

Friends of the Maple River
Minutes of January 20, 2010
Rusty Nail Restaurant
10002 E. Carson City Road (M-57), Carson City

PRESENT:

Gary Fritz
Doneta Fritz
Jon Morrison
Duane Platner
Ed Mikula
Joe Latoff
Gary Boersen
Dale Ladouceur
Anita Ladouceur
Jeff Wadell
Jim Ellickson
Joe Smolka

CALL TO ORDER:

J. Wadell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Gary Fritz, Joe Latoff, Gary Boersen reported on the 319 Management Plan

- The January 13th public meeting went well.
- 29 non-presenters attended.
- Fritz discussed and distributed the handouts from the meeting.
- February 11th is the end of the comment period.
- The plan is a good start for half the Maple River watershed.
- The rest of the watershed is not as high of a priority.
- The draft plan was discussed.
- Section 8 and 9 should be read by FOTMR members.
- Implementation will be in approximately 14 months.

AGENDA REVIEW, REVISIONS AND ADOPTION:

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

A. Ladouceur provided the minutes from the Regular Monthly Meeting, December 2, 2009
Fritz had one correction to the December minutes. Under "Old Business", "\$5,000 in funding" should be changed to "\$5,000 in match". Ladouceur will make the correction and have the revised minutes posted.

Latoff moved to approve the minutes of October 21, 2009 meeting. Platner supported the motion. Motion carried.

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

Morrison gave an overview of the minutes from the Board Meeting on December 9, 2009.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Checking Account Balance:

- Morrison reported a balance of \$1,598.38 in the checking account. D. Ladouceur moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Boerson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Liability Insurance:

- FOTMR would need to pay half the insurance = \$350.
- Morrison is going to follow-up with John Weiber for legal advice.

Membership Dues:

- We currently have 25-30 paying members, which generates \$300-\$500 annually in membership dues.

Quiet Waters Symposium:

- Morrison reported that the FOTMR booth is all paid for, and will be located next to the Friends of the Looking Glass and Friends of Stoney Creek booths.
- Latoff will man the booth.

MUCC:

- The increased membership fee is \$5/member, with a \$150 minimum.
- Latoff moved to approve the MUCC membership. Morrison 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:

- The insert is on hold for the executive summary of the 319 Plan.
- The draft will be brought to the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:

Latoff and Fritz reported for the committee.

Muskrat Lake Project:

- Alternate funding sources are being explored.
- There is currently \$5,000 in funding secured, with another \$32,000 to \$35,000 needed.

Elsie Dam:

- Latoff gave a summary of the feasibility study.
- There is a 5 person committee who will evaluate the study and choose repair options.

Maple Rapids Boat Launch/Park North:

- Nothing new to report.

Maple Rapids Launch South:

- The Clinton County Greenspace Commission and the property owner are discussing the project.

Downed Tree Removal Team:

- There was a discussion about possibly having a tree removal day instead of the annual river clean-up.
- The group decided that the clean-up should still occur, and the tree removal day should be somewhere around the end of August when the river is low.
- Nutter is going to contact the DNR about addressing the log jam near Lyons.

2010 River Clean-Up Date:

- The date is Saturday, May 1st.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Latoff reported for the committee.

MUCC:

- They are currently dealing with the Asian Carp issue.
- There will be a Governor's meeting with the President's staff regarding this issue.

River Guide Book:

- Still in process.
- There will be a draft to display at the Quiet Waters Symposium.

2010 Float Trip Date:

- The Float Trip will take place during the Maple Rapids Lamplighter Festival.
- At this time, the date is unknown.

WATERSHED MONITORING COMMITTEE:

Boersen & Fritz reported for the committee.

319 Watershed Management Plan:

- FOTMR needs to evaluate what we want to do and how members can help.
- May need to start with a smaller area as a pilot project to motivate property owners.

OLD BUSINESS:

Logo Wear:

- Wadell will place the order soon.

Grand River Expedition 2010:

- Latoff will need help with the presentation and breakfast.
- The information will be put on our website.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Open Comments from the Public:

- The Friends of the Looking Glass is sponsoring a presentation on January 27th at 7pm at the DeWitt Fire Station from Mike Smith, who kayaked from Montana to DeWitt.

MAEAP Promotion Watershed Improvement:

- John Switzer, Clinton County Conservation District, is in charge of implementing the MAEAP and there will be a meeting in February.
- The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program is an innovative, proactive program that helps farms of all sizes and all commodities voluntarily prevent or minimize agricultural pollution risks.
- FOTMR can help to promote those meetings and help promote education with the farmers.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on March 17, 2010 at the Ovid Township Hall, 1015 Baese Court, Ovid

ADJOURNMENT:

Platner moved to adjourn the meeting. Boersen seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm.

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