

Friends of the Maple River  
Minutes of May 19, 2010  
Clinton County Courthouse, Board of Commissioner's Room  
100 E. State (M-21), St. Johns

PRESENT:

Jeff Wadell  
Ed Mikula  
Joe Latoff  
Jon Morrison  
Anita Ladouceur  
Dale Ladouceur  
Duane Platner  
Phil Hanes  
Jack Nutter  
Gary Boersen  
Tim Machowicz  
Chris Mikula  
Rob Zbiciak  
Jerry Jaloszynski, Guest Speaker

CALL TO ORDER:

J. Wadell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

J. Wadell read the statement of purpose.

WELCOME NEW FACES

J. Wadell welcomed the new faces in the crowd and everyone introduced themselves.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Jerry Joloszynski, Clinton County Parks and Greenspace Commission Coordinator

- Jerry spoke about various projects within the Maple River Watershed.
- The county currently has a 1 acre Maple River access site on French Road near St. Clair Road.
- Motz County Park
  - The 42 acre park is located at 4630 N. Dewitt Road, northwest of St. Johns.
  - The grand opening celebration is June 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - The funding for the park came from both a foundation and state grants.
  - There is "universal access" for those in wheelchairs.
  - There is a swimming beach, fishing lake, picnic pavilion, and restrooms.
  - There is no entrance fee.
  - They are trying to acquire an additional 260 acres across the road.
- Rails to Trails
  - They are trying to acquire a stretch of Rails to Trails from Owosso to Ionia.

- MDOT currently owns it and it is used as a recreational trail.
- The trail crosses the Maple River twice, once in Ovid and once in Pewamo.
- Non-Motorized Facility Plan
  - They are working on a non-motorized vehicle plan for the county, which would incorporate bike lanes, sidewalks, etc.
  - It would be a seamless county-wide plan which they hope to have done in 15 weeks.

**AGENDA REVIEW, REVISIONS AND ADOPTION:**

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

Several additions were made to the agenda.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

A. Ladouceur provided the minutes from the Regular Monthly Meeting, March 17, 2010 and the Board Meeting, May 5, 2010.

Hanses moved to approve both sets of minutes. Mikula supported the motion. Motion carried.

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Checking Account Balance:

- Morrison reported a balance of \$758.99 in the checking account. Latoff moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Platner seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Liability Insurance:

- Morrison paid the Board insurance and he will also pay the general activity insurance soon.

Nonprofit Tax Form

- Morrison mentioned that there is a 990N form that nonprofits are supposed to file every 3 years.
- Rademacher is going to see if we need to do this and then file it for us, if needed.

Donations:

- FOTMR received \$50 from the Elsie Lioness Club after Nutter gave a presentation to them.
- FOTMR also receive \$57 from D. Ladouceur for all the returnable cans and bottles he has picked up in the watershed while riding his bike.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

News Articles:

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

Website:

- There have been some changes to the website.
- The colors were changed, and a text box on the homepage to highlight various events was added to the homepage.
- Photos are continually added to the "photo gallery".
- A. Ladouceur will be posting the list of contributors and donors soon.

Newspaper Insert:

- On hold for 319 watershed management plan approval.

Road Signs:

- Latoff got 7 sponsors (\$50 each) for the roads signs in Clinton County.
- He is willing to talk to various groups in the other counties to see about getting donations for those signs.
- Additional locations for the laminated watershed signs are at the Rainbow Lake boat launch and park on the west side of Carson City.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:

Nutter reported for the committee.

Muskrat Lake Project:

- Nothing new to report.

Elsie Dam:

- Nothing new to report.

Maple Rapids Boat Launch/Park North:

- Noting new to report.

Maple Rapids Launch South:

- Nothing new to report.

Downed Tree Removal Team:

- Nutter reported that between Warren Road (in Shiawasse County) and Bannister, floaters need to portage 3 times due to log jams.
- There is also a very large jam just downstream from the DNR launch near Muir.
- There was also a small tree down just east of Tallman Road. It is uncertain if it has been removed.
- No one has floated from Hubbardston Road to Muir, so log jams are unknown. The Ladouceur's will make an effort to float that stretch soon and will report back to Nutter what they encounter.

2010 River Clean-Up Results:

- There were only 8 workers for the cleanup.
- All bridge crossings and boat launches were cleaned from Bannister to Muir.
- Nutter would like to do the clean-up in early April next year due to less vegetation.
- It was difficult to see trash this year due to all the tall vegetation.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Latoff reported for the committee.

## MUCC:

- Latoff and Platner won't be able to attend the MUCC annual meeting in Big Rapids this year on June 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>.
- Anyone who wants to attend should contact Morrison.

## River Guide Book:

- The guide book is almost done.
- A. Ladouceur is going to review it for formatting and look and feel.
- The next step will be securing the advertising sponsors.

## 2010 Float Trip:

- The trip is scheduled for August 28<sup>th</sup>.
- We would like to look into doing a second float trip in the fall on the west end of the river.

## WATERSHED MONITORING COMMITTEE:

Boersen reported for the committee.

## 319 Watershed Management Plan Status:

- On hold for 310 plan review.

## OLD BUSINESS:

### FOTMR Shirts

- The shirts were delivered and Wadell brought them to the meeting.
- We have a few extras to sell (\$20) to anyone who wants one.

## Grand River Expedition 2010

- A few people attended the planning meeting.
- We have volunteers to help with the breakfast.
- Latoff will do the evening presentation on July 20<sup>th</sup>.
- D. Ladouceur has secured transportation for the watercrafts from one location to another.

## Board Meeting

- There was a Board Meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup>
- We discussed the 319 plan, the need to boost participation, and not spread ourselves too thin on various projects.
- Morrison motioned for FOTMR to focus on certain key activities within the next year and the Vice President will keep track of our progress and report to the Board. A. Ladouceur supported. Motion carried.
- Those key activities are:
  - Finish river guide book
  - Float entire length of the river and remove any log jams if possible.
  - Promote spring river clean-up
  - Promote the annual summer float trip.
  - Follow up with the 319 plan, which includes getting the newspaper insert finished and circulated.
- This does not mean that if someone wants to take on another activity (road signs, etc.) themselves that they can't do that. The Board will be supportive of their efforts.

#### Elsie Dairy Festival

- If someone wants to work in the booth at the festival the weekend of July 9<sup>th</sup>, contact Wadell. He has the paperwork.
- We would need to pay a \$30 fee to have a booth.
- Nutter offered to set up the booth, but will not be able to work in it. He recommended someone being there Saturday afternoon and maybe Friday evening.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

##### Director Elections

- Latoff nominated Morrison (President), A. Ladouceur (Secretary), D. Ladouceur (Treasurer), Mikula (Vice President) and Wadell (Past President) for the Board positions.
- There were no other nominations.

##### FOTMR Volunteer of the Year

- Wadell presented Nutter with a Volunteer of the Year award for all the work he does on behalf of the FOTMR.
- Other members received Certificates of Appreciation for their hard work.

##### Annual Report

- Wadell completed an annual report, which will be posted on the website very soon.

##### Motz County Park Grand Opening

- If anyone is willing to volunteer to help run boats at the park grand opening, contact Morrison.

##### Open Comments from the Public:

- Machowicz from Sleepy Hollow State Park again offered his facility to the FOTMR to have meetings. He also has a two person kayak that could be used at the Motz park event. He will offer to sell our river guide book at the park. He encourages everyone to obtain the \$10 annual state park sticker, which is being offered after October 1<sup>st</sup> when license plates are renewed. FOTMR is very much supportive of the \$10 stickers and will do what we can to spread the word to the general public.

#### NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on July 21, 2010 at the Duplain Township Hall, 145 W. Main Street, Elsie.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

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

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