



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

Minutes of the trustee's meeting held March 4, 2017 @ Elk Township Hall

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS:

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

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

Jim Squier moved to accept the amended February minutes, seconded by David Spruance. Minutes approved unanimously.

Treasurer Dan Sernick presented the Treasurer's Report showing a cash balance held by Lake Osceola State Bank of \$51,475.52.

There was a discussion of the need to insure the Council's inventory: tools, equipment, apparel. The issue was tabled.

Dan discussed his desire to house an LMWCC library in the Elk Township building. He will pursue its feasibility.

The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

PROJECT STATUS:

1. NFS erosion sites — no new information

2. Syers Dam Removal — CRA has submitted grant requests totaling approximately \$175,000 hoping to secure the needed funds to complete the project. LMWCC has committed \$10,000 to support the removal of the dam.

3. On May 6th, Joyce Durdel and her volunteers, in conjunction with the Manistee Conservation District, will conduct a macro-invertebrate study a Six Mile Bridge, Cool Crreek, and Johnson's Bridge.

On May 13th, Joyce and her group will survey macro-invertebrates at Queen's Highway, Old Grade, Indian Bridge, and DeWitt's Bridge.

The Water Quality Survey will be conducted on July 10th. Interested volunteers should contact Joyce Durdel.

4. There has been a report of an erosion site near John Gory's property. David Spruance volunteered to investigate and take pictures if necessary.
 5. The fish habitat project for Section III has been permitted and scheduled for completion next spring.
 6. The Gillhespy project has been completed and the Council is awaiting a final report from CRA. A possible site for another channelization project has been identified by David Spruance and Nate Winkler, and they will evaluate this spring.
 7. 2016/2017 Erosion sites: Reif/Gruters/Latham — 4 sites awaiting county erosion control approval. Kops/Young (#'s 66, 67, & 50) will be evaluated on site by CRA this spring. Work will be completed on sites #36 & 37 this spring.
- Tim Phillips has identified five moderate sites on state land (#'s 2 & 3, 12, 14, 15) for work this year. CRA is doing the permit process with a summer completion date targeted. Also seven sites on private land (#'s 19, 31, 32, 35, 39, 48, 51) have been identified for 2018 projects.
- There is a possible new site two miles below Johnson's Bridge that needs to be evaluated.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Joyce Durdal and Armas Soorus are meeting with a representative of Networks Northwest about drafting the Watershed Management Plan. Networks Northwest presented a preliminary bid of \$40,000 to complete the Plan in contrast to Public Sector Consultants bid of \$93,000. Essentially what Networks Northwest is offering is identical to PSC's proposal. Both plans would meet the requirements of the EPA guidelines as well as those of the MDEQ.

Jim Squier moved that the board select Network Northwest, if the steering committee so recommends, as the \$40,000 cost is within the means of the Council. A discussion of the funds held by MCCF ensued, and it was suggested that Laura Heintzleman attend a future meeting to clarify the Council's accessibility to funds held at MCCF. With the money held in the "Plan Fund" at MCCF the \$40,000 is well within the means of the LMWCC to proceed. This represents significant progress in realizing the goal of a comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Little Manistee River. The board approved a commitment of up to \$50,000 for this.

There was a brief discussion of the board's disappointment with the performance of Tim Ervin of the Alliance for Economic Success in generating any funds to supplement the LMWCC deposit in the Plan Fund.

GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING:

A gift from Crystal Mountain of a golf outing for four has been received and will be auctioned at the annual meeting on July 8th.

A grant request for \$5,000 to augment the Plan Fund at MCCF has been written and will be submitted to the Lake County Community Fund.

The board discussed the need to delineate between LMWCC and the Management Plan Steering Committee in seeking funds in the future as the two missions are distinct from one another.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Corporate Sponsorship — John Miller has been missing in action. Treasurer Dan Sernick is now including the Corporate Sponsorship solicitation pamphlet with each remittance to concerns with whom LMWCC does business.
2. Joyce Durdell has been working with General Printing Service to advertise LMWCC in the area.
3. A potential web site manager has been identified to up-date and keep current the LMWCC web site. The board expresses its deep gratitude to Anna Rogers who has been handling those responsibilities.
4. Mark Tonello of MDNR fisheries division will be the speaker at the annual meeting. A discussion of raffle and auction prizes followed.

Next meeting April 1 at 10 AM Elk Township Hall.

Submitted by David L. Spruance March 8, 2017