



Protect-Preserve-Enjoy **Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council**

Minutes of the trustee's meeting held October 7, 2017 @ Elk Township Hall, Irons, Michigan

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS:

President Tim Phillips called the meeting to order at 9:07 AM.

Attendance: Tim Phillips, Joyce Durdell, David Spruance, Jim Squier, Dan Sernick (extremely late arrived in his bathrobe)

Absent: Joe Rogers, Dale Downes, Evelyn Furman, Armas Soorus, Steve Bishop, Greg Block

Minutes from the August 2 meeting were reviewed and approved as were the minutes from the September 2nd meeting and the special meeting held on September 13th.

Treasurer's Report: Dan reported a balance of \$50,326.82. A discussion of what to do with memorial contributions ensued and it was decided that all memorial monies should be placed in the Howard Roberts fund. The McKuen donation of \$1205.00 will be used for the Dead Ash Habitat grant program.

Dan reported that several new members have enrolled via PayPal from the website. These new members need to be added to the master mailing list.

PROJECT STATUS:

1. NFS erosion sites — Nothing to report.
2. Syers Dam — Nate Winkler of CRA reports securing a grant from NFWS totaling \$40,000. LMWCC has pledged a maximum of \$10,000, and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians has pledged \$12,500.00 to support the proposed removal of the dam. No one knows the full cost of the project but according to information presented to LMWCC at the outset, these monies should v=cover the entire cost.

CRA will undertake the permitting process, and work is expected to begin in the spring of 2018.

3. Volunteer projects — the bug survey has been completed, as has the H₂O Water Quality Survey. Joyce Durdel presented the results of the surveys which will be available in the Fall/winter newsletter in December.

A possible volunteer project for next year might be to replace the fading LMWCC signs at all stream crossings.

4. Fish habitat project in Section III of the Trout Unlimited “Habitat Assessment” of 2015 is still awaiting the final permit. Completion expected in late October. Monies from the 2016 Jorgensen donation will be used in completing the project (The Jorgensen Project).
5. A site for a channelization project has been selected. Nate Winkler will evaluate the site and begin permitting process for a possible 2018 project.
6. Erosion sites: 5 moderate sites on state land (2,3,12,14,15,18) are in the permitting process targeting a completion in 2017 — and 7 on private land (19, 31, 32, 35, 39, 48, 51) are potential sites for projects in 2018.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN:

All contracts have been signed, and Networks Northwest has begun the process of collecting data for the WMP. \$10,000.00 (\$5000 each from the Lake County Community Fund grant and from the Jorgensen Family donation) have been added to the “Plan Fund,” and AES has made the initial payment of \$4000.00 to Networks Northwest.

The second meeting of the Watershed Management Steering Committee and representatives from Networks Northwest will be held on Wednesday, September 13th at 3PM at the Elk Township Hall.

Joyce also discussed the abuses by Great Lakes Energy and a new land owner in the vicinity of Poggensee Bridge. The land owner was issued a “cease and desist” order by the MDEQ.

GRANTS:

LMWCC’s “Pre-proposal” for a grant of \$40,000 from the DNR’s Aquatic Habitat Grant Program has been approved. David Spruance will complete the final application process for removal and use of dead and dying ash trees along the river corridor. The final request is due on November 13th.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review of annual meeting — There was a discussion of speakers for next year's meeting. In addition to Networks Northwest presenting a progress report on the Watershed Management Plan Tim Phillips will contact Shawn Kanouse to determine his availability. If not Kayla Knoll may be a good choice.
2. President Tim Phillips will forward a letter of support to Jeremy Geist of Michigan Trout Unlimited for a proposed grant affecting the watershed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Next meeting: November 4, 2017 10 AM @ Elk Township Hall

Respectfully submitted by David L. Spruance October 7, 2017