



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

Minutes of the LMWCC 21st Annual Meeting July 7, 2018 at Skinner Park Irons, Michigan

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS:

President Tim Phillips called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM as members and guests were still arriving.

Trustees present were introduced including *emeritus* trustees, Gordon Lewis and founding member, John Gorys.

2017 Annual Meeting minutes were approved unanimously

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Council treasurer, Dan Sernick, reported a checking account balance with the Lake/Osceola State Bank of \$44,901.91 as of April 30th. He also reported a balance of \$8,162.63 in the Howard Roberts Fund, monies designated exclusively for in-stream work. The Council has \$66,223.49 in total assets.

Dan affirmed that the books were balanced — assets and up-to-date expenditures are reconciled.

SWAT TEAM:

Trustee Joe Rogers announced that his team has cleared the riverway from Johnson Bridge to 9 Mile.

NEWSLETTER/GRANTS:

David Spruance announced the rejection of the \$40,000.00 grant request from the DNR's Aquatic Habitat Grant Program. The trustees are contemplating resubmitting the proposal but trebling the amount requested. The original proposal was to secure monies to harvest dead ash trees and convert them to fish habitat.

David also stated that LMWCC and Dave Barkman of D-Loop Outfitter are in the planning stages for an inaugural One Fly event next spring that would raise funds for LMWCC.

PROJECTS:

President Tim Phillips explained the status of on-going erosion and habitat projects.

Nate Winkler of Conservation Resource Alliance discussed the Syers Dam removal project, now in the permitting process. A public meeting concerning the earthen berm's

replacement is yet to be scheduled. Nate is anticipating an August date for starting the draw-down phase and a completion of the project sometime in September.

Joyce Durdel discussed the relationship between the water quality analysis conducted yearly and the macro-invertebrate survey, also an annual occurrence. She stated that the results of this spring's "bug study" indicate a healthy riverine environment.

Armas Soorus delivered an overview of the process and progress of the Watershed Management Plan including a report on the two public meetings held this spring and the results of an on-line survey developed by the team at Networks Northwest who is charged with drafting the Plan. They hope to have a final draft ready for board approval within a few months before it is submitted to the EPA and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Salmon-in-the Classroom:

Evelyn Furman reported that there is a need for a certified teacher for the middle grades of the KND school system. In the past LMWCC has helped defer the costs of such training as part of its commitment to the program.

Jim Squier reminded members that the annual meeting is the Council's sole fund-raising event and encouraged everyone to actively participate in the bucket raffle program. He also gave an overview of reduced profile of the DNR in light of funding limitations. He indicated that placed increasing responsibility for meeting environmental issues on organizations such as ours.

The following trustees were unanimously re-elected to two year terms: Jim Squier, Dan Sernick, David Spruance, Joyce Durdel, Armas Soorus, Joe Rogers and Steve Bishop.

President Tim Phillips introduced Josh Shields, forester with the Manistee Conservation District as the guest speaker.

Josh's program focused on the definition and environmental impact of invasive species, concentrating predominantly on the effect they have on our forests. He told us that invasive species are harmful to native ecosystems by performing a new function within the established community. This threatens and ultimately damages the natural biodiversity of a system making that system much less healthy by eliminating the interdependency among native species.

He discussed the ways of identifying the presence of invasives and talked about various methods for their control. In a positive vein he stated that nature has ways of adapting to and recovering from the effects of invasive species.

He encouraged the re-planting of areas with native species such as red maple, yellow birch, white pine, paper birch, basswood, black willow, and northern white cedar.

Slides of Josh's presentation are available on the Council website: www.lmwcc.org

Raffle Winners:

Two days guided fishing with D-Loop Outfitters w/overnight — John Steffenson

Camera-mounted drone — Dave Davries

Camera-mounted drone — Diane Gregory

One day ski passes for 4 at Crystal Mountain — Dale Dowbes

Carpeting — Bruce VH