



Protect-Preserve-Enjoy

Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council

Minutes of the trustee's meeting held May 5, 2018 @ Elk Township Hall, Irons, Michigan

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS:

President Tim Phillips called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

Attendance: Tim Phillips, Jim Squier, David Spruance, Steve Bishop, Gordon Lewis

Absent: Joe Rogers, Evelyn Furman, Joyce Durdel, Dan Sernick, Armas Soorus, Dale Downes, Greg Block

Minutes from the April 7th meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: LMWCC checking account — \$44,901.91. Howard Roberts Memorial Fund — \$8,162.63

Treasurer's Report approved.

PROJECT STATUS:

1. There is nothing to report, and the NFS erosion sites will no longer be an item on meeting agendas.
2. Syers Dam — A permit for de-watering Syers Lake and one for removal of the berm and construction of the replacement have been signed by the owners to submit to MDEQ. After permit approval it will take 15 days for the de-watering process, and then the ground work can begin. A September completion date is anticipated.

3. Volunteer projects — The Macro-invertebrate study, undertaken in conjunction with MCD (lower 3 sites — Johnson Bridge, Cool Creek, Six Mile Bridge) will take place May 19. Joyce Durdell and her volunteers will conduct a survey May 12 at Queen's Highway, M-37 (Old Grade), and Indian Bridge.

The Water Quality Survey will be done on July 9.

The replacement of faded LMWCC signs at river road crossings is on hold.

4. The fish habitat project in Section III of the Trout Unlimited "Habitat Assessment" will begin in June.
5. David Spruance has provided GPS coordinates to Nate Winkler of CRA for the selected site in section III for a channel restoration project below Johnson Bridge. Nate will survey the site and begin the permitting process for a possible 2018 beginning and seeking monies to fund the project. This is a project that will be years in completing.
6. Erosion sites — Six moderate sites on state land (#'s 2, 3, 12, 14, 15, 18) are in the permitting process for work this summer. 7 private sites (19, 31, 32, 35, 39, 48, 51) are on hold for future work. Sites 24-26 on Indian Club property are being consolidated into one project by CRA for permitting purposes.
7. The grant request to AHGP for \$40,000 for converting dead ash trees along the river's upper corridor has been denied

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN:

There was a discussion of the draft document focusing on:

The futility of discussing the future of the dam in the Village of Luther as it is protected under a state statute.

The idea of Natural and Scenic River designation remains unpopular with some LMWCC membership.

The draft indicates that "whole tree revetment" is the best means of erosion control, and that is a limited concept that does not take into consideration site specific demands such as topography, soil type, existing vegetation, etc. Strategic placement of rock, for instance, can be an effective means of controlling erosion. Also the question of cost effectiveness needs to be considered in undertaking any erosion control project.

Present members discussed the lack of Little Manistee Watershed specifics in the draft, viewing it as a "cookie cutter" document. There is no specification of who or what agency is in charge of enforcement of the Plan nor of who or what agency has ultimate responsibility for its implementation. We would like to see details added that are specific to the needs of **OUR** watershed and recognizes the role that LMWCC has played and will continue to play in the restoration and preservation of the watershed.

There will be an open public meeting on May 24 at the Lions Club in Luther. The Watershed Steering Committee is responsible for publicizing the event.

GRANTS:

See #7 under “Projects” above.

David Spruance indicated that he has been in discussion with Dave Barkman, the owner of D-Loop Outfitters, about establishing a “One Fly” event to be held annually each first Friday in May to raise funds for the LMWCC. David has been given approval to continue developing details and finalizing the specifics to govern the event.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Membership:** Dale Downes has up-dated the membership mailing list, and that will be available for mailings in the immediate future.
2. **Annual Meeting:** Josh Shields, forester with MCD will be the speaker at this meeting.

Raffle prizes will be: **A)** 2 drone operated cameras; **B)** 2 days guided fishing and 1 night’s lodging courtesy of D-Loop outfitters; **C)** 4 one day ski lift tickets courtesy Crystal Mountain Resort; **D)** carpeting for two rooms.

Jim Squier has permits and raffle tickets.

A call for donations to the bucket raffle and silent auction will be posted in the Spring/Summer newsletter asking that all items be delivered to Skinner Park after 5 PM on Friday the 6th of July while the board is setting up the hall for the next day’s members’ meeting.

A discussion of an ask from Wolverine ensued based on what items may be popular and what would lend themselves to a \$5 bucket raffle.

Jim Squier will check the inventory of LMWCC merchandise.

3. A discussion on the status of the web site covered the pros/cons of hiring an outside consultant at a minimum cost of \$2400 with an annual maintenance fee of \$360. It was decided that LMWCC’s PayPal account should be kept, and it was questioned whether a more “dynamic, professional” site with wider linkage to other sites would result in more members. Increasing membership rolls seemed to be the major consideration.
4. High levels of *ecoli* bacteria have been found in Cool Creek. That is a MDE issue.
5. Jim Squier represented LMWCC at the MCD Earth Day Event on April 21st, and reported selling some raffle tickets and garnering a new member.

He also attended the Watershed Summit in Gaylord on April 20th. Details of his report can be found in the Spring/Summer newsletter.

New Business:

It was suggested that either Jeremy Geist of Michigan TU or the elected State Representative be invited to speak at the annual meeting in 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Next meeting: June 2, 2018 10 AM @ Elk Township Hall

Respectfully submitted by David L. Spruance May 7, 2018