



Protect-Preserve-Enjoy

Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council

Minutes of the trustee's meeting held October 6, 2018 @ The Elk Township Hall, Irons, Michigan

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS:

Vice-president Jim Squier called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

Attendance: Jim Squier, Joyce Durdel, David Spruance, Steve Bishop, Dan Sernick

Absent: Joe Rogers, Evelyn Furman, Armas Soorus, Greg Block, Dale Downes, Tim Phillips

Guests: Chuck Decker, Joe Neumann

The minutes of the September meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Dan Sernick reported a balance of. \$41,113.65 in the Lake-Osceola State Bank. He also noted that there is currently \$9,667.27 in the Howard Roberts Memorial Fund.

There followed a discussion of the best uses of our Facebook account in generating donations.

Dan also discussed the Amazon Prime account, and guest, Chuck Decker stated that he used it to purchase a pair of hunting boots — \$11 to LMWCC.

PROJECT STATUS:

1. Syers Dam — Permits have been issued and Shawn Kanouse has been awarded the contract, but for various reasons the project will not begin until 2019.
2. Volunteer projects — Joyce Durdel discussed the results of the Water Quality Survey. She will format that data for posting in the Fall/Winter newsletter.

Jim Squier and Armas Soorus are to replace signs as necessary below M-37.

3. Nate Winkler will survey a stretch of river below Johnson Bridge as a potential site for a fish habitat and channelization project. He is also looking at a potential site between old M-63 bridge and the M-37 bridge.

4. All moderate sites on state land have been remediated. There remain 8 privately held sites to complete, and those owners have been contacted. A discussion for the need for a new erosion survey followed.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Joyce Durdel reported that Networks Northwest has completed the final draft of the plan. It will be circulated to Trustees prior to the December meeting.

The Harper Lake Association is now monitoring the water quality and aquatic growth in the lake. Joyce was asked to encourage the association to join LMWCC.

The National Forest Service is attempting to restore natural and historic flows at Link Pond — site of the former private Pomeroy Springs hatchery. Joyce also reported that NFS would very much like to have monitoring devices placed in the Little Manistee River with direct links to the USGS. However, NFS has offered no financial assistance for the purchase of such devices which can cost upwards of \$18,000 per unit.

GRANTS:

David Spruance reported that the pre-application for an AHGP grant has been accepted and LMWCC will proceed to apply for a grant similar to last year's proposal — to utilize dead ash trees along the river corridor to create fish habitat and current enhancement — which was not awarded. His year's request is for \$110,000 with LMWCC pledging \$11,000 if the application is approved.

He also reported that plans for a One Fly fund-raising event have been placed on hold.

OLD BUSINESS:

New membership solicitation and renewal notices will be mailed in November. Dale Downes and Gordon Lewis will coordinate the effort. A discussion of printing a new membership tri-fold flyer to include both individual and corporate memberships was tabled until next month's meeting as was a discussion of raising the cost of an annual membership.

It was agreed that the website should feature a calendar of appropriate events on the home page. Dan Sernick stated that the annual Sleighbell parade in Manistee will be held on December 8, and he proposed moving the December trustee meeting to that morning. A motion was made, seconded, and passed.

There was a brief and very inconclusive discussion of ways to increase the funds raised at the annual meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

NFS is moving its regional headquarters to the Chittendon historical site on Route 55. The site is the location of the Chittendon nursery which supplied trees for the CCC efforts to reforest Lower Michigan.

There will be a meeting of the Grayling Initiative on Monday October 29th in Traverse City.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM

Next meeting: **December 8, 2018 10 AM @ Elk Township Hall.**

Respectfully submitted by David L. Spruance October 9, 2018