

*Protect-Preserve-Enjoy*

**Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council**

Minutes of the trustee’s meeting held March 3, 2018 @ Elk Township Hall, Irons, Michigan

**EXECUTIVE ACTIONS:**

President Tim Phillips called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

**Attendance**: Joyce Durdel, David Spruance, Jim Squier, Dan Sernick, Steve Bishop, Tim Phillips, Armas Soorus

**Absent**: Joe Rogers, Evelyn Furman, Greg Block

Minutes from the February 3 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Dan Sernick reported a balance of $43,966.18 in the checking account. Dan reported that by using Amazon Smile for purchases contributions (0.5% of purchase price) can be made to LMWCC. This information will be shared with members in the Spring/Summer newsletter.

David Spruance moved that the board approve the purchase of a computer for President Phillips. Following a discussion of the advantages and disadvantage of Apple platforms and applications as opposed to Windows the motion was tabled pending President Phillips undertaking research.

**PROJECT STATUS:**

1. NFS erosion sites — Nothing to report.
2. 2. Syers Dam — CRA has begun the permitting process for the dam removal, and work is expected to begin this spring with a scheduled completion date of late summer. Funding has been secured for the total cost of the removal and replacement. Residents have been informed that they are responsible for the construction costs of a roadway over the new structure. LMWCC has committed $10, 000.00 to the project.

3. Volunteer projects — The Macro-invertebrate study, undertaken in conjunction with MCD (lower 3 sites) will take place in May.

The Water Quality Survey will be done on July 9.

Faded LMWCC signs at river crossings will be replaced this summer.

4. The fish habitat project in Section III of the Trout Unlimited “Habitat Assessment” will begin as soon as the final permit is issued. The project will be completed as soon as permits are issued. This is the “Jorgensen Project.”

5. David Spruance will provide GPS coordinates to Nate Winkler of CRA for the selected site for a channelization project below Johnson Bridge. Nate Winkler will begin the permitting process for a possible 2018 beginning.

6. Erosion sites — Sites #42, #50, #66, #67, (Kops/Young Mirandette/Paul) CRA will do once permits are secured. 6 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.

**WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN:**

Armas Soorus reported that the development of the Plan is moving apace. Greg Goudy of the MDEQ has looked at the draft in progress and approves of its scope and direction. $20,000 has been paid to Networks Northwest thus far. This led to a discussion of the accounts held at MCCF, and David Spruance asked again to see current, consolidated statements for the three LMWCC accounts held by MCCF.

Armas and Joyce Durdel stated that the survey compiled and distributed initially to LMWCC members and riparian owners produced 89 responses, and they are investigating ways to broaden the range of survey respondents. They have been effective in expanding the public profile of the effort to complete the Plan at the same time as publicizing the work of the LMWCC.

The Steering Committee has set March 20 and April 19 as the dates of their next meetings.

**GRANTS:**

David Spruance discussed the responsibilities that will fall on the Council should the DNR grant our request of $40,000.00 to convert dead ash trees into fish habitat structures from King’s Highway downstream to Indian Bridge. The first step will be for volunteers to conduct a survey identifying potential sites. Once that has been done the permitting process can be initiated. It is reasonable to expect 10 – 12 sites can be included in the project. Notification to grant awardees will be done by April 26.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Annual Meeting:** Josh Fields, forester with MCD will be the speaker at this year’s meeting.

Raffle prizes will be: A) a drone operated camera; 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 2 12x12 rooms.

Jim Squier will see to permits and the printing of 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.

1. Membership lists will be updated by Dale Downes biannually.

3. There is no new information on Jeremy Geist’s grant proposal on behalf of TU for which Tim Phillips wrote a letter of support.

4.There was a protracted discussion of the status of the website, and while everyone acknowledged that Anna Rogers has done great work in bring the site up to speed, some expressed concern about her ability to maintain it given her familial status. Steve Bishop and Dan Sernick are exploring possibilities. David Spruance will forward to Tim Phillips his recently completed “Comprehensive History of the LMWCC”, a statement of the Council’s mission, and the 2018 Business Plan to be posted on the website.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. There is some confusion about the USF&WS designation of the River as a “Wild & Scenic River.”

2.Jim Squier will represent LMWCC at the MCD Earth Day Event on Aril 21 and plans to attend the northern Michigan Watershed Summit in Gaylord on April 20. Anyone interested in attending should contact Jim for details.

3. There was a discussion of the need for younger members on the board to prepare for the inevitable attrition of the current group.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25AM.

Next meeting: April 7, 2018 10 AM @ Elk Township Hall

Respectfully submitted by David L. Spruance March 5, 2018