



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

Minutes of the trustee's meeting held December 2, 2017 @ Elk
Township Hall, Irons, Michigan

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS:

President Tim Phillips called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

Attendance: Joyce Durdel, Tim Phillips, Evelyn Furman Armas Soorus, David Spruance,
Jim Squier, Dan Sernick, Dale Downes, Greg Block

Absent: Steve Bishop, Joe Rogers

Minutes from the November 4th meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Dan Sernick reports a reconciled balance of \$48990.95 in the checking account with Lake Osceola State Bank and \$5679.01 in the Howard Roberts Fund.

The trustees requested a year-end statement of the accounts held with Manistee County Community Fund.

PROJECT STATUS:

1. NFS erosion sites — Jim Thompson and Nate Winkler are to meet, but there is nothing new 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, and he has met with concerned property owners in the Syers Lake area. Nate says that the project is still short \$13,432, but he will begin the permitting process with hopes that the work can be completed by fall 2018.

3. Volunteer projects — the volunteer projects for 2017 have been completed. Joyce Durdell says that without the assistance of the Manistee Conservation District personnel, the macro-invertebrate study will revert back to its original methodology.

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 below Johnson Bridge 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. Site #21 on the Indian Club property has been completed, and #'s 24, 25, 26 on the club property may be consolidated into one project for permitting purposes.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN:

The board reviewed the draft outline for the Watershed Management Plan assembled by Networks Northwest as well as the statement of “Proposed Goals and Objectives.” Discussion centered around the prioritizing of the goals and the objectives with a focus on the need to educate all segments of the community of the benefits of a comprehensive WMP. Trustees are in agreement that a result of the Plan should be the pursuit of a “Natural River” designation from the MDNR. The first step in such an action is to convince LMWCC membership of the need for this. Also discussed was the issue of enforcement of regulations to be detailed in the WMP.

Ed Hoogterp has returned to work, and the process should gain momentum.

GRANTS:

David Spruance reported that he and President Tim Phillips have received from the DNR confirmation of the receipt of the Aquatic Habitat Grant request. The notice indicated that a summary review of the application would be made and if there were deficiencies or omissions, LMWCC would be so notified. No such notification has been forthcoming,

meaning that the \$40,000 grant request is complete and viable. Announcement of grant awards will be made in April.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Membership — Dale Downes has finalized a new master membership list that will be used for the Fall/Winter newsletter mailing and the membership renewal campaign headed by Gordon Lewis. Renewal forms will be mailed out to all persons who have held membership in the LMWCC over the last five years.
2. Annual Meeting — Tim Phillips will contact Shawn Kanouse to determine his availability to speak at the annual membership meeting in July. Networks Northwest representatives will discuss the progress of the Watershed Management Plan as part of the regular business meeting. Josh Shields, forester for the Manistee Conservation District was also mentioned as a possible presenter.

Trustees and members are encouraged to contact potential donors to the raffles and silent auction as soon as possible.

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.

LMWCC is now a member of Trout Unlimited.

4. After some delays with the printer, the newsletter should be in the mail. David Spruance is looking for the most responsive printing firm available.

Meeting adjourned at 11:37 AM.

Next meeting: February 3, 2018 10 AM @ Elk Township Hall

Respectfully submitted by David L. Spruance December 7, 2017

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!!