plugs and low-level berms to reverse drainage and restore wetlands.
- They do not dig ponds or alter undisturbed wetlands.
- They also get involved in dam removal projects.
- Since 1988, they have done 2600 projects in Michigan restoring and establishing 17,000 acres.

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, July 15, 2009
Latoff moved to approve the minutes of July 15, 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 \$1454.32 in the checking account. Mikula moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Platner seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- 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.

Budget:

- Morrison provided a detailed budget and explained it item by item.
- We will not be including any grant information in the budget.

Donations & Contributions:

- A. Ladouceur presented Morrison with a \$250 check from the sale of their canoe.

Membership Dues:

- Nothing new to report.

Insurance for Board of Directors:

- Allaby & Brewbaker are going to cover the cost of our insurance (\$700 annually).

Annual Report to the State:

- Morrison stated that we need to submit a report indicating our officers/directors.
- After a brief discussion, Latoff motioned to include the Committee Chairs as Board members. Platner seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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 reported for the committee.

Muskrat Lake Project:

- Fritz received the permit from the DEQ.
- Due to changes in the Farm Bill, government agencies can no longer apply for WRP funds.
- Fritz wrote a letter, which was signed by several individuals, to Senator Stabenow to see if they can still be eligible for \$33,000 of the WRP funds.

Elsie Dam:

- Nothing new to report.

Maple Rapids Boat Launch/Park:

- FOTMR would like to eventually have a permanent meeting location on the property.

Downed Tree Removal Team:

- Nutter floated the river from Blair Road to Bellingers and all log jams are removed.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Latoff reported for the committee.

Self-Guided Trail Guide of the Maple River

- Morrison passed around a draft version of the guide.
- The cost for printing is \$4.80 each.
- Morrison is going to get the list of potential sponsors to Fritz.

Float Trip

- Wadell has mowed the grass at the take-out point in Maple Rapids.
- Nutter will help Latoff transporting floaters back to their vehicles.

Poker Tournament

- The poker tournament will be August 26th-29th from 5pm-2am at Ryan's Roadhouse in St. Johns.
- Latoff is looking for volunteers to help take money and handout poker chips to help FOTMR earn money.

MUCC:

- Latoff has been asked to sit on the MUCC Board of Directors.

WATERSHED MONITORING COMMITTEE:

Boersen & Fritz reported for the committee.

319 Watershed Management Plan:

- The work is winding down, and they are compiling the results.
- They are writing chapters for the plan.
- It is very important that FOTMR remain interested in working on the plan.
- There will be a public meeting to present the plan to the public the end of March.

Little Maple River Monitoring Grant Application:

- We are not getting the grant this round, but we will resubmit the application.

OLD BUSINESS:

Logo Wear:

- Wadell brought the catalog from the printer to the meeting. Several individuals signed up for a \$20 shirt with the FOTMR logo on it.
- Wadell will bring the catalog to the next few meetings.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Open Comments from the Public:

- Nothing new to report.

Board Meeting Summary:

- Wadell reviewed the minutes from the Board meeting on August 12th.
- The Board decided to have 6 membership meetings (down from 11) and 2 Board meetings in 2010.
- A. Ladouceur will post the minutes on the FOTMR website.

Upcoming Festivals:

- Maple Rapids Lamplighter Festival is August 21st-23rd.

ADJOURNMENT:

Morrison moved to adjourn the meeting. D. Ladouceur seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on September 16, 2009 at the Victor Township Hall, Laingsburg.

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