



Protect-Preserve-Enjoy

Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council

Minutes of the trustee's meeting held April 5, 2019 @ The Elk
Township Hall, Irons, Michigan

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS:

President Tim Phillips called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

Attendance: Joyce Durdel, David Spruance, Steve Bishop, Armas Soorus, Tim Phillips, Dan Sernick

Absent: Joe Rogers, Evelyn Furman, Jim Squier, Dale Downes, Greg Block

There were no minutes from the February meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Dan Sernick stated LMWCC has a balance of \$45,235 in the Lake-Osceola State Bank (3/23/19). There is also a balance of \$3621 in the Howard Roberts Fund. Dan transferred \$628 from the PayPal account to the checking account with LOSB.

Dan presented details of LMWCC's projected expenditures for 2019. Including LMWCC's financial obligation of \$11,000 should the DNR award the AHGP grant applied for, the total forecast expenditures is \$31,976. This puts anticipated costs well above the \$25,000 reserve limit the board had previously imposed on spending.

The treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

PROJECT STATUS:

1. Syers Dam — The removal project will begin in late April or early May depending on the weather.

2. There is no update on the LMWCC sign replacement at road crossings.

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. Erosion sites — CRA will apply for permits to remediate remaining 7 moderate (6 given lack of cooperation from the land-owner of site #31) sites at a cost of \$7191. The estimated construction costs on these sites is \$7000. NFS will remediate two sites on federal land as part of their upcoming “triple nickel” project. Otherwise they will not take action or allow any other projects to be completed on land in their jurisdiction. They are treating the river as a Wild and Scenic waterway.

There was a discussion of soliciting feedback from landowners who have had projects completed on their property. CRA will be asked if they have such data.

5. The macro-invertebrate survey is tentatively scheduled for the weekend of May 18 in conjunction with MCD, and the following day for three sites on the Little Manistee.

The Water Quality analysis will take place on July 8.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN:

The final draft of the WMP will be completed and submitted to MDEQ for approval by early summer.

As of 12/31/18 LMWCC had \$45,555.85 held in Manistee County Community Funds to cover the cost of the drafting and submission of the Plan. It remains to be seen how much of the original cost of \$40,000 has been paid out of these funds. Dan Sernick will request an accounting from AES and MCCF.

Joyce Durdal has agreed to do a water sampling from Bass Lake pending a request from the Bass Lake Owners Association. The board agreed to fund the sampling up to but not exceeding \$100.

The Mason-Lake Conservation District has become involved in the dispute with a landowner on upper Cool Creek relating to the elevated levels of *ecoli* bacteria entering the watershed due to the active dairy operation on the property. There is also a concern about excessive sedimentation caused by unimpeded crossing of the creek by the cattle.

GRANTS:

LMWCC is awaiting the spring announcement of AHGP grant recipients. LMWCC is committed to spend \$11,000.00 in the event of a grant reward. A discussion of how to move forward in the event of approval will be continued at the board meeting on May 4.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Dale Downes will be asked to have on hand at the annual meeting an up-dated membership list.

2. Website: Steve Bishop has someone to assist Anna Rogers with keeping the website current. Anna has posted everything that has been sent to her and the website looks good. Thank you, Anna.

3. Annual Meeting: Brian Bury of the DNR Natural Rivers Program has agreed to be the speaker.

Raffle prizes: Golf package for 4 at Crystal Mountain Resort, a kayak package, a camping outfit, and a guided fishing trip with John Gouker formerly of D-Loop Outfitters.

There will be a silent auction, and an 8wt. Winston fly rod (retail value \$895) will be among the lots.

A request for donations for the bucket raffle will be posted in the up-coming newsletter.

4. It was agreed that LMWCC would pursue an annual place on place mats distributed to local restaurants.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The DNR has posted on its website plans for the upgrades to be completed this year at the weir.

2. The MCD has been awarded a Ssustain Our Great Lakes grant to study and support the creation of rain gardens within the district.

3. The board rejected an unsolicited offer to write articles for the newsletter.

4. CRA informed the LMWCC that it has summer interns available to conduct a survey of the conditions of stream-crossings on the Little Manistee River. The board will not assume any financial obligations for this project.

5. It was mentioned that the River Stewards program is suffering from neglect. An appeal for a leader and volunteer stewards will be made in the next newsletter and at the Annual Meeting.

Meeting adjourned 12:47

Next meeting — May 4, 2019 10 AM, Elk Township Hall.

Respectfully submitted by David L. Spruance, secretary, April 9, 2019