

Friends of the Little Miami State Park
TEAMS Online General Board Meeting 07-13-2022
Meeting Agenda with Minutes

Minutes

Motions

Actions

Call to Order: Dick Feldmann

Introduction of Board:

Dick Feldmann	President	Present
Steve Murphy	Vice President	Present
Becky Retzer	Treasurer	Present
Bill Brown	Secretary	Present
Larry Bloomfield	Member at Large	Present
Bruce Cortright	Member at Large	Present
Fritz Buschmann	Member at Large	Present
Linda Buschmann	Guest	Present
Rick Forrester	Guest	Present
Kyle Ranck ODNR	Not Present	

Introduction of Members and Guests:

Approval of Minutes: Becky Retzer

- May Board Meeting
- June Membership Meeting

MOTION: Becky made a motion to approve minutes for the May and June meetings.

Dick seconded.

Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Becky Retzer

Cash on Hand:	4/30/2022	6/30/2022	Change +/-
Unrestricted	\$106,072	\$110,393	+4,321
Restricted	10,000	8,680	(1,320)
Morrow Rest & Info Station	10,000	8,430	
Volunteer Picnic		250	
Reserved	1,350	3,344	+1,994
Pollinator garden program	1,350	1,350	
In-kind / Door prizes		1,994	
Operating Account	44,908	47,961	+3,053
Savings Account	72,453	72,462	+9
In-Kind Donations		1,994	+1,994
Receivables	61	0	(61)
Total	\$117,423	\$122,417	+4,995

Treasurer Narrative: Becky Retzer

- Financial Statements sent to board on July 11th
- The financial statements and the above table are interim. They do not include expensing of the door prizes from the annual meeting. This will be a \$500-\$800 expense.
- Major Income Items
 - Spring Valley Acts – \$2,492.50 for repair station reimbursement
 - Taft US Wealth Fund - \$1000
 - Davenport Charitable Fund - \$500
 - Bachman Foundation - \$500
- Major Expense items approved and paid
 - Applebaum bench for Morrow – RJ Thomas Manufact. - \$1,570
- Expenses requiring board motion
 - Mileage Rates:
 - Our current policy rates:
 - \$0.585/mile Max. rate for driving personal vehicle along or between points on trail.
 - \$0.685/mile Max. rate for driving personal vehicle while pulling or hauling material or equipment on the trail (to include hauling equipment to/from the equipment storage facility) for purpose of maintaining the trail.
 - IRS Updated rate July – December 2022
(<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-increases-mileage-rate-for-remainder-of-2022>)
 - \$0.625

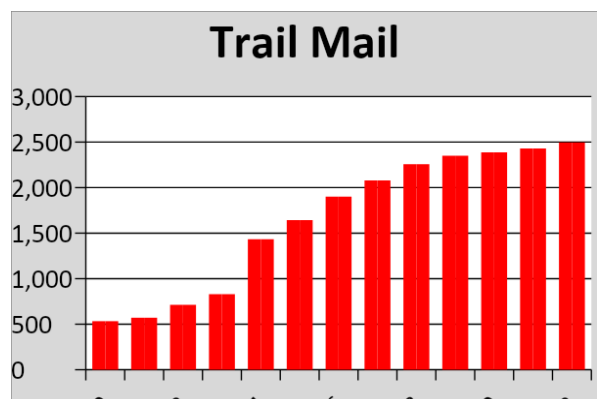
MOTION: Becky made a motion to pay volunteers who are using their personal vehicles on the trail to perform trail maintenance 62.5 cents per mile. Also, we pay volunteers who are hauling supplies and equip

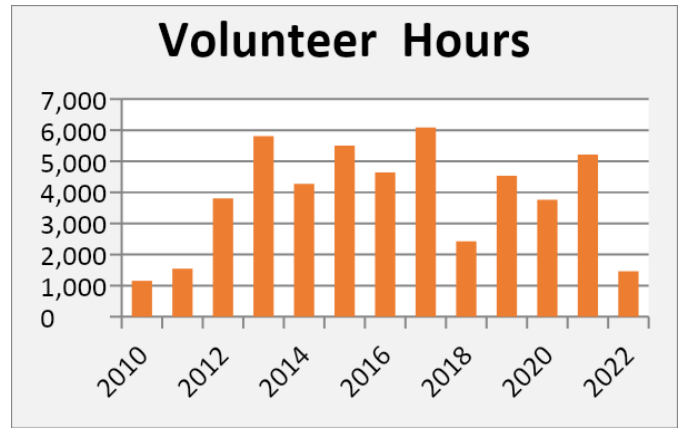
Steve seconded.

Approved.

Metrics: Dick Feldmann

	5/11/2022	7/12/2022	+/-
E-mail:	2,487	2,497	+10
Memberships:	197	287	+90
Volunteer Hours:	954	1,463	+509
Facebook "Followers":	2,255	2,295	+40
Facebook "Likes"	2,044	2,083	+39
Twitter "Followers":	62	62	





NEWS, Larry Bloomfield, Steve Murphy

Little Miami State park has been accepted as a National Recreation Trail

<https://nrtdatabase.org/trailDetail.php?recordID=4022#one>

The Board thanked Larry for bringing this opportunity to the Board and to Steve for his work on the application. A copy of the letter was forwarded to Janet for inclusion in Trail Mail. Plaques will be ordered to include on all of our kiosks.

ACTION: Forward this information to ODNR. Dick will send to Kyle to send up the chain at ODNR.





PO Box 491797 | Redding, CA 96049
Phone (530) 605-4395
Fax (530) 867-9014
trailhead@americantrails.org
www.americantrails.org

Congratulations on 2022 National Recreation Trail Designation!

July 1, 2022

Hello,

American Trails is the lead nonprofit partner for the National Park Service's National Recreation Trails (NRT) Program, and is very active in promoting and supporting these trails. We wanted to reach out to you and offer our sincere **congratulations** on becoming one of the most recently designated NRTs!

Included in this welcome package are:

- NRT Brochures
- NRT Signs (one large and one small)

Brochures and plastic signs are free (including priority shipping) for designated NRTs! You can order free plastic signs online (including low cost metal signs) via our online store at www.americantrails.org/store.

American Trails supports the NRT program through hosting the NRT database, featuring trail highlights on our website and in our e-Newsletter, running the annual NRT photo contest, administering the NRT Ambassador program, and more. You can learn more about our NRT related efforts on our website at www.americantrails.org.

NRT Photo Contest

Each year American Trails sponsors an ongoing annual contest for photographs of designated NRTs across the country. This annual contest provides awards in several categories and shows off entries and previous winners on the NRT website, in our monthly e-Newsletter, and on social media. Additionally, winners receive a special display certificate. The goal is to highlight the diversity of the NRTs and to make more Americans familiar with these great trails. The contest is for photos of trail users as well as special facilities, art on the trails, trail management, construction, and volunteers. Ideally, photo contest entries would be diverse enough to cover all the many types and uses of NRTs throughout America. Anyone can enter, so let your trail users know they can learn more at www.americantrails.org/national-recreation-trails. The deadline is December 15 of each year.

NRT Ambassador Program

The NRT Ambassador program is meant to help highlight your trail, share photos of the trail, collect centerline data, and more. We will be connecting volunteers that are close to your trail with you all, and this volunteer will work with you on trail needs and efforts. This program is aimed at getting people out on the trails, and getting more accurate data to keep people informed about these great trails.

NRT Database

Each trail gets an entry in the NRT database (www.nrtdatabase.org) hosted through the American Trails website, and American Trails continually shares updates and information on these trails through the NRT's Facebook page and in the monthly e-Newsletter, which currently has over 20,000 subscribers. American Trails also promotes designated NRTs through articles on the individual trails. We also use our website to highlight any news about exciting NRT projects, volunteer days, etc. If there is something exciting going on with your trail, we would love to publish an article about it!

Congratulations again, and we are looking forward to working with you! Send an email to nrt@americantrails.org with any questions.

Happy trails,

American Trails Staff

American Trails Board

Executive Committee

John Favro, Chair
Trailsbug, Trail Consultant

Marianne Fowler, 2nd Vice-Chair
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Cathy Corlett, Secretary
Corlett Landscape Architecture, LLC

Terry Hanson, Treasurer
Trail Consultant

Mike Passo, Executive Director
American Trails

Directors

Jan Hancock
Hancock Resources, LLC

Scott Landes
Infrastructure Resources, LLC

Danielle McIven
Trail Lightbulb, Inc.

Mikaela Randolph
Randolph Consulting Group

Marie Walker
The Corps Network

STRATEGIC PLAN.

1. Safety
2. Condition & Drainage
3. Volunteer Management
4. Amenities/Convenience
5. Beauty
6. Outreach
7. Administrative

FLMSP ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS, Dick Feldmann

- ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

- occurred June 5.
- **Good turnout.**
- **Thanks to Linda for arranging door prizes and Becky for arranging the facility and food.**

- 2022-23 board elected by voice vote:

Dick Feldmann, President

Steve Murphy, Vice-President

Bill Brown, Secretary

Becky Retzer, Treasurer

Bruce Cortright, At-large

Larry Bloomfield, At-large

Fritz Buschmann, At-large

- BYLAWS. The Bylaws were posted to the web site prior to the March meeting, and presented at the April and May meeting. June 5 Annual Membership Meeting approved the bylaws by voice vote.

ACTION: Dick will get updated bylaws uploaded to the website.

- ODNR Cooperative Agreement

- Due for renewal 7/31/2022
- Presented to membership at June Meeting
- Provided to board July 6th

MOTION: Dick made a motion to accept and present the Cooperative Agreement to ODNR.

Larry Seconded.

Approved

ACTION: Dick will send the agreement to Kyle Ranck.

ODNR, Kyle Ranck (Not present)

- Staffing:
 - Randy's last day was 4/7
 - Currently 2 seasonal staff: Carol and Steve

- Projects:
 - King Ave/Grandin Rd/Peters Cartridge factory.
 - **Trail Closure**
 - 05/09/2022 thru 12/01/2022
 - Closure will be at Peters Cartridge
 - Work began Monday May 9--- on schedule.
 - Bruce asked if Peters Cartridge construction detour map be posted to the FLMSP website.
 - Board discussed if FLMSP should promote this route detours.
 - Board agreed FLMSP will not get involved in communicating this detour due to the busy streets that the detour takes the cyclist on.
 - O'Bannon bridge
 - Design at 50%, timeline still being determined
- Volunteer shirts
 - Available to all individuals signing 2-year agreement
 - Must order for specific person
 - Need to capture shirt size
- FLMSP/ODNR cooperative agreement: renewal by 7/31/22
- Morrow trees:
 - 15-20 landscape sized trees

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

- **Volgistics**, Becky Retzer
 - Board Motion to upgrade rate from \$66/month to \$86/month for 7 system operators:
 - Dick Feldmann
 - Becky Retzer
 - Don Schweitzer
 - Linda Buschmann
 - John Biederman
 - Rick Forrester
 - Ron Gorley

MOTION: Becky made a motion to upgrade the rate for Volgistics from \$66/ month to \$86/ month for 7 additional system operators for a 12 month period.

Dick seconded.

Approved.

- Dick asked that we shoot for mid-August to go live with all volunteers

Current service level:

Volunteer records:	200 (188 used, 12 available)
Archived volunteer records:	50 (15 used, 35 available)
System operators:	5 (4 used, 1 available)
VicNet:	Yes (Used 1 times since 07-01-2021)
VicTouch:	No
VicDocs:	Yes (Files:146)
Monthly service fee:	\$66.00 USD
Paid through:	Tuesday, July 26, 2022

Change service level to:

Volunteer records:	up to	200		Details
Archived volunteer records:	up to	50		Details
System operators:	up to	7		Details
Include VicNet:	☒ Yes	☐ No		Details
Include VicTouch:	☐ Yes	☒ No		Details
Include VicDocs:	☒ Yes	☐ No		Details
Monthly service fee:	\$86.00 USD			
(That's \$ 2.83 per day)				

- 188 Volunteers:
 - 78 are current on ODNR Forms or are not required (Management)
 - 49 no ODNR form filed since 2017
 - 61 expired ODNR forms, no contact info
- Do we need a policy requiring ODNR forms?
- Launch trial with a few volunteers: Board, John Biedermann, Janet Slater, Rick Forrester, Linda Buschmann, Ron Gorley, Greg Melia (already using)

- **Volunteer Picnic.** Linda Buschmann.

- **The Volunteer Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 28th, 2-5p.m at Alms Park.**
- **Park reservation has been paid for.**

MOTION: Dick made a motion to budget \$1000 for food & drink.

Fritz seconded.

Approved.

- Door prizes.
 - Donation of Wine from ???. Any issues from the board that we will give bottles of wine to volunteers as a door prize?
 - **A \$250 donation to buy wine for door prizes to volunteers was received from Fulton Grove Winery and intended for purchase at their winery.**

- Closed bottles not meant for consumption at picnic. No objections from board members.
- FedEx verified the gift cards from Meijer were delivered to the FLMSP mailbox.

ACTION: Linda to send Becky delivery information from FedEx to locate the package.

- Linda talked to Kroger about food and drinks. She estimates cost of ~\$1000
- Linda will have Kroger deliver food to the picnic site.
- How do we send out invites? How many people will we have? Volunteers or volunteers and guests?
- Dick said we have invited volunteers and guests in the past. Guests are usually a small number.

ACTION: Becky will run a list of volunteers for Janet to send out invitations via Constant Contact.

MOTION: Dick made a motion to budget \$1000 for picnic food and drinks.

Becky seconded.

Approved.

- **Volunteer Recognition.** Linda Buschmann.
 - Volunteer reflective vests and hats; name badges/lanyards, car magnets, etc.
 - Stickers
- **Warren County Juvenile Court.** Becky Retzer
 - We are being asked whether we would have any volunteer opportunities for juveniles on probation.
 - There would be no more than 4 youths with 1 to 2 supervisors (including Dianne M Ruwe, Community Outreach Probation Officer).
 - Becky will follow up with Dianne and send information to trail section leaders.
 - **No update. Bruce has ideas. Becky to talk to them again.**

OUTREACH

- **Trail User Counting Program,** Ron Gorley

Tri-State Trails delivered the 2021 Trail Usage Study. This report contains data for the Little Miami State Park (Hedges Rd in Xenia to Avoca Park in Terrace Park) as well as the Little Miami Scenic Trail (from Hedges Rd in Xenia to Clough Pike in Cincinnati). FLMSP has contracted with TriState Trails (TST) to conduct the counting and to write the final report. The comments below relate only to the Little Miami State Park.

- The total number of trail users for 2021 is 2,029,838. This is 11% less than the pandemic-related record setting year of 2020, but 33% higher than the pre-pandemic record year of 2019.

- There are a total of twenty-five counting locations, one permanent location between Loveland and Fosters and twenty-four locations that are counted for a one-week period of time. The non-permanent locations are annualized by proportioning the 365-day data from the permanent counter.
- The Fosters intersection was blocked by the Warren Co. Engineering Dept. due to the closure of Route 3C for bridge maintenance from June 7 to July 27. This affected the normal flow through the one permanent counter on the trail (between Loveland and Fosters). Since this counter is typically used to calculate the counts at all the other locations, we used other regional permanent counters to fill in.
- There were two counter failures during the year that required imputing the result from nearby counters and previous years' data.
- Trail usage was highest between Milford and Loveland, with usage decreasing south of Milford and north of Loveland.
- This year's study was delayed because some of the calculations have historically been done by a UC professor who was out of the country this past year and is no longer associated with UC. (There is a binomial regression that takes weather conditions into account). This knowledge now resides at TST, so this will not be an issue in the future.
- Counter failures will not be a concern for 2022 because TST has purchased additional EcoCounter counters that have cellular transmitters. Any error, such as a zero count for a day, will generate an automatic notification to TST.
- FLMSF-owned TrailMaster counters are now retired and sitting in storage. Would FLMSF care to donate these to other trail entities?
- **Dick supports writing them off and giving them to another trail entity. Board agreed to have Dick tell Ron to give them away.**
- The proposed \$3,500 charge for TST to provide 2022 counter collection data and a written summary report is 7.7% higher than the 2021 amount. They explained this is a combination of increased transportation costs as well as their purchasing of additional EcoCounter counters (and the associated cellular bill) that they now use on our trail.

MOTION: Dick made a motion to approve \$3,500 for 2022 counter relocation and written summary. 80% to be paid now and then 20% upon receipt of the final report.

Larry seconded.

Approved.

ACTION: Dick will send the usage report to Board members

SAFETY

- **FENCES**, Tom McCray
 - MM16.4 Corwin Rd. crossing at Caesar's Creek, Chain Link Fence has been replaced. Need someone to remove old chain link fence rolled up on ground west of trail.



- **SIGNAGE**, Bruce Cortright, Dick Feldmann

Cross Traffic does not stop signs installed at all Far South and Far North crossings. Dick Feldmann working with Carol to get remaining signs installed.

- Signs installed from south end to Fosters. Dick to arrange for Fosters to Oregonia signs to be installed.

TRAIL CONDITION & DRAINAGE

- **MM 22.7 I-71 underpass slump**

- Safety fence sagging and gaps. ODNr reports staff will try to establish a better fence line. There is no currently identified funding for this project, although it is on our radar and list of priority projects.

- **FAR SOUTH TRAIL REPORT**, Bruce Cortright

AMENITIES/CONVENIENCE

- **SPRING VALLEY**, Dick Feldmann

- Bike repair station installed at Founders Park. Spring Valley ACTS reimbursed FLMSF for price of equipment from grant from Green County.

- **MORROW**, Dick Feldmann

- Rest and information station going into Phegley Park in 2023 paid for by Appletree Pet Clinic.



- Need to remove existing 3-sided building at request of Morrow.
- Install standard 6-panel information kiosk.
- Install memorial bench; bench has been ordered and will be delivered to Ron Gorley shortly.
- Install trees and landscaping to replace ODNR removed trees.

ACTION: Dick will talk to Rick to have his crew arrange to take down the existing 3-sided building.

● **SOUTH BLOWER STORAGE**

- Tony Blizniak recommends building an out-building to the Fosters RR building to store the Blower. Melissa not opposed, but not willing to take any action until the Fosters intersection redesign is further along. Last word from Mark at MonkeyBar is the barn won't be torn down till 2023.
- Any chance we can get the area outside of the Foster RR building cleaned up and take the materials to the S. Lebanon tool cache?
- Dick asked if Rick could get stuff moved to the tool S. Lebanon tool cache. Maybe this job can be combined with the building take down work.

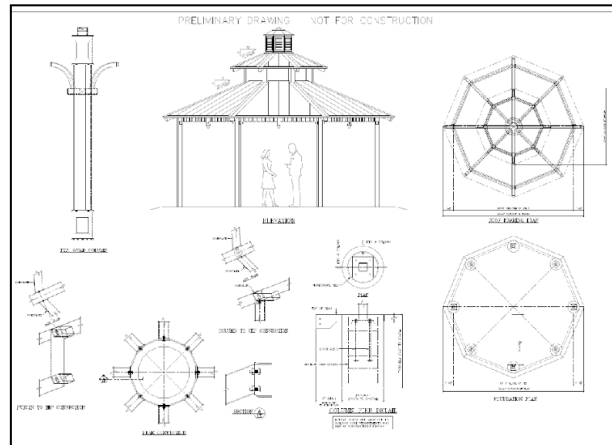
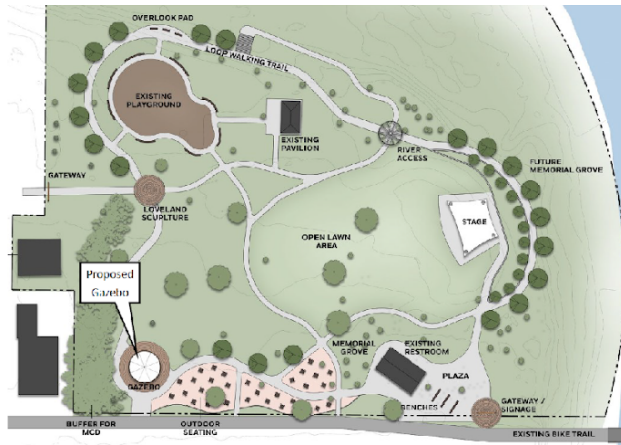


● **POLLINATOR GARDENS**, Becky Retzer

- MM 19.9 Oregonia
- MM 39 under power lines
- Seed has been ordered and in storage at Becky's
- Holding off planting due to hot weather

● **LOVELAND NISBET PARK**, Dick Feldmann

- Loveland planning improvements to Nisbet Park
- Immediate goal is to acquire grant to put back in park a gazebo.



- Other Discussion:
 - Rick: LMSP Trail map availability at kiosks issue raised again. Maps seem to disappear quickly once stocked at kiosks.
 - Rick: Monkey Bar owners have run cable rope between posts along the trail and holes have not been filled in. Dick will talk to Kyle at ODNR regarding this. We store the trail blower in the building on their property and appreciate their support of FLMSP.

Future General Board Meetings

- Virtual via Microsoft TEAMS
- Do we want to schedule 2 or 3 in person meetings?
- March and September in person board meetings proposed. Wayne Township building, Hamilton Township building, and Miamiville Township suggested as locations.

ACTION: Dick wil research and report to the board.

The next TEAMS General Board Meeting will be **Wednesday August 10th, 6:30–8:00 PM.**

MOTION: Dick made a motion to adjourn.

Bill Seconded.

Adjourned.