

Friends of the Maple River  
Minutes of September 15, 2009  
Victor Township Hall  
6843 E. Alward, Laingsburg, Michigan

PRESENT:

Gary Fritz  
Duan Platner  
Dale Ladouceur  
Ed Mikula  
Joe Latoff  
Anita Ladouceur  
Jon Morrison  
David Jewison  
Fred Olmsted  
Edwin Martinez  
Dawn Levey – Guest Speaker

CALL TO ORDER:

President Wadell was absent from the meeting. Vice President Mikula ran the meeting. Mikula welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mikula led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Latoff introduced Dawn Levey, Statewide Vice President, Michigan United Conservation Club  
Levey provided the following information:

- Education is Dawn's passion and getting children outside.
- Her husband, Bruce, is the Chair of MUCC District 20 and President of Michigan Bowhunters.
- Erin McDonough is the new Executive Director of MUCC.
- Being a nonprofit organization, MUCC has taken a lot of financial hits, but have been able to maintain funding for advocacy and education.
- They had 42 staff and are now down to 12.
- MUCC is very concerned about the Wetlands Program being shifted from the DEQ to the EPA. Patty Burkholtz has sponsored a bill to try to keep the Wetlands Program in Michigan.
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative:
  - \$475,000,000 funding available in FY2010 to 8 states.
  - The \$\$ can be spent on areas other than the Great Lakes.
  - They will be looking for large projects done in partnerships and will focus on "areas of concern".
- Wolves are back on the endangered species list. There are currently 465 in the UP.
- We will see different options for membership when we renew our club membership.

AGENDA REVIEW, REVISIONS AND ADOPTION:

Latoff moved to approve the agenda. Morrison supported the motion. Motion carried.

Addition to Agenda: Gratiot County Drain Commissioner letter (Old Business)

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

A. Ladouceur provided the minutes from the Regular Monthly Meeting, August 19, 2009  
Platner moved to approve the minutes of August 19, 2009 meeting. D. Ladouceur supported the motion. Motion carried.

A. Ladouceur pointed out 2 errors on the minutes that have already been corrected.

Meeting minutes are posted on the FOTMR website prior to the next meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Checking Account Balance:

- Morrison reported a balance of \$1,694.32 in the checking account. Platner moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Latoff seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Donations & Contributions: none to report

Membership Dues:

- Morrison has some new memberships that he will get to A. Ladouceur.

Annual Report to the State:

- Morrison submitted the annual report to the state.

COMMUNICATIONS:

News Articles:

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

Website:

- Photos have now been posted by category on our website.
- If anyone has photos of the various clean-ups, float trips, scenery, etc., please email them to A. Ladouceur and she will have them posted on the website.

Newspaper Insert:

- Mikula's computer crashed, and he lost the only copy of the newspaper insert.
- Fritz is going to try to retrieve the document from the hard drive.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:

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

#### Muskrat Lake Project:

- Fritz received a response from Senator Stabenow's office regarding the funding letter he sent.
- Fritz should hear by the end of September on the status of his request.

#### Elsie Dam:

- Spicer Engineering has been surveying the dam as part of the planning process.

#### Maple Rapids Boat Launch/Park:

- Maple Rapids 2010 park plan will allow them to apply for trust funds to 1. create a Maple River launch and retrieval area, 2. build a park, and 3. build a future building site for the FOTMR.

#### Downed Tree Removal Team:

- Nutter floated the river from Ovid to Bannister.
- He will need help with a few log jams, but they are not a high priority.

#### EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Latoff reported for the committee.

Self-Guided Trail Guide of the Maple River: nothing new to report

#### Float Trip summary:

- Latoff thanked everyone who helped out.
- There were a total of 12 boats that participated.

#### Poker Tournament summary:

- Latoff felt the endeavor was moderately successful.
- FOTMR made around \$307.
- Latoff feels that we could make more \$\$ on future poker fundraisers now that he knows how it all works.

#### MUCC:

- We need to get our meeting dates on MUCC's calendar, which we can do this on their website.
- All we need is our club member number and the 2010 meeting dates.
- Wadell was going to put together a list of 2010 meeting dates.

#### WATERSHED MONITORING COMMITTEE:

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

#### 319 Watershed Management Plan:

- The mission of the FOTMR will also be the mission of the project.
- They are currently taking data and trying to put it in a format to be approved by the DEQ and be easily understandable by the general public.
- There will be the last public meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in January in Clinton County.
- The 319 plan is a very important step to securing funding for future projects.
- So far the cooperation between state and local agencies has been very good.

Little Maple River Monitoring Grant Application: nothing new to report

#### OLD BUSINESS:

##### Logo Wear:

- Wadell will be bringing the catalog to the next couple meetings to get orders complete.
- We really need a flyer or something to email to all the members.
- A. Ladouceur would do the flyer but she needs the information from Wadell.

##### Letter to the Gratiot County Drain Commissioner (GCDC):

- Fritz explained how the GCDC agreed to participate in the 319 project and provide matching funding, which they have not done.
- Fritz provided a letter to send to the GCDC.
- Fritz further explained how some of the Conservation Districts are reactive instead of proactive, and some of the Conservation Districts may be eliminated.

Latoff motioned to send the letter to the GCDC. A. Ladouceur seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

##### Open Comments from the Public:

- Fritz provided information on:
  - The Conservation District's fall tree sale.
  - "Greening Mid-Michigan" project (areas to conserve in the Tri-County region).
  - A 2 day monitoring workshop at Higgins Lake.
  - Quiet Water's Symposium
    - Morrison will look into doing a joint booth with the Friends of the Looking Glass.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

Platner moved to adjourn the meeting. D. Ladouceur seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

#### NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on October 21, 2009 at the Rainbow Lake Property Management Association, Perrinton.

Please direct any and all modifications to the minutes to [info@friendsofthemapleriver.org](mailto:info@friendsofthemapleriver.org).