



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

### **Minutes of the LMWCC 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting July 8, 2017 at Skinner Park Irons, Michigan**

#### **EXECUTIVE ACTIONS:**

President Tim Phillips called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM as members and guests were still arriving.

All trustees present as well as trustee emeritus Gordon Lewis.

2016 Annual Meeting minutes were approved unanimously

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Council treasurer, Dan Sernick, reported a checking account balance with the Lake/Osceola State Bank of \$58,760.00 as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. He also reported a balance in of \$5675.38 in the Howard Roberts Fund, monies designated for in-stream work exclusively.

Dan affirmed that the books were balanced — assets and up-to-date expenditures are reconciled.

Dan also presented a chart showing anticipated revenues for 2017 totaling \$31,200.00.

Member Dave McIntyre moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by David Spruance. A unanimous vote approved the report.

#### **NEWSLETTER/GRANTS:**

David Spruance announced the receipt of a \$10,000.00 gift from the Jay J. and Jorgensen Family Foundation. Half of the gift will be used to fund the drafting of the Watershed Management Plan and the other half will be dedicated to adding in-stream fish habitat projects. That foundation continues its tremendously generous support of the mission and work of the LMWCC.

It was also announced that the Council is the recipient of a \$5000.00 grant from the Lake County Community Fund. This money will be added to the Watershed Management Plan Fund held by the Manistee County Community Fund.

LMWCC has recommended to CRA the pursuit of a grant from the C. S. Mott Foundation to fund the removal of the Syers Lake Dam.

David also announced a change in the printer for the newsletter and other Council mailings.

#### **VOLUNTEER PROJECTS:**

Joyce Durdell, who is in charge of the annual Macro-invertebrate study and the Water Quality survey, discussed the change in criteria for evaluating the data collected during the “Bug Survey.” Working with the Manistee Conservation District, Joyce will now sample the macro-invertebrate populations twice yearly and analyze the data in keeping with the standards adopted by the state of Michigan.

Joyce and all interested volunteers will conduct the Water Quality Survey on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

Results of both studies will be published in the Fall/Winter newsletter.

#### **IN-STREAM PROJECTS:**

President Phillips reported that the “Gillhespy Project” has been completed and the final report on the work has been submitted to LMWCC by CRA.

A fish habitat project in Section III of the TU Woody Debris Survey is in the final permitting stages.

The Indian Club completed work on five erosion sites on its property, installing rock revetments and planting 400 trees.

Due to high water in the spring, this year’s erosion projects have been delayed, but the permitting is complete and work is expected to be done by late fall.

Seven moderate erosion sites on private property have been targeted for remediation work in 2018.

#### **SWAT:**

Joe Rogers announced that he and his crew will now be clearing the river’s navigable channel from Johnson’s bridge to 9 Mile bridge.

#### **MEMBERSHIP:**

Dale Downes will be up-dating membership roles twice yearly: once following the annual renewal drive in late December/January and again following the annual meeting in July.

#### **SALMON-IN-THE-CLASSROOM:**

Evelyn Furman reported that LMWCC continues to support the program in the KND school district.

#### **WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN:**

Armas Soorus announced that the Watershed Management Steering Committee has agreed to authorize the Alliance for Economic Success in Manistee to act as fiduciary agent for a contractual agreement with Networks Northwest to undertake the drafting of a Watershed Management Plan for the Little Manistee Watershed.

At its meeting on July 7, the board of trustees of the LMWCC agreed to designate funds currently held by the Manistee County Community Fund to cover the costs projected to be \$40,000.00.

Trustees **Tim Phillips, Evelyn Furman, Dale Downes, and Greg Block** were unanimously approved to serve for another two-year term.

LMWCC would like to thank **D-Loop Outfitters, Crystal Mountain Resort, O’Keefe’s Reef, The Dublin General Store**, members of the **Indian Club**, and all those who donated items for the raffles and their time to make the annual meeting a success.

At 11 AM President Tim Phillips introduced key speaker, **Mark Tonello**, fisheries biologist for the MDNR.

Mark presented a brief history of the Little Manistee fishery — an historically natural grayling stream that gradually, with early stocking, became a brook trout and

predominantly brown trout fishery leading to the extinction of the native grayling. Later Pacific coast steelhead were introduced, and in the 60's Chinook and Coho salmon were stocked in an effort to control the exploding alewife population. The weir became operational in 1968 to harvest steelhead and Chinook eggs to be reared at hatcheries in the state in order to plant smolts throughout the Great Lakes basin.

Next he discussed the procedures for the DNR electro-fishing program that takes place in August every three years in a one thousand yard stretch above Johnson's bridge. He said the collected data indicates that the Little Manistee is one of the best steelhead nurseries in the state of Michigan as well as a top Coho producer. He also said that the Little Manistee is one of the very best brown trout rivers in the state. The DNR has documented a decline in overall anadromous fish returns following 2002 which Mark said were due to three main factors: Quagga mussels which have made Lake Michigan less productive in sustaining populations of large fish. This in turn has led DNR to cut back on stocking programs that has lowered the survival rate of smolts returning to the lake. And the decline of the alewife population has reduced the mass of forage fish available to salmonids in the lake.

Lastly Mark talked about the changes and upgrades at the weir that have occurred since the 2014 breach. A viewing platform has been constructed and kiosks, and bathroom facilities have been installed. A canoe/kayak launch and a footpath below the weir are in the plans as is an accessible fishing platform above the weir. The DNR is contemplating a \$2 million Capital Outlay Project that would completely upgrade the weir operation: a new electrical system, new pumps, new lighting, and a total replacement of the weir hardware.

As always Mark's presentation was extremely informative and we thank him for his time.

The raffle drawing was next on the agenda, and the winners were:

Jim Squier	2 day guided fishing trip courtesy <b>D-Loop Outfitters</b>
Eric Carpenter	Kayak package provided by <b>LMWCC</b>
Cassidy Gomes	Golf outing for four courtesy <b>Crystal Mountain Resort</b>

Following lunch provided and prepared by members of the **Indian Club** winners of the bucket raffle were drawn.

### **YOUR TRUSTEES**

<b>Tim Phillips</b> , President	<b>Jim Squier</b> , Vice-president	<b>Dan Sernick</b> , Treasurer
<b>David Spruance</b> , secretary, newsletter and grants	<b>Joyce Durdell</b> , water quality and volunteers	<b>Dale Downes</b> , membership
<b>Greg Block</b> , river stewards	<b>Joe Rogers</b> , SWAT	<b>Evelyn Furman</b> , Salmon-in-the-Classroom
<b>Armas Soorus</b> , marketing and Watershed Management Plan	<b>John Gorys</b> , emeritus	<b>Gordon Lewis</b> , emeritus
<b>Kaye McDonald</b> , emeritus		

**We thank everyone for their continued support and commitment to the resource.**

# ANNUAL MEETING SALES AND EXPENSES

<u>Sales</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Apparel Sales	\$300	\$295	\$232	\$585	\$470
Bucket Raffle	\$627	\$740	\$902	\$1,211	\$610
Large Raffle	\$3,446	\$3,630	\$2,025	\$4,405	\$4,149
Silent Auction	<u>\$512</u>	<u>\$180</u>	<u>      </u>	<u>\$50</u>	<u>      </u>
<b>Total Sales:</b>	\$4,885	\$4,845	\$3,159	\$6,251	\$5,229

<u>Expenses</u>					
Apparel Purchases	\$75	\$74	\$58	\$152	\$122
Annual Meeting Prize		\$500	\$848	\$325	\$961
Annual Meeting	\$1,073	\$474	\$662	\$530	\$210
<b>Total Expense:</b>	<u>\$1,148</u>	<u>\$1,048</u>	<u>\$1,568</u>	<u>\$1,007</u>	<u>\$1,293</u>

<b>Net Income:</b>	<b>\$3,737</b>	<b>\$3,797</b>	<b>\$1,591</b>	<b>\$5,244</b>	<b>\$3,936</b>
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