

Friends of the Maple River  
Minutes of March 21, 2012  
Ovid Township Hall

PRESENT:

Joe Latoff  
Lyle Burns  
Chuck Klarich  
Dale Ladouceur  
Anita Ladouceur  
Jon Morrison  
Chris Mikula  
Kristin Esch – Guest Speaker  
Gary Fritz – Clinton County Conservation District  
Julie Spencer – Gratiot County Conservation District  
Matt Einheuser – Conservation Technician  
Pat White  
Ken White  
Phil Hanses  
Jack Nutter  
Duane Platner  
Jo Latimore  
Tim Machowicz – Sleepy Hollow State Park

CALL TO ORDER

J. Morrison welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

J. Morrison lead the group in The Pledge of Allegiance.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

J. Morrison welcomed everyone to the meeting, and everyone introduced themselves

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

J. Morrison read the statement of purpose.

GUEST SPEAKER

Kristin Esch from MDA provided an overview on the Right to Farm program

- The Right to Farm Program is a voluntary program and is complaint driven.
- There are 8 GAAMPS that are reviewed annually.
- Manure management
  - Must be contained on the farmer's property.
  - The majority of complaints received are odor complaints with surface water second.
  - Some things are laws enforced by DEQ, others are recommendations. DEQ and MDA work together with the farmers.
  - It is recommended that farmers have their soil tested every 3 years.
  - It is important for farmers to keep records.

- The complaint process is, 1. Complaint is called in. 2. MDA calls the farmer. 3. A visit is made to the farm. 4. MDA determines if further action is needed.
  - MDA receives 140-150 complains on average/year.

#### AGENDA REVIEW, REVISIONS AND ADOPTION

Latoff moved to approve the agenda. Klarich supported the motion. Motion carried.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. Ladouceur provided the minutes from the meeting of January 18, 2012.

Klarich moved to approve the minutes of January 18<sup>th</sup>. Hanses supported the motion. Motion carried.

There was one correction to the January minutes. The Treasurer's report should read \$308.73, not \$270.

Meeting minutes are posted on the FOTMR website prior to the next meeting. Please direct any changes to [info@friendsofthemapleriver.org](mailto:info@friendsofthemapleriver.org).

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account Balance:

- D. Ladouceur reported a balance of \$507.71 in the checking account. Latoff moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Klarich seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- 5/3 Bank reimbursed us for the \$9 they charged to our account prior to us doing electronic banking.
- We sold 18 river guides.
- We had 2 membership renewals.
- We had \$5.95 in donations.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2012 Meeting/Event Schedule:

- April 14<sup>th</sup> is the annual river cleanup
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> is Muskrat Lake ribbon cutting
- May 16<sup>th</sup> is the annual meeting in St. Johns
- May 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> is the Bushwacker Event
- Late May-early June is plant survey training for Maple River State Game Area

Elections:

- We will have elections of board members at the May meeting.
- It would be good to put together election information for a newspaper article.

#### CURRENT PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES

Watershed Slogan:

- Fritz and Latoff will be distributing a flyer to the schools in Gratiot and Clinton Counties for students to come up with a watershed slogan.
- Students will be instructed to return their applications by mid May to the FOTMR P.O. Box.
- There will be 3 prizes in each county.

#### River Guide Books:

- The guide books are our only fundraiser right now.
- Morrison will work with Ed Mikula to put together a newspaper article on the river guides.

#### April 2012 River Clean-Up/Log Jam Removal:

- The river cleanup will be April 14<sup>th</sup>.
- If the water is low, we will attempt log jam removals on the east end.
- If the water is high, we will do the standard river clean-up (boat launches, bridge crossings, fishing spots).
- We will make a point of doing a log jam removal on the west end of the river in the summer.
- Those willing to help with the log jam removal on the 14<sup>th</sup> should bring this equipment if they have it: come-a-long, ropes, wedge and maul, chest waders, gloves, chain saw, bow saw, loppers.
- We will meet at the dam in Elsie at 9am.
- Any questions should be directed to Jack Nutter at 989-292-1268.

#### Maple River Implementation Grant:

- The Clinton County Conservation District is close to a signed agreement with DEQ.
- They hope to start work in April.

#### Muskrat Lake Update:

- The ribbon cutting is scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Fritz would like to get out on the lake (prior to the ribbon cutting) on a pontoon to see if the structure is visible. If it is, then those attending the ribbon cutting will be shown the structure via pontoon.
- C. Mikula and Latoff will check with others to see about getting a pontoon for the ribbon cutting.
- Boat launch hours will be posted at the launch.
- Fritz may look to have signs posted regarding speed on the road, especially during the ribbon cutting.
- There are funds still available to post educational information at the launch. Latoff, Fritz, and Morrison will get the Machowicz to discuss it.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

##### Quiet Water Symposium:

- Most of the attendees were most interested in where the log jams were located and if there was car spotting available.
- We sold 16 river guides.

##### Fundraising Ideas:

- We need to keep thinking about how we can raise funds.
- Morrison will discuss with Ed Mikula on the Texas Hold-Em Tournaments as a potential fundraiser.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

##### Award Nominations:

- Dan Kennedy from the DNR was discussed as a potential award recipient.

**ADJOURNMENT**

D. Ladouceur moved to adjourn the meeting. Nutter seconded the motion. Motion carried.  
The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on May 16, 2012 @ Clinton County Court House

Please direct any and all modifications to the minutes to [info@friendsofthemapleriver.org](mailto:info@friendsofthemapleriver.org).