

# Little Manistee River Watershed Steering Committee

Location - Elk Township Hall, Irons, MI

## Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2015

Those in attendance:

Armas Soorus, Joyce Durdal, Jim Squiers, Tim Ervin, Greg Goudy, Barb Stenger, Steve Blank, Chris Sullivan, Kayla Knoll, Jackie McKellar, Dave McKellar, Len Trasciotti, Wayne Anderson

>Meeting opened by Armas at 1:00 pm

>Introductions of participants/organizations were given by attendees.

>The minutes from the October 13, 2015 meeting were approved.

>Agenda items were addressed and discussed as follows:

>Partnership Agreement Signatures status by Joyce: Lake County Commission and 5 of 8 townships in Lake Co.; 1 of 3 townships in Manistee Co.; Mason Co. Commission and 1 of 2 townships in Mason County; 3 Governmental Agencies-DNR, MDEQ, Manistee Conservation District; Organizations-LCRPOA, Cool Lk. Property Owners Asso., LMWCC; the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians; 2 Businesses, 1 in Manistee, 1 in Wellston; 87 individuals in Lake, Manistee and Mason Counties and beyond. There is a growing list of contacts yet to be made.

>Consultant Selection Process for the watershed plan - Armas asked for a final decision on the selection of Public Sector Consultants, Jack Bails and Jon Bair, based on their proposal with some cost reduction factors added, versus going out for bids in an effort to further lower costs for the plan. After discussion, several in attendance suggested that we select and enter into a contingency contract with PSCs Jack Bails/Jon Bair. Armas suggested we take a vote on the decision. Jim Squier made a motion to that effect, seconded by Jackie McKellar. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 11 to 0 with 2 abstaining (Advisory members, Tim Ervin and Greg Goudy). Tim Ervin offered that the AES would assist with writing the contingency contract. Armas will work with Tim to get that accomplished. It was further discussed that Tim Phillips of the Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council (LMWCC) would be the signee on this contract as the funds for the watershed plans are currently set up through them.

Tim also suggested that Stephanie Ogren, PhD. Biologist may be available to work on some segment of the plan as she has for another watershed and help us to cut some costs. Joyce and Armas are also helping with township/county zoning discovery to help cut some costs. Jack Bails and Jon Bair suggested that they will work with us to reduce costs where it is possible.

>We reviewed an organizational chart to help us understand how we function as a group and help decide the identity of the committee. The group agreed that we should use the Little Manistee River Watershed Steering Committee as our identity. A sub-group of the LMR Steering Committee will be a 5-7 member Fund Advisory Committee that will, after gathering input from the Steering Committee at large, make recommendations to the LMWCC on how the plan funds should be administered. The LMWCC Board will adopt a resolution to recognize the LMR Steering Committee and the Fund Advisory Committee as advisory committees selected to make watershed management plan and spending recommendations.

>We adopted Robert's Rules of Order for our meeting procedure. It was then agreed upon to select officers for the LMR-Steering Committee. After some discussion about who would serve as officers, Jim Squier nominated Armas as president and Jackie McKellar nominated Joyce as secretary/treasurer. As there were no other nominations submitted for consideration, nominations were closed and a vote taken. Votes were all in favor with non-opposed. Armas Soorus will serve as president and Joyce Durdal will serve as secretary/treasurer.

>Pres. Armas suggested that we select members for the Fund Advisory Committee and asked for volunteers/nominations. Barb Stenger, Joyce Durdal and Armas Soorus agreed to serve on this committee. No other members volunteered or were nominated at this time. Jim Squier motioned to elect the three nominees. Jackie McKellar supported the motion. All votes were all in favor of electing the three nominees with non-opposed. We will need to add another 2-4 Fund Advisory members to reach the desired 5-7 members needed to conduct business.

>Tim Ervin suggests that we need to keep working on establishing a solid steering committee with regular attendees. Joyce responded that while there have been several individuals showing an interest, getting a solid commitment has been somewhat elusive.

Tim also reported that the Frey Foundation is welcoming a full proposal for the watershed plan in amount of approximately \$21,000. We truly appreciate Tim for his work on obtaining this commitment from this foundation. Other donors he will approach are the Coastal Zone Management (DEQ), Wege Foundation, Oleson Foundation, Mason Co. Community Foundation, and will also be looking to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians for partnering on possible project funding.

The meeting was adjourned by Armas at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Durdal, Sec./Treas.