



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

### **Minutes of the trustee's meeting held November 4, 2017 @ Elk Township Hall, Irons, Michigan**

#### **EXECUTIVE ACTIONS:**

Vice-president Jim Squier called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

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

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

Minutes from the October 7 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dan Sernick reported a balance of \$50,601.80 in the checking account and \$5679.01 in the Howard Roberts Fund. Several contributions in the memory of Tim McKeon were made through PayPal, and following the decision made at the October meeting all memorial contributions will be placed in the Howard Roberts Fund. David Spruance will draft a note of condolence/appreciation/notification of the monies deposited in the Howard Roberts Fund as well as an annual membership. Dale Downes will send that to contributors.

Dan wondered about the lack of "Recent Articles" on the web site. It was pointed out that other than the newsletter, no one is writing articles. A suggestion was made that some newsletter articles could be extrapolated and posted as stand-alone articles, or that the current newsletter could be posted on the LMWCC Home Page in the place of the "Recent Articles."

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. Dale will coordinate with Dan to include new Pay Pal members in the master mailing list which he will up-date in time for the December newsletter mailing. That list will be forwarded to the printer in advance of the mailing of the newsletter.

### **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 removal of the dam.

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

3. Volunteer projects — the volunteer projects for 2017 have been completed.

A possible volunteer project for next year might be to replace the fading LMWCC signs at all stream crossings as well as the macroinvertebrate study and Water Quality Survey.

4. Fish habitat project in Section III of the Trout Unlimited “Habitat Assessment” of 2015 is still awaiting the final permit. The project will be completed as soon as permits are issued. This is 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 — Reif, Gruters, Latham 5 sites done. Sites #66, #67, #50(Kops/Young) CRA to do on site. Mirandette/Paul enthusiastic about CRA doing work. 5 moderate sites on state land (2, 3, 12, 14, 15, 18) are in the permitting process targeting a completion in 2018 — and 7 on private land (19, 31, 32, 35, 39, 48, 51) are potential sites for projects in 2018.

### **WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN:**

Ed Hoogterp has been diagnosed with prostate cancer, and work is temporarily on hold. Joycel Durdal reports that a third planning meeting in December is hoped for.

### **GRANTS:**

David Spruance discussed the completion of the final application for a DNR Aquatic Habitat Grant to remove and use dead and dying ash trees along the river corridor for erosion control, habitat enhancement, and channelization. David gave an overview of the contents of the final packet, and said that according to the DNR scoring matrix, the LMWCC proposal stands a reasonable chance at success. The final request was mailed on November 3. Announcement of grant awards will be made in April.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Review of annual meeting — It was agreed that corporate sponsors and donors should be contact shortly after the New Year.

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. The forester at MCD was also mentioned as a possible presenter.

2. Membership — See above "Treasurer's Report."
3. There is no new information on Jeremy Geist's grant proposal on behalf of TU for which Tim Phillips wrote a letter of support.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. The Fall/Winter newsletter should be ready and distributed in early December.
2. There was a discussion of the financial benefits of joining organizations like Trout Unlimited, and it was agreed that LMWCC should become a member of TU. Dale will enroll LMWCC as a regular member with a \$100 donation.

Meeting adjourned at 11:23 AM.

Next meeting: December 2, 2017 10 AM @ Elk Township Hall

Respectfully submitted by David L. Spruance November 7, 2017