



Protect-Preserve-Enjoy

Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council

Minutes of the trustee's meeting held June 2, 2018 @ Elk Township Hall, Irons, Michigan

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS:

President Tim Phillips called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

Attendance: Tim Phillips, Jim Squier, David Spruance, Gordon Lewis, Joyce Durdell, Dan Sernick, Armas Soorus, Greg Block, Dale Downes

Absent: Joe Rogers, Evelyn Furman, Steve Bishop

Minutes from the May 5th meeting were reviewed. A discussion ensued about the accuracy of the support, or lack thereof, among membership for a Natural and Scenic River designation for the Little Manistee River. This refers to the discussion at the May meeting of the Watershed Management Plan. It was pointed out that the LMW steering committee suggests support among those responding to the survey circulated as part of the Watershed Management Plan process.

The speaker at the annual meeting, Josh Shields' name was misspelled in the May minutes and has been corrected in the amended document.

Also a raffle prize of two rooms of carpeting has been added to the amended May minutes.

The May minutes were approved with some dissension.

Jim Squier requested permission to speak as he had to leave the meeting early.

Set-up for the annual meeting on July 7th will begin Friday evening at 5PM.

Raffle ticket sales have been slow.

Wolverine Worldwide has donated two packages of assorted merchandise.

Jim stated that he attended the first public meeting on the development of the Watershed Management Plan in Luther on May 24th and his takeaway was very positive. Ed Hoogterp discussed the dam in Luther and his comments met with no negative responses. (See Watershed Management Plan below)

Treasurer's Report:

LMWCC checking account — \$50,631.30. Total assets are \$71,952.88 including \$8,162.63 in the Howard Roberts Memorial Fund. How best to use the Howard Roberts fund monies was discussed as well as the need to apprise donors how their donations are being spent.

Some time was devoted to fine tuning the categories of the 2018 Forecast Expenditures. It was decided that the \$40,000.00 to cover the cost of the Watershed Management Plan should not be included in this year's forecasted spending, as LMWCC has already placed sufficient money in three funds held by MCCF. However it was agreed that incidental expenses incurred by the Steering Committee (costs of mailing notices of public meetings, etc.) should be included. There was confusion about the invoices from Mission Graphics as to the costs for that mailing and the printing and mailing of the Spring/Summer newsletter.

There was also a reminder that will be repeated to membership at the annual meeting that Amazon Smile is now available to benefit LM.

Treasurer's Report approved.

PROJECT STATUS:

1. 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 and submitted to MDEQ which is required to conduct public hearings. After permit approval it will take 15 days for the de-watering process, and then the ground work can begin. It appears that final permitting will be completed in late July. A late fall completion target is a reasonable expectation.
2. Volunteer projects — The Macro-invertebrate study, undertaken in conjunction with MCD (lower 3 sites — Johnson Bridge, Cool Creek, Six Mile Bridge) took place May 19. Joyce Durdel and her volunteers conducted a survey May 12 at Queen's Highway, M-37 (Old Grade), and Indian Bridge. The numbers at Indian Bridge were somewhat depressed according to Joyce.

The Water Quality Survey will be done on July 9.

3. Greg Block is in charge of inspecting/replacing LMWCC signs at river crossings from Spencer Bridge upstream, and Armas Soorus will inspect/replace signs from Indian Bridge down.
4. The fish habitat project in Section III of the Trout Unlimited "Habitat Assessment" will begin in June. Shawn Kanouse has been contracted to complete the work.

5. David Spruance has provided GPS coordinates to Nate Winkler of CRA of a site in section III for a potential channel restoration project below Johnson Bridge. Nate will survey the site and begin seeking funding and permits for a possible 2018 commencement time frame. 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 work in 2018. 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:

Both Joyce Durdel and Armas Soorus agreed with Jim Squier's assessment of the first public meeting held in Luther on May 24th. 34 interested parties attended. Armas began the meeting by stating that the intent of the WMP was not to enact zoning regulations nor to seek removal of the dam in Luther. With those sometimes contentious issues off the table the meeting proceeded without opposition to the major points of the draft plan as presented.

Joyce Durdel reiterated her statement that responses to the Steering Committee's survey indicate support for a Natural and Scenic River designation among respondents. The board recognizes the need to accumulate hard numbers.

There was a discussion of the where the responsibilities for the implementation of the final Plan will fall. It focused on the role of LMWCC and other entities in meeting various goals of the Plan, for instance the educational component. This led to a discussion about the need to shape and specify certain aspects of the Plan to meet the unique demands of the Little Manistee and to recognize that the "Draft" is a working document in process. Armas requested that all trustees read the document closely and submit suggestions and ideas to him and to Ed Hoogterp.

This part of the meeting ended with a clearer understanding of the financial status of the funds at MCCF and the manner in which those funds will be used by Alliance for Economic success (the LMWCC's fiduciary representative in the process) to make payments to Networks Northwest, the consultants writing the document.

GRANTS:

David Spruance reported that the plans for a One Fly event, in conjunction with D-Loop Outfitters, to be held May 3rd, 2019 on the Manistee River are proceeding. Dave Barkman indicated that Patagonia has expressed an interest in sponsoring the event, and drafts of entry forms and regulations as well as a history of the LMWCC have been submitted to Patagonia.

Publicity documents are in the works — posters for area display and press releases.

David is hoping to meet with Dave Barkman and Chelsea Pete, his office manager, to finalize the structure of the event before the annual meeting in July.

Gordon Lewis suggested that entries of two angler teams be limited to ten in order to increase interest and demand in subsequent years.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Membership:** Dale Downes will up-date the membership rolls before the annual meeting.
2. **Annual Meeting:** Josh Shields, forester with MCD will be the speaker at this meeting.
Prizes for the raffle have been secured, and members of the Indian Club will provide lunch.
3. A discussion on the status of the web site has been tabled

New Business:

No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 12:23 PM.

Next meeting: July 7th, 2018 10 AM Skinner Park Irons. **Trustees to convene at 9 AM.**

Respectfully submitted by David L. Spruance June 6, 2018