



Protect-Preserve-Enjoy

Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council

Minutes of the trustee's meeting held May 4, 2019 @
The Elk Township Hall, Irons, Michigan

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS:

President Tim Phillips called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

Attendance: Joyce Durdel, David Spruance, Jim Squier, Armas Soorus, Tim Phillips, Dan Sernick, Gordon Lewis (*emeritus*)

Absent: Joe Rogers, Evelyn Furman, Steve Bishop Dale Downes, Greg Block

Minutes from the April meeting were approved without comment.

Treasurer's Report: Dan Sernick stated LMWCC has a balance of \$45,819.28 in the Lake-Osceola State Bank (4/30/19). There is also a balance of \$3621 in the Howard Roberts Fund.

Dan presented details of LMWCC's projected expenditures for 2019. With the AHGP grant rejected, the total forecast expenditures are \$20,976. This will leave LMWCC funds very close to anticipated the \$25,000 reserve limit the board had previously imposed on spending.

There was a discussion of the payouts from MCCF to AES for payment to Networks Northwest. It is assumed that Networks Northwest has received \$20,000 of the \$40,000 total to draft the Watershed Management Plan, yet the MCCF quarterly statements do not accurately reflect those disbursements.

The treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

PROJECT STATUS:

1. Syers Dam — Given the inordinately wet early spring weather, it is expected that the draw-down of Syeres Lake will begin in July.

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



3. Nate Winkler is to survey a stretch of river below Johnson Bridge as a potential site for a fish habitat and channelization project. A discussion ensued about a new grant proposal from the Fisheries Habitat Grant Program (replacing the Aquatic Habitat Grant Program). More on this under GRANTS below.

4. Erosion sites — CRA is finalizing the permitting process to remediate 3 moderate sites. Others on hold. CRA's cost for administrative work is \$7191. The estimated construction costs on these sites is \$7000. NFS will permit work on two on federal land sites (78&79) 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. This work is slated for 2020. The work on sites 25&26 on the Indian Club property will be pushed back to 2020.

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: Indian Bridge, Old Grade, and Cool Creek.

The Water Quality analysis will take place on July 8.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN:

The final draft of the WMP has been completed and submitted to MDEQ for review with approval anticipated for early summer.

It seems LMWCC has sufficient funds held with Manistee County Community Foundation to cover the balance of the drafting and submission of the Plan.

GRANTS:

LMWCC's application for a grant of \$110,000 to use dead ash trees along the river corridor to construct fish habitat and channel enhancement structures has been denied. Among reasons for the action the DNR cited the health of the river, the efficiency of the LMWCC stewardship of the river, and the lack of specific work sites in the proposal.

The advisability of applying for a major grant from the DNR Fisheries Habitat Grant Program was discussed. All in attendance agreed that a thorough evaluation of the site in segment II (TU survey) must be completed as well as



a specific proposal for work to be done and estimated costs in order to compete a competitive grant request. President Tim Phillips will check with Nate Winkler at CRA to determine if CRA's summer interns would be capable of making the initial assessment. Tim Phillips stressed the need to include in future grant applications as much data as possible from the TU and CRA surveys.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Dale Downes will be asked to have on hand at the annual meeting two copies of an up-dated membership list.
2. Website: 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, an Old Town Heron kayak package, a \$500 gift card at REI and a guided fishing trip with John Gouker formerly of D-Loop Outfitters.
 - There will be a silent auction of an 8wt. Winston fly rod (retail value \$895).
 - A request for donations for the bucket raffle will be posted in the upcoming newsletter. Wolverine Worldwide will be asked to contribute gift card and three apparel bundles: one female and two male.
4. It was agreed that LMWCC would purchase space on place mats distributed to local restaurants three times a year at a cost of \$160/a period.
5. CRA has enlisted summer interns willing to do a stream crossing inventory. LMWCC has committed no funds, but see GRANTS above for more about possible utilization of the interns.



6. The River Steward program has atrophied. David Spruance will make an announcement at the annual meeting seeking volunteers.

7. CRA can do a streambank erosion survey in 2020 at a cost of \$8400. A motion to commit to the expenditure was approved unanimously, and a discussion of seeking grant money to cover the cost was positive.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Chelsea Peete of D-Loop Outfitters would like to do a river clean -up. LMWCC will attempt to get her a contact with local Boy Scout Troop to assist. She also would like trash receptacles placed at popular river access points. This is a discussion LMWCC has had before: Who will pay for the bins, and who will be responsible for maintenance. Discussion on the bins was tabled.

2. David Spruance will make sure that there are 50 copies of the Spring/Summer newsletter available at the annual meeting, and he will also have 500 copies of the Membership solicitation flyer printed so copies will be available at the annual meeting.

3. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is now the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

4. The Indian Club has invited the trustees to hold their August meeting at the club.

Meeting adjourned 12:07

Next meeting — June 1, 2019 10 AM @Elk Township Hall.

Respectfully submitted by David L. Spruance, secretary, May 6, 2019