



Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council

P.O. Box 52

Irons, MI 49644

Minutes: LMWCC Board of Trustees Meeting November 5, 2022

Present: Amas Soorus, Dan Sernick, Jim Squire, Joyce Durdel, Wayne Anderson, David Spruance
Guests: Alicia Symanski, Abby and Casey Hull

Meeting called to order by President Soorus: 10:10 AM

Amas informed the group that Peter Lozicki will stay own as Membership Chair, but he will no serve as a board member.

David Spruance has volunteered to resume editing the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Dan announced a reconciled balance of \$73,885.38 in the LMWCC checking account with LOSB and a balance of \$7,516.34 in the Howard Roberts Memorial Fund. He also stated a value of \$94,560.67 of the LMWCC's total assets.

The 2022 forecasted expenditures was \$22,817.00 of which \$21,181.55 has been spent.

By a unanimous vote the board agreed to eliminate permanently the "Kamstra Project" from future forecasted expenditures.

The balance of the LMWCC Endowment Fund with MCCF is \$27,550.787 and that of the Implementation Fund is \$11,696.98. Both balances reflect the recent turbulence of the stock markets.

The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Conservation District Activities: Abby Hull (LMCD) and Alicia Symanski (MCD) made presentations to the board about their experiences interning with the LMWCC and the respective conservation districts.

Abby spent two years as the joint intern and her work primarily focused on in-water surveys, i.e. the water quality survey and the macroinvertebrate, as well as completing habitat and erosion assessments. She was influential in finishing the Quality Assurance Protection Plan for the Little

Manistee. This means our water quality data will be stored with MiCorps (EGLE) and be available through that web site.

Alicia spent her year with MCD and LMWCC engaged in a variety of activities. She participated in the annual macroinvertebrate study, but focused most of her attention on the Watershed Management Plan and the Natural Rivers Act. The WMP is now available in the libraries of the four counties through which the river flows, and she began an out-reach program to other potentially interested organizations. But her greatest contribution to the LMWCC is the informative brochure she created highlighting the benefits of a Natural River Designation for the Little Manistee.

There was a brief discussion of the difficulties of the board maintaining a cohesive focus on issues working through remote meetings during the Covid-19 crisis. Everyone present agreed that in-person meetings should be encouraged.

The Natural Rivers Survey: Jim Squier opened the discussion by asking a series of questions regarding recipients and respondents of the survey.

These are the major points that emerged from the discussion:

It was agreed that the information document Alicia Symanski has written and designed will be sent to all potential respondents prior to the mailing of the survey. That list will include:

- 1) All property owners in the watershed.
- 2) All members of the LMWCC.

A professor at Grand Valley State University, Amanda Buday, will prepare the survey which will then be submitted to the DNR for approval. If approved the DNR will recommend a random system for distribution, and the survey will be distributed accordingly.

It was determined that any letters of support such as from Michigan Trout Unlimited be included with the information brochure.

The board supported these measures unanimously.

A motion was presented “to proceed with the process as expeditiously as possible.” It was approved unanimously with the idea that all the board could do was put as much supporting documentation in front of the DNR as possible as they are the determining factor of whether to proceed with the designation or not. Wayne Anderson stated that under the current political climate, the chances of the DNR agreeing to pursue a Natural River designation for the Little Manistee were very slim.

There followed a discussion of the final format of the information brochure and methods for including letters of support.

Membership Mailing: Armas has agreed to include a “President’s letter” with the membership renewal mailing.

Fall/Winter Newsletter: David Spruance has agreed to put together the fall/winter newsletter.

Water Quality and Macroinvertebrate Studies: Joyce will make sure that the results will be made available for inclusion in the fall/winter newsletter.

Weblinks: We are adding to the website a links section listing organizations to which we belong or with whom we are affiliated, and those who are willing to be reciprocal.

New Business: Dan introduced a motion to contribute an additional \$500 to the Michigan Artic Grayling Initiative. It was passed.

Dan introduced a motion to renew our membership with American Rivers. It passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM.

Next meeting, December 3, 2022 @ The Elk Township Hall, 8966 Bass Lake Rd., Irons, MI

Respectfully submitted by David Spruance November 9, 2022