

Friends of the Maple River
Minutes of January 19, 2011
Ovid Township Hall
1015 Baese Court, Ovid

PRESENT:

Jon Morrison
Gary Fritz
Dale Ladouceur
Anita Ladouceur
Dawn Levey
Bruce Levey
Ed Mikula
Joe Latoff
Don Chamberlain
Betty Jane Minsky
Alan Smith
Lyle Burns
Jack Nutter
Renaë Larson
Doug Lewis
Ken & Pat White
Tim Machowicz – Guest Speaker

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone introduced themselves.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

J. Morrison read the statement of purpose.

GUEST SPEAKERS

3 individuals spoke about Muskrat Lake:

1. Tim Machowicz, Unit Supervisor for Sleepy Hollow State Park

- 43 acre lake, 16' deep in Olive Township, southwest of St. Johns, near DeWitt and Jason Road.
- Has 1 private landowner on the lake.
- Sleepy Hollow State Park is responsible for maintaining the launch site at Muskrat Lake.
- Several photos taken that day were shown and discussed.
- The boat launch will be replaced when the water level is raised.
- The skid pier, to get on and off boats, will be installed.
- Kiosk/bulletin board displays FOTMR information.
- An educational panel could be mounted on the side of the privy.

2. Gary Fritz, Clinton County Conservation District
 - The current boat launch has not been in the water for a very long time.
 - Water level decreased due to beaver dam removal and dredging.
 - In 2010 a permit was received to raise the level of the water 1.5'.
 - A memo of understanding was completed that defined roles and responsibilities.
 - Total cost is \$25,000 to \$30,000. Half the cost is the rock needed (380 cubic yards). Still need \$20,000.
3. Jon Morrison, Clinton County Drain Commission
 - Diagrams of the proposed structure were shown.
 - There will be a massive rock ramp that fish can pass through.
 - The rocks need to be 9"-18" in diameter.

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, December 1, 2010.
D. Ladouceur moved to approve the minutes of December 1, 2010. Morrison supported the motion. Motion carried.

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 \$686.56 in the checking account. Mikula moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Latoff seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- We paid \$150 to Jack Fritz for the website work from January through June 2011.
- There is a \$100 boundary sign payment pending.

COMMUNICATIONS

Newspaper Insert:

- Mikula is meeting in the next week with 2 newspapers to get potential costs.
- We hope to get advertisers to pay for the costs.

2011 Calendar of Events:

Regular Bimonthly Meetings:

- March 16th Meeting
 - Muir Lyon's Hall
 - NRCS is a potential speaker to talk about new programs
- May 18th Meeting
 - St. Johns, Clinton County Courthouse
 - This is our annual membership meeting.
- July 20th Meeting
 - Sleepy Hollow State Park in Ovid
 - This would be a less formal meeting and include a field activity.

- September 21st Meeting
 - Shi-Town at the Maple Rapids headwaters
 - Shiawassee County Drain Commission is a potential speaker.
- December 7th Meeting
 - Ashley Sportsman's Club

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:

2011 Spring Clean-Up

- April 2nd, with April 9th as back-up date

Log Jam Removal

- There are various smaller jams that need to be removed from Tallman Road to Nickleplate Road.
- The largest jam in Muir is too big for us to tackle on our own.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Chairperson Needed

River Guide Book

- Advertisers have been secured, and the remaining money still needs to be collected.
- We need to have the books for sale at the Quiet Water's Symposium.

Watershed Boundary Signs

- Clinton County: all signs have been purchased and put up.
- Shiawassee County: 1 sign has been purchased
- Ionia County: 1 sign has been purchased
- Signs are \$50 each. Let Latoff know if you know of any groups or businesses willing to donate towards the project.

WATERSHED MONITORING COMMITTEE:

Bank Pin Project:

- There are 30 sites in the Maple River area that will be monitored for erosion.
- We need help monitoring pins in the St. Johns area.
- The first readings will be taken in March.

OTHER BUSINESS:

MUCC Camo Day March 1, 2011 @ Capitol

- This political action event at the capitol in Lansing is for meeting members of the Michigan Senate and House of Representatives to advocate for policies that promote the conservation, enhancement and wise use of Michigan's natural resources.
- Anyone interested in attending should get ahold of Dawn Levey.

Quiet Water's Symposium

- March 5, 2011 @ MSU Agriculture Pavilion.
- We need volunteers to man the booth again this year.

Partnership with MDNR on grant for habitat improvements

- The DNR would like to partner with us to assist with monitoring.

Request financial support for Eagle Scout Osprey nest project

- An Eagle Scout candidate is requesting our financial assistance in an Osprey nest project at the Maple River State Game Area.
- They would like a \$200 donation.
- We passed the hat at the meeting and came up with \$106, which we will send to the Troop.

MDNR notification of possible grant opportunities

- There are grants sponsored by Toyota.
- 20 grants up to \$5,000 each.
- Potential projects could be Muskrat Lake or other boat launches along the river.
- Morrison is going to meet with Fritz regarding the grants.

Phosphorus Ban

- Gov. Granholm signed into legislation effective January 1, 2011 to ban phosphorus from lawn fertilizers to benefit surface waters.

Open Comments

- It was recommended that we send a thank you note to Ovid Township for the use of their hall.
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative: the second phase is being rolled out now, and money is being spent on areas of concern along shorelines.
- Michigan Pheasant Restoration
 - This is funded by Pheasants Forever and NRCS/USDA Farm Bill to improve habitat.
 - It will be carried out by MDA, DNR, and Conservation Districts.
 - There are 3 focus areas, 1 of which is the Gratiot/Saginaw/Clinton area.
 - They will employ 1 person.
 - There will be a meeting at Alma College on February 12th from 9am to noon.

ADJOURNMENT

A. Ladouceur moved to adjourn the meeting. D. Ladouceur seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on March 16th at the Lyons/Muir Lions Club.

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