

Friends of the Maple River
Minutes of December 7, 2011
Ashley Conservation Club

PRESENT:

Gary Boersen
Jon Morrison
Anita Ladouceur
Dale Ladouceur
Dawn Levey
Jack Nutter
Phil Hanses
Jeff Wadell
Peggy Roth
Otis Viles
Brian Valentine
Frank Sefl
Helen Soderberg
George Turner?
Dan Kennedy – Guest Speaker
Jerry Grigar – Guest Speaker

CALL TO ORDER

J. Morrison welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

J. Morrison welcomed everyone to the meeting, and everyone introduced themselves

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

J. Morrison read the statement of purpose.

GUEST SPEAKER

Dan Kennedy, Department of Natural Resources, Maple River State Game Area (MRSGA) Grant and Pheasant Initiative

- Wetland
 - 900 acres of managed wetlands
 - A new pump station will be installed and an existing pump station will be replaced to better manage water levels. This will be done with grant money.
 - The end goal is to improve waterfowl habitat and wetland wildlife habitat.
 - FOTMR members will be asked to help with an inventory of invasive plant species. It will involve 186 hours of volunteer labor in units C & D.
- Grassland
 - There is a 5 year plan to partner with Pheasants Forever to establish 400 acres of grassland.
 - It is a private landowner initiative.
 - 100 acres was planted in 2011.
 - The end goal is to improve pheasant habitat and other grassland wildlife habitat.

Gratiot-Saginaw State Game Area

- There is a project to conduct timber management of Aspen trees.
- The end goal is to improve habitat for grouse and woodcock.

Jerry Grigar, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Agronomist, farming practices

- Discussed how farming practices have changed over time.
- Years ago, lack of tile drainage created ponded water in fields which led to soil compaction.
- In the last 40 years, drainage tiles have been installed which have led to increased yields.
- 70-90% of the Maple River Watershed has drainage tiles.
- Soil testing is more prevalent.
- No till, filter strips and grass waterways can greatly cut down on erosion.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. Ladouceur provided the minutes from the Board Meeting, September 21, 2011.

Levey moved to approve the minutes of September 21st. D. Ladouceur supported the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting minutes are posted on the FOTMR website prior to the next meeting. Please direct any changes to info@friendsofthemapleriver.org.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account Balance:

- D. Ladouceur reported a balance of \$495.67 in the checking account. A. Ladouceur moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Nutter seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Income includes:
 - \$25.40 from D. Ladouceur's can/bottle drive
 - \$10.00 from sale of 1 river guide
 - \$28.60 from D. Ladouceur's recycled metal collected during the river clean-up.
- Expense includes:
 - \$41.97 Internet hosting
 - \$46.00 PO Box rental

COMMUNICATIONS

Facebook page:

- Chris Mikula set up the FOTMR Facebook page.
- It will serve as another way to get the word out about our organization.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:

2012 Spring Clean-Up Date:

- Dan Kennedy recommended coordinating the next river clean-up with the Boy Scouts.

Muskrat Lake Project:

- Project is on hold for more favorable weather conditions.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:
Chairperson Still Needed

River Guide Book:

- We still have the River Guides for sale for \$10.

Quiet Water's Symposium:

- It will be held on March 3rd at the MSU Pavilion.
- <http://www.quietwatersymposium.org>

Watershed Boundary Signs:

- Morrison will check with Joe Latoff on the status of putting up additional signs.

OTHER BUSINESS:

NRCS report on success of implemented measures:

- This report is for the Great Lakes Basin area.
- The report covers the effects of conservation practices on cultivated cropland in the Great Lakes region.

2012 Meeting Dates and Locations:

- Morrison will put together a list of dates and locations for 2012.

Some agenda items were not discussed due to time restrictions.

ADJOURNMENT

D. Ladouceur moved to adjourn the meeting. Boersen seconded the motion. Motion carried.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting date and location will be determined.

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