

Friends of the Maple River
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of August 12, 2009
Ryan's Roadhouse, St. Johns

PRESENT:

Jeff Wadell, President
Jon Morrison, Treasurer
Anita Ladouceur, Secretary
Joe Latoff, Education Committee Chair
Gary Boersen, Monitoring Committee Chair
Fred Olmstead, Float Trip Coordinator

ABSENT:

Ed Mikula, Vice President
Jack Nutter, Watershed Committee Chair

CALL TO ORDER:

Wadell called the meeting to order at 5:15pm.

AGENDA:

- I. Development of Budget
 - a. Morrison provided a draft budget containing revenues, expenses, and in kind donations.
 - b. Latoff recommended we send thank you letters to both Allaby & Brewbaker and David Rademacher for their donations.
 - c. The Board provided input on the draft budget.
 - d. Morrison will revise the budget and bring it to the next meeting.

- II. Goals & Priorities
 - a. FOTMR Goals
 - Membership drive – newspaper insert will be sent in March.
 - Public identity and credibility – booth, signs, news releases.
 - Finish the 319 grant.
 - Continue to make and build upon relationships with citizen based (versus government) organizations operating within the watershed, such as Farm Bureau and Friends of Sleepy Hollow
 - Acknowledgement of volunteers.
 - Focus on land use practices and projects that will help to restore the hydrological response of the river.

 - b. Education Committee Goals
 - Get the watershed model for our booth display.
 - Annual float trip.
 - Historical river guide.
 - Support membership drive.
 - Public education – booth, articles, brochures.
 - Target wetland organizations for FOTMR awards.

- c. Monitoring Committee Goals
 - Finish 319 grant.
 - Contact all property owners in the Sleepy Hollow sub-watershed for that project.
 - Morrison recommended choosing a couple of sites and monitor those over a long period of time and provide information to the public to peak interest in joining FOTMR.
- d. FOTMR Goals Long Term
 - Have a facility to meet at.
 - Have a full time "River Keeper".
- III. Relationships with Other Organizations
 - Improve relationships with non-Clinton County Drain Commissioners, Conservation Districts, etc.
- IV. Meeting Schedule & Frequency
 - a. Starting in 2010, FOTMR will have 6 membership/public meetings and 2 Board Meetings.
 - b. FOTMR will continue to frequent previous meeting locations on some rotating cycle and that the established monthly meeting date will be held with public meetings occurring generally every other month and any remaining free dates to be reserved as possible special meeting dates for the FOTMR Board (or possibly alternate dates for public meetings if necessary).
 - c. Wadell will provide a draft 2010 meeting schedule at the next meeting.
- V. Float Trip
 - a. Olmstead said that there could be a problem communicating with those floaters who need transportation back to their vehicles.
 - b. There were no times on the flyers, and Ellickson is unable to help coordinate the float trip and he was listed as the contact person.
 - c. Ellickson will provide floaters with Latoff's phone number, and Latoff will be at the take-out site all day.
 - d. Wadell is going to make signs to put at each of the 4 launch sites with float duration times to Maple Rapids, along with Latoff's phone number.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on August 19, 2009 at the Maple Rapids Community Center, Maple Rapids Community Center, 209 W. Union, Maple Rapids at 7:00pm. This meeting location is a change from the original meeting location. The guest speaker will be Tom Eitnear from the East Lansing office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Tom will discuss planning and technical services, and funding that his agency provides for the federal wetlands and other wildlife habitat programs. He will also outline the work they have done within the Maple River Watershed.

Please direct any and all modifications to the minutes to Anita Ladouceur, 989-981-6869.