

Friends of the Maple River
Minutes of January 21, 2015
Clinton County Court House

PRESENT: Paige Filice, Liutauras Gedvilas, Gary Haynes, Alan Henney, Becky Henney, Tom Olson, Chris Mikula, Ed Mikula, Jack Nutter, Duane Platner, Jon Morrison

CALL TO ORDER

J. Morrison welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

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

PRESENTATION

Liutauras Gedvilas and Gary Haynes of MROW presented what would be involved with a mini expedition on the Maple. Expedition to would occur in 2016, likely May or June.

AGENDA REVIEW, REVISIONS AND ADOPTION

Ed Mikula moved to approve the agenda. Jack Nutter supported the motion. Motion carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Jon Morrison in Brian Valentine's absence presented a rough draft of the May 2014 minutes. Duane Platner moved to approve and Jack Nutter seconded upon confirmation with Duane Platner of the Friend's account balance of the May 2014 meeting date. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account Balance:

- Duane. P. reported a balance of \$1,071.29 in the checking account. Jack Nutter moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Ed Mikula seconded the motion. Motion passed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - 2015 Meeting Schedule: (7:00 PM unless otherwise indicated)

March 18 – Ovid Twp. Hall, pursue Tim M. of Sleepy Hollow as speaker (Jon)
May 20 – Clinton County Court House, annual meeting, Speaker from DNR (Jack)
July 22 – Picnic @ Motz Park & float on Clinton Lake (6:00 PM start)
September 16 – Ashley Sportmen Club
December 9 – Rainbow Lake?

COMMUNICATIONS – Discussion on updating website format to be consistent with MGROW's to allow for coordination in the future. Jon M. and Paige F. will begin working on a draft version for consideration.

CURRENT PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES

River Guide Books: Update version is nearly complete. Ed Mikula will provide draft copy of this. Need to secure advertisers. Look to provide approval of updated version and confirm advertising requirements at March meeting.

Booth @ March 7 Quiet Water Symposium, MSU Pavillion: Jack Nutter will take lead on display. Will work with Ed and Chris Mikula to come up with photos/loop. Jack N., Duane P., Chris M. Jon M. & Paige F. will make themselves available to cover booth during event.

2015 Log Jam Removal and River Clean-Up: Jack is the lead on this. April 25th scheduled date. May 2 or 9 as fallback dates, if necessary. Henneys may be willing to lead efforts down around Maple Rapids. Jack would like to encourage individuals/groups to adopt stretches of the river.

Latoff Landing: Had discussion with Tom Olson, new county Parks and Greenspace Coordinator, regarding a sign configuration and then the Friends installing the sign. Tom O. will do some follow up on sourcing a desired sign configuration.

Correction of MDOT signage on M-21. Jack requested that we make additional effort to get the sign that reads "Maple River" at the South Maple Crossing to be moved to the actual river crossing location in Ovid or corrected. Jon M. to make contact with MDOT about this.

Expedition/Float Trip: Discussed pursuing the mini expedition in 2016 and focusing efforts on that rather than a float in 2015.

OLD BUSINESS:

Maple River Implementation Grant Update from Paige Filice:

The Clinton Conservation District has completed one of two drain projects. Construction on the Bradley Drain, located in Gratiot County, is now complete. Restoration efforts included the creation of a two stage ditch. The second drain project is taking place on the Hayworth drain in Clinton County. The first section location on the North Swagart is nearly complete. Construction will take place on the Dallas-Bengal stretch next spring.

The district still has funding for the installation of stream crossings or fencing to limit cattle access to waterways in the Upper Maple River Watershed. Paige requested member contact her if they know of any landowners who may be interested.

The Conservation District alongside MSU Extension will be hosting a bus tour in the watershed Tuesday, August 18th. The focus of the field day will be on agricultural technology. Expecting 250+ participants from across the state, the target audience will be large farms.

The Conservation District is subcontracting with the Shiawassee Conservation District and assisting with an update to the Upper Looking Glass River Watershed Management plan. The update will include an inventory of all tributaries of the river. There are four sub watersheds in the southern portion of Clinton County.

The Conservation District applied for CMI funding, which would pay for dogs that can detect human feces in water. The intention is to increase public awareness of the harmful effects of illicit discharges and malfunctioning septic systems.

SAVE THE DATE: Clinton District Annual Meeting- Tuesday March 24th 5:30-8pm; free dinner will be provided; it will be catered by Litwiller catering services. There will be a speaker on Honey Bees; Location: Liquid Fertilizer building

OTHER BUSINESS:

Nominations for Board Members at May Annual Meeting: President requested that all members make a concerted effort to pursue possible candidates and bring a companion to the March meeting.

Possible Activities:

Jon M. suggested the idea of trying to get a webcam installed somewhere on the river. Discussion was very favorable to this idea, if it is feasible. Chris M. will do some research on available means to achieve this and present at March meeting.

Jon M. indicated to Tom Olson previous discussion by the Friends to get involved with work activities at Clinton Lakes. Tom will keep this in mind and be in touch.

ADJOURNMENT

President Morrison indicated adjournment of the meeting at 9:05 pm without objection.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on March 18, 2015 @ Ovid Twp. Hall unless otherwise indicated

Meeting minutes to be posted on the FOTMR website prior to the next meeting. Please direct any changes to Jon Morrison's attention.