



## *Protect-Preserve-Enjoy*

### **Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council**

Minutes of the trustee's meeting held June 1, 2019 @  
The Elk Township Hall, Irons, Michigan

#### **EXECUTIVE ACTIONS:**

President Tim Phillips called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM.

**Attendance:** Joyce Durdel, David Spruance, Jim Squier, Armas Soorus, Tim Phillips, Steve Bishop, Wayne Anderson (member/guest)

**Absent:** Joe Rogers, Dale Downes, Greg Block (Greg is retiring from the board.)

Minutes from the May meeting were approved without comment.

**Treasurer's Report:** In Dan Sernick's absence there was no treasurer's report. The anticipated expenditures for this year were reviewed: \$20,976 forecast to be spent with \$2,289 paid out to date. It was also agreed that Dan will adopt a calendar year budget accounting program.

#### **PROJECT STATUS:**

1. Syers Dam — Given the inordinately wet early spring weather, it is expected that the draw-down of Syers Lake will begin in July.
2. All faded signs at crossings of the river have been replaced.
3. Nate Winkler is to survey a stretch of river below Johnson Bridge as a potential site for a fish habitat and channelization project. With a fully developed plan, including expected costs, either LMWCC or CRA will apply for grant monies to complete the project.
4. Erosion sites — President Tim Phillips is now prioritizing erosion sites and work needing to be done on them:



- #1. The new owner of the Mirandet/Paul site is working with CRA to secure permits for work to be done this year.
- #2. Evaluations of sites 19, 34/35, 51 have been completed and permits have been sent to owners for signatures.
- #3. Still trying to determine ownership on 3 other sites. CRA is charging LMWCC \$7191 for this year's projects support. Actual costs for the work is estimated at \$10/linear foot — \$7000.
- #4. Sites 25/26 on the Indian Club property and sites 78/79 on National Forest Service property are targeted for 2020 completion. The NFS sites are severe and the only ones NFS will allow to be remediated.
5. The macro-invertebrate study has been completed, and the water quality survey will take place on July 8.

### **WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The final draft has been submitted to EGAL for review.

Armas Sourus presented a thorough analysis of the costs of the WMP and the monies on hand, including the LMWCC original deposits as well as dividend income and contributions, in LMWCC's three funds held by MCCF and the payouts to Networks Northwest through the Alliance for Economic Success.

Thus far \$20,000 has been paid out with \$12,000 due. of that \$10,000 will be taken from the Plan Fund, and \$2000 from the Endowment Fund. The final \$8000, once the Plan has been approved, will be paid from the Endowment Fund.

After the final payment, the Endowment Fund will have a balance of \$21,826.40, and the Implementation Fund will have a balance of \$6,825.56. Armas did a yeoman's duty in pulling all those numbers together and crunching them into comprehensible terms.

### **GRANTS:**

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



complete a competitive grant request. We will work closely with CRA to secure funding if the project moves forward.

David Spruance has agreed to look into grant funding for the 2020 Erosion Survey. See OLD BUSINESS #7 BELOW.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Dale Downes will have on hand at the annual meeting two copies of the updated membership list. There will be copies of the newsletter and the membership recruitment brochure. There will also be two copies of the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting.
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. Thanks to Jim Squier raffle prizes have been secured, permits finalized, and tickets printed.
4. The placemats with the LMWCC logo and info are out, and the LMWCC commitment is for 3 times/year during fishing season.
5. CRA summer interns will do a road/stream crossing survey. The cost to have the results posted on Michigan's road inventory data base is \$2000. Tim Phillips will check with Nate Winkler at CRA to determine who is responsible for that.
6. CRA has been apprised of the profusion of sand entering the river at the Merrillville ORV trail crossing. CRA will contact the DNR for action.
7. David Spruance will make a plea for volunteers to re-vitalize the River Steward program at the Annual Meeting, and a sign-up sheet will be at the front table.
8. Nate Winkler has agreed to complete a stream-bank erosion survey in 2020. Cost — \$8402. There was a discussion of seeking grant money to cover this cost.



### **ANNUAL MEETING:**

Tim presented an agenda for the annual meeting. Registration for members will begin at 9:00 AM. he board will meet at 9:30, and the member's meeting will commence at 10AM.

It was decided that following Brian Bury's talk about the Natural River Program, members in attendance will be asked to take an "advisory vote" on whether the Board should pursue such a designation. Following the meeting all members will receive in the mail a brief definition of the meaning of such a designation, as well as a stamped return postcard asking them to vote in favor or rejection of the proposal to pursue a Natural River designation for the Little Manistee. That vote will be binding.

**Board Members:** Set-up for the annual meeting will begin at 5PM on Friday evening at Skinner Park. **Please plan on helping out.**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

LMWCC has agreed to act as host for the watershed volunteer summit meeting to be held in Cadillac next April.

The Jorgensen Family Foundation has made a generous gift of \$5000 to LMWCC.

Wayne Anderson and Armas Soorus discussed a new TU-supported program to install monitors to track flow and temperature of rivers. The monitors cost between \$400 and \$1500, and there is a \$10 monthly fee to have the data uploaded regularly to the USGS web site. The board approved spending up to \$500 to position a monitor in the Little Manistee River at a site to be recommended by TU biologists.

Wayne also apprised the board of a program sponsored by the Mason-Lake Conservation District by which land owners can receive a 50% discount by partnering with MLCD for the removal of specific invasive species.

Next meeting — July 6, 2019 9:30 AM @Skinner Park (member registration begins at 9 AM).



Respectfully submitted by David L. Spruance, secretary, June 4, 2019