



Protect-Preserve-Enjoy

Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council

Minutes of the trustee's meeting held December 8, 2018 @ The Elk Township Hall, Irons, Michigan

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS:

President Tim Phillips called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

Attendance: Jim Squier, Joyce Durdell, David Spruance, Steve Bishop, Dale Downes, Armas Soorus, Tim Phillips, Greg Block, Dan Sernick

Absent: Joe Rogers, Evelyn Furman

The minutes of the November meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Dan Sernick stated LMWCC has a balance of \$32,600.79 in the Lake-Osceola State Bank. Dan also provided a statement indicating that in 2018 LMWCC spent \$31,914.00 of a forecast \$37,565.00. Dan proposed moving \$7150 from the Howard Roberts Memorial Fund to the general fund to meet the expenses of completing 7 erosion sites on state land leaving \$2517.27 in the Memorial Fund.

The LMWCC PayPal account has a current balance of \$72.75.

At their last meeting the trustees agreed to create an annual budget detailing anticipated revenues as well as anticipated expenditures. This will be discussed at the meeting on February 2, 2019.

A discussion ensued about the need to set "business" goals for 2019 as well as project expected revenues based on past membership renewals, giving and funds raised at the annual meeting.

Dale Downes reminded the group we had decided to maintain a \$25,000 balance as a reserve fund, and we are committed to an \$11,000 matching payment should the DNR reward LMWCC with an AHGP grant in April.

The treasurer's report was approved unanimously

PROJECT STATUS:

1. Syers Dam — The project will be completed in 2019.
2. Jim Squier and Armas Soorus will replace signs as necessary at crossings 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. There remains one serious erosion site to be worked. Nate Winkler is to evaluate and submit permit applications. The owners of 7 private moderate sites have been contacted, and we are awaiting their responses before beginning the evaluation/permitting process. The goal is to complete these in 2019.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Armas Soorus gave a summary of the November 28th meeting to review the final draft of the Watershed Management Plan:

1. The annual retreat that was discussed at the November meeting has been added to the WMP as an official opportunity to discuss plans for implementing the Plan each year.
2. There was a discussion of the need for a “Plan Coordinator” as discussed at the WMP meeting. Among the pro’s is the reality that a professional manager would have the time to focus on raising funds for specific programs detailed in the plan. The obvious drawback is LMWCC would be responsible for the costs associated with such a position through grant requests or some other vehicle.
3. There was a discussion of grant writing responsibilities, and it is hoped those will become more clear after the retreat scheduled for February 2 from 11AM to 5 PM, preceded by a trustees meeting at 10AM. No question financial needs must be prioritized.
4. Ground water, the major source of the river’s flow will be emphasized much more in the final document.
5. Road crossings and their inevitable sedimentation of the river were discussed. David Spruance said perhaps a future AHGP grant request could be used for the crossings on 11 1/2 Mile road with the caveat that there would have to be matching public funds to meet the costs associated with that project. Everyone agreed that would not happen.
6. The USGS desire for monitoring gauge(s) was met with skepticism, and the idea that NFS if its wants monitors badly enough should pay for them. Monitors will be included in the final document.
7. There was a discussion of seeking a Natural River Designation for the Little Manistee. Such a designation would complement structures detailed in the WMP. It was agreed that membership would have to be informed of the advantages of the program. An informative packet, detailing the program will be mailed to all members with a question of favorability of rejection of the idea, and a vote will

be held at the annual meeting. To that end it was decided that Brian Bury of the DNR should be asked to speak at the annual meeting.

GRANTS:

David Spruance reported that LMWCC is awaiting the spring announcement of AHGP grant recipients. Until the February retreat, it will not be known what projects need to be funded. LMWCC is committed to spend \$11,000.00 in the event of a grant reward.

The One-Fly even is not going to happen.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dale Downes has mailed membership solicitation and renewal notices reflecting the increase in membership dues — \$35 for individuals and \$150 for corporate sponsors.

The Fall/Winter newsletter has been mailed and distributed locally.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was a lengthy discussion of the website — its contents and appearance. Trustees were asked to compile list of wants for content, and Steve Bishop will coordinate the efforts to have the website reflect trustees' desires.

It is determined that there are sufficient LMWCC funds held by the Manistee County Community Fund to meet the full costs of the Watershed Management Plan.

Jim Squier discussed the conservation tax credits available to property owners that he gleaned from attending the Pine River TU business meeting.

Dan Sernick enthusiastically discussed the meeting of the Grayling Initiative Program and passed out some pamphlets and decals. The program is at least 4 years from showing fruition.

Meeting adjourned at 12:43 PM

Next meeting: **February 2, 2019 10 AM @ Elk Township Hall** to be followed by a planning retreat.

Respectfully submitted by David L. Spruance December 10, 2018