



Protect-Preserve-Enjoy

Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council

Minutes of the trustee's meeting held August 4, 2018 @ Elk Township Hall, Irons, Michigan

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS:

Vice-president Jim Squier called the meeting to order at 9:58 AM.

Attendance: Jim Squier, David Spruance, Dan Sernick, Armas Soorus, Greg Block, Dale Downes, Steve Bishop

Absent: Tim Phillips, Joe Rogers, Evelyn Furman, Joyce Durdell

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

Treasurer's Report:

LMWCC checking account 7/31/18 — \$40,817. Total assets — \$63,641.

The Annual Meeting netted \$4376. Raffle and bucket raffle tickets and merchandise sales totaled \$5705.

Treasurer's Report approved.

PROJECT STATUS:

1. Syers Dam — Permits have been issued and the work is out for bids. It is expected that the project will begin within. Two weeks.
2. Volunteer projects — The Macro-invertebrate study and the Water Quality Survey have been completed.
Faded road signs have been replaced between King's Highway and M-37.
3. The fish habitat project in Section III has been completed.

Nate Winkler of CRA is looking at a stretch of river in Section III as a possible channel restoration project site.

4. Once the Mirandet/Paul site has been remediated (Nate Winkler evaluating and seeking permits) there remains only one severe erosion site (besides those on National Forest land) to be done. Inquiries to the owners have gone unanswered. Seven moderate sites on state land may be completed by the end of September.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Armas Sourus expressed concern about imposing zoning regulations on local townships. He thought it best to discuss with them the ideas of Natural River designation or Wild and Scenic designation to assess their openness to such proposals. Armas indicated he has asked a state official to attend a future board meeting to clarify the distinctions between the two and define the specifics of each.

A discussion followed of ways to educate the public - riverfront property owners in particular - about best management practices for riverfront properties. A booklet along the lines of the "Homeowners Guide to Watershed Protection" published by the Little Traverse Bay Watershed Advisory Committee received positive responses from trustees present, and trustees are encouraged to assemble a bullet list of principles for waterfront management practices for the next meeting.

Armas reported that a final draft of the WMP should be ready for review by mid-October. Upon board and advisory committee approval, it will be submitted to the MDEQ for a review which should take six months.

When asked about the composition of respondents to the WMP survey, Armas stated that 61% were riverfront property owners, 38% were full-time residents, 12% were public or other governmental officials, and 65% were recreational users.

GRANTS:

David Spruance reported that requests for sponsorship of a One Fly event have been submitted to Little River Casino and Stealthcraft boat works in Baldwin. He also noted that a proposal for Patagonia to donate \$10,000 to LMWCC in support of the Syers Dam removal project had been made via D-Loop Outfitters.

David announced that he intended to resubmit the application to convert dead ash trees to fish habitat under the DNR's Aquatic Habitat Grant Program. He proposed raising the amount requested from \$40,000 to \$110,000. He then moved that the board commit to using \$11,000 to match the grant (as required by the DNR) should the proposal be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Membership:** Dale Downes will up-date the membership rolls following the July annual meeting, and he reports that the organization's Facebook page is generating a lot of traffic. Our message seems to be reaching a wider audience!

New Business:

In reviewing the annual meeting, it was determined that Josh Shields' presentation lacked resonance with the membership. Most felt it was too generic, but all agreed the best part was his discussion of suitable and native replacement plantings. All thought that a list of those species Josh mentioned should be included in an article in the next newsletter.

Several other ideas were discussed as replacements for each trustee making a presentation:

- Display a Hi-Res map of the watershed clearly identifying the sections of the river we use to talk about the work completed and needed to be done.
- Make a clear presentation as to the definitions and pros and cons of a Natural River designation as opposed to a Wild and Scenic River designation. The board must be prepared to make a recommendation.
- Display the website and follow step-by step procedures for navigating it.
- Discuss the Annual Business Plan, the forecast expenditures, and projects that have been completed in the previous year.
- Pursue the idea of having a local state representative speak at the annual meeting. When it was pointed out that the watershed lies in parts of three districts, an idea was presented to ask each if he/she would participate in a panel discussion.

No one was in favor of posting "keep off bank erosion" signs.

Joe Rogers has been notified of two trees down above Nine Mile bridge.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 PM.

Next meeting: September 1, 2018 10 AM Elk Township Hall.

Respectfully submitted by David L. Spruance August 6, 2018