



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

**Minutes of the trustee's meeting held November 3, 2018 @ The  
Elk Township Hall, Irons, Michigan**

**EXECUTIVE ACTIONS:**

Vice-president Jim Squier called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

**Attendance:** Jim Squier, Joyce Durdel, David Spruance, Steve Bishop, Dale Downes, Armas Soorus

**Absent:** Joe Rogers, Evelyn Furman, Greg Block, Tim Phillips, Dan Sernick

The minutes of the October meeting were unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** The absent Dan Sernick provided reconciliation sheets showing a balance of \$40,272.11 in the Lake-Osceola State Bank. Dan also provided a statement indicating that in 2018 LMWCC spent \$24,764.00 of a forecast \$37,565.00.

Dan also provided 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter statements from MCCF for each of the three LMWCC funds held at MCCF.

Dale Downes moved that trustees create an annual budget detailing anticipated revenues as well as anticipated expenditures. The motion passed unanimously.

### **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 spring 2019.
2. Volunteer projects — Joyce Durdel discussed the results of the Water Quality and acro-invertebrate surveys. She will format that data for posting on the website and in the Fall/Winter newsletter. Joyce stated that she will continue to spearhead the water testing programs but will no longer head efforts to enlist volunteers for other projects.
3. Jim Squier and Armas Soorus will replace signs as necessary at crossings below M-37.
4. 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. The possibility of covering the latter site under the AHGP grant, should it be awarded, was discussed.
5. Shawn Kanouse has remediated all moderate sites on state land. There remain 7 privately held sites and one site on NFS held land to complete. Owners have been contacted, and so far four landowners have responded responses to LMWCC out-reaches.

A discussion for the need for a new erosion survey followed.

### **WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN:**

The final draft of the Little Manistee River Watershed Management Plan is complete and has been posted on the LMWCC website. An open meeting to discuss and comment on this final draft has been scheduled for November 28 at 10:AM to be held at the Elk Township Hall. Armas Soorus reported that he has been told that approval of the plan by MDEQ and the EPA will take upwards of six months after submission to those entities.

Armas and Joyce stressed the need for trustees to look very closely at the “Task Implementation” spread sheet. A discussion of the various aspects of these prescribed tasks followed focusing on the need for LMWCC to prioritize these tasks as well as examine the means for meeting the financial obligations of doing so. Potential grant money sources were identified, and the need to determine agencies responsible for implementation and funding were part of the discussion.

It was concluded that a “retreat/planning session” be scheduled, inviting all interested parties — LMWCC trustees and members, members of the WMP steering committee, representatives from DNR, MDEQ, NFS, and NF&WS. A January date for such a gathering as well as an appropriate site (perhaps the conference facility at D-Loop Outfitters) were agreed to. This will be further discussed and finalized at the December meeting.

### **GRANTS:**

David Spruance reported that the application for an AHGP grant to utilize dead ash trees along the river corridor to create fish habitat and current enhancement has been received by the DNR grant section.

He also reported that plans for a One Fly fund-raising event have been placed on hold pending the resolution of the instability at D-Loop.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Dale Downes will mail membership solicitation and renewal notices by the end of the month. The board approved funds for the printing of a new membership tri-fold flyer to include both individual and corporate memberships.

A motion to raise individual memberships dues to \$35 and \$150 for corporate memberships.

The sleigh bell parade in Manistee is to be held December 8. A good time will be had by all.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Jim Squier stated that Dan Sernick attended a meeting of the Grayling Initiative on Monday October 29<sup>th</sup> in Traverse City and reported much enthusiasm and optimism for the project.

Joyce Durdell briefly discussed methods for future Macro-invertebrate and Water Quality studies.

Armas Soorus showed pictures from the Link Pond site which is being de-watered (perhaps by the NFS) and thought it might be a likely candidate for a re-vegetation project.

Joyce asked that LMWCC solicit Lake Associations (Harper, Bass, Elbow, etc.) for LMWCC membership and that LMWCC in turn join those organizations. Such a motion was made and passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:52 AM

Next meeting: **December 8, 2018 10 AM @ Elk Township Hall. Please note the date!**

Respectfully submitted by David L. Spruance November 5, 2018