

LMWCC Board of Trustees
March 3, 2024

MINUTES:

Meeting called to order by Armas Soorus at 3:30 pm.

In attendance: Armas Soorus, Jim Squier, Joe Neuman, Dan Sernick, Mel Jacobs, Tod Nyson, Jack Epstein

Approval of Minutes from February 3, 2024 – Jim made a motion to approve, seconded by Dan.
Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Dan Sernick

Treasurers Report

1. Checking account has \$39,231.06 balance.
2. Savings account has \$9,176.37 balance
3. Wells Fargo Advisors CD has \$50,035 balance

Reconciliation-2/29/2024-LOSB Checking- Starting Balance \$40,246.06, Total Cleared Transactions - Checks/Payments = -\$1565.00, Deposits/Credits \$ 550.00 - Total Cleared Balance \$39,231.06

Manistee Co Community Foundation Watershed Plan Funds – Quarterly report as of 12/31/23, Council Fund - \$39,333; Implementation Fund - \$14,199 – Next report will be 3/31/24.

Forecasted Expenditures - We reviewed and updated forecasted expenditures for the year. We expect the total to be about \$47,500.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report made by Joe, seconded by Tod. Passed unanimously. Approved.

Calendar Items:

Annual Meeting Preparation:

Mel submitted the Raffle License application. Should be back soon.

Jim confirmed that the IATA Conference Ctr. Is reserved.

IATA Sound system will be requested for use by Mel.

Dan has Iron Fish all set for donation and Gouker Fly Fishing.

Jim will get kayaks at Scottville.

Mel waiting for tickets for mail out.

Nate Winkler will be our speaker. and Dana Castle will be answering questions about NRP.

Food – Armas will talk to Greg Johnson about Indian Club providing lunch.

Raffle prizes – Mel will check out storage unit. Jim said all should be on the lookout for items.

Tod will provide a fly box he makes. Place request in newsletter.

Mel will go to O'Keefe's Reef for some possible clothing items.

Mel will do annual meeting announcement letter.

Set-up is 5:00 pm July 5.

Annual Meeting – Open doors at 9:30, Business Mtg. at 10:00

No July Board Meeting – Unanimously agreed upon.

Kitchen Help - ?

Tables manned – who ?

Membership status – Jim gives membership applications to Mel to add to membership list.

Project Management - No updates on Work Projects. Wayne on vacation, gone fishing :)

Watershed Management Plan – Armas

The Annual Summit Meeting went well. Manistee Conservation District, MI DNR, NCCISMA, Mason-Lake Conservation District, EGLE, and Pine River Asso., Manistee River WS representatives, as well as LMWCC members attended. Teresa, EGLE, encourages us to document our activities for future reference. Armas stated we are keeping track via minutes of meetings and reports, newsletters and websites.

Natural Rivers Program – Armas

Status:

Two post-survey meetings, 2/12 and 2/22/24, were held in Elk Township, conducted by LMWCC, with a presentation on the results by GVSU Amanda Buday, PhD, Asst. Prof. Buday. Her presentation produced a lot of good questions being asked and answered. Various comments were made about the outcome of the NRP meetings. The meetings certainly engaged the community members' interest. Although, some very contentious comments caused concern for those in attendance, most people were there to ask constructive questions and learn more about the NRP.

Joe suggested it is time to put together local committees to further local involvement. Tod reported that he, Armas and Dan, in conversation with Mark Tonello, learned that DNR Fisheries members are on board with the idea of the Little Manistee becoming a MI Natural River. The next step in the process is to approach DNR administrative staff with the survey results, public meetings sentiment and letters of support. If in agreement, they will then take it to the DNR Director, who gives the necessary approval to start DNR public meetings to be held in each county.

Tod made a report on attending a recent Pere Marquette-NRP Permitting Committee meeting. He was very impressed with the process and stated that if he had questions about the NRP before, he was now in favor of the program based on how well the committee handled permit requests and in a very considerate manner to come to agreement on the projects for property owners.

Joyce sent thank you letters to partner organizations and staff who supported LMWCC in our effort to educate and distribute a social survey about protecting the Little Manistee River by adopting a MI NRP. Sent out early December, after the summer/fall 2023 NRP social survey and informational meetings sponsored by the LMWCC were completed. Copies were sent to:

MI Department of Natural Resources-Fisheries Habitat Management:

Dana Castle, Brian Bury, Patrick Ertel, Kesiree O'Brien

Mason-Lake Conservation District:

Dani McGarry, Director (Previous) Abbey Hull, Intern

Manistee Conservation District:

Renee Mallison, Exec. Director; Kendra Dula, Communications Specialist
(Previous) Chelsea Cooper, Environ. Educator, Alicia Szymanski, Intern.

Grand Valley University, Department of Sociology: Amanda Buday, PhD, Asst. Professor of Sociology,
Environmental and Sustainability Studies - Social Survey-Little Manistee River Watershed

Armas will get additional letters of support to add to the compiled information for Dana.

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Armas sent a letter of rebuttal to Stronach Township Board and Planning Commission, regarding a letter they sent to the other watershed townships advising against the NRP and questioned our intentions on holding summer/fall meetings about the NRP survey. It appears their intent was to discredit the LMWCC and turn townships against considering the NRP. The townships were also sent a copy of the rebuttal letter.

Newsletter moved to May. Annual meeting announcement.

Website Update – Amanda

Water Quality and Macro Studies – Joyce, not present, Macroinvertebrate surveys being scheduled. Manistee Conservation District, Tyler Dula, Conservation Tech. has set Sat., May 11, 2024, 9 am at their office. Mason-Lake Conservation District, Symon Cronk, Biologist, has confirmed May 10, 2024, 10 am at Club M37.

Monitoring Stations - Armas, up and running.

Violations We Are Tracking

Johnson's Bridge Fill – Will it end up in the river? Jim said Teresa will check status.

Johnson and 9 Mile – Pond dug by gravel pit – Was it permitted??

New Business

International Fly-Fishing Film Festival – Manistee Vogue Theater – March 2 and March 3
New Projector or Spare Bulb? New projector.

Jim made motion, seconded by Tod. Passed unanimously, to get \$100 gift certificates for Amanda Buday and Dana Castle – Jim will get them.

Jack Epstein was nominated by Jim, seconded by Dan to be a trustee on the Little Manistee River Board. Passed unanimously.

Next Meeting April 6, 2024

Adjourned 4:55 pm