

Friends of the Maple River
Minutes of December 1, 2010
Rainbow Lake Property Management Building
11150 S. Luce, Perrinton

PRESENT

Jon Morrison
Ed Mikula
Dale Ladouceur
Anita Ladouceur
Brian Denman – Speaker
Dan Kennedy – Speaker
Gary Boersen
Jack Nutter
Kevin Craig
Allen Thunell
Kurt Densmore
Steve Strnad
Roy Miller
Russ Lapham
Connie Lapham
Nancy Colton
Pat Chapko
Theron Shiner

CALL TO ORDER

J. Morrison welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

J. Morrison read the statement of purpose.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

There were lots of new faces and everyone introduced themselves

GUEST SPEAKERS

Brian Denman – Gratiot County Drain Commissioner

- Brian showed a map of the Rainbow Lake watershed.
- He discussed some of the challenges (sediment, cattle, log jams) within the watershed.
- Some of the work performed in the watershed has been:
 - Widening parts of the drain
 - Installing check dams to slow down the flow
 - Installing fiber blanket to establish grasses to prevent erosion

Dan Kennedy – Wildlife Biologist, Michigan DNR

- Maple River State Game Area (MRSGA)
 - MRSGA is one of the major projects in Michigan for 3 reasons:
 - Waterfowl for hunting
 - All wildlife
 - Storm water run-off storage
 - The long-term goal is to increase habitat for wildlife while improving waterfowl and pheasant hunting opportunities.
 - The pheasant initiative is a joint public/private land grassland project.
 - Over the next 2-3 years, waterfowl hunting will be limited.
 - Water levels will be drawn down which will improve wetland productivity and allow for dike repairs.
 - Another goal is to provide waterfowl a refuge area during the fall migration.
 - Grassland management is also emphasized in the plan to improve nesting ground.
 - Other areas will be evaluated to improve drainage to improve the agricultural program.
 - Other improvements include upgrading the wetland hunting/photography blind, installing new signs along US-127 and in parking lots, improving boat access ramps.
 - A long term monitoring plan will be developed to evaluate the success or failure of the project.

- Biodiversity Stewardship Areas
 - “Living Legacies” is an effort to identify, restore and manage those places in Michigan that best represent the diversity of Michigan’s biological heritage.
 - It is about making sure these many different ecosystems and the life within them become a long-lasting legacy for Michigan.
 - This will help the DNR address legislative requirements, inform department planning efforts, fulfill a commitment to stakeholders, and prioritize expenditure of limited resources.
 - Visit www.michigan.gov/livinglegacies for more information.

AGENDA REVIEW, REVISIONS AND ADOPTION

Mikula moved to approve the agenda. Nutter supported the motion. Motion carried.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

A. Ladouceur provided the minutes from the Regular Monthly Meeting, September 15, 2010 and the Board Meeting, October 13, 2010.

D. Ladouceur moved to approve the minutes of September 15 and October 13. Mikula supported the motion. Motion carried.

There was one correction to the September 15 minutes. The checking account balance should be \$565, not \$569.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account Balance:

- D. Ladouceur reported a balance of \$836.56 in the checking account. A. Ladouceur moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Nutter seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- The end of December, we will be paying \$150 to Jack Fritz for the website work for January through June.

COMMUNICATIONS

Meeting Notice:

The meeting notice went to all local newspapers.

Newspaper Insert:

Morrison will finalize the insert and return it to Mikula.

2011 Calendar of Events:

The following events/dates were discussed:

- March 5th – Quiet Water's Symposium
- April 2nd (9th back-up date) – Annual Maple River Clean-Up
- September 24th (October 8th back-up date) – Annual Maple River Float Trip
- 2011 Meeting Dates
 - Morrison will get the 2011 meeting dates and locations to A. Ladouceur to post on the website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:

2011 Spring Clean-Up:

- There is a very large dump to clean-up near Elsie, but it is too large for us to handle.
- Nutter will line up a couple of smaller dump sites to partner with Farm Bureau.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Chairperson Still Needed

River Guide Book

- It is very important to have it ready for the Quiet Water's Symposium.
- Nutter is going to obtain advertisers in the Elsie area.

Watershed Signs

- If anyone knows of any group or organization willing to donate \$50 for a sign, let Joe Latoff know.

WATERSHED MONITORING COMMITTEE:

Bank Pin Project:

- The project involves the placement of metal rods at various locations into stream/river banks.
- Measurements are taken of the length of rod showing to determine the amount of erosion.
- The Ladouceurs and Nutter are going to monitor several sites 4 times a year.
- If anyone is interested in helping, contact Gary Fritz at the Clinton County Conservation District.

WMP Follow-Up Committee

Selection of Sub-Watershed:

- Jeff Wadell, Boerson, and Morrison selected Collier Creek, in Gratiot County, for their monitoring efforts within the watershed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Club Shirts:

- Morrison has several shirts to give away to those that want one.
- They have "River Clean-Up Crew" with the FOTMR logo.
- Any leftover shirts will be given away at the river clean-up in April.

OTHER BUSINESS:

MUCC Membership Renewal

- The board was in agreement that we can not afford the MUCC membership of \$250. It felt the money was better spent elsewhere.
- Ladouceur moved to not renew the MUCC membership. D. Ladouceur supported the motion. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Nutter moved to adjourn the meeting. D. Ladouceur seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on January 19, 2011. Location TBD.

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