

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
General Board Meeting 2/14/2024
MS Teams Video Conference
Meeting Agenda & Presentation - Minutes**

Minutes

Motions

Actions

AGENDA / STRATEGIC PLAN.

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Treasurer's Report
4. ODNR Report
5. Outreach
6. FLMSP Administrative Business
7. Volunteer Management
8. Amenities/Convenience
9. Trail Condition & Drainage
10. Outreach
11. Beauty
12. Safety
13. Future General Board Meetings

Call to Order: Dick Feldmann

Introduction of Board:

Dick Feldmann	President
Ron Gorley	Vice President - not present
Becky Retzer	Treasurer
Bill Brown	Secretary
Larry Bloomfield	Member at Large
Bruce Cortright	Member at Large
Fritz Buschmann	Member at Large

Introduction of Members and Guests:

Casey Marcum	ODNR
Caden Sauerbrey	ODNR Naturalist
Robbert Trace	ODNR Park Manager
Bill Newton	Greenfield Farms
Jennifer Radcliffe	Greenfield Farms

Approval of Minutes: Bill Brown

- January Board Meeting, distributed January 16th.

MOTION: Bill made a motion to approve Jan. 10th minutes.

Fritz seconded

Motion Approved

Treasurer's Report: Becky Retzer

FLMSP CASH ON HAND	12/31/2023	01/31/2024	
Unrestricted	177,966	180,435	2,469
Restricted	24,026	24,026	0
Memorial Benches	4,026	4,026	0
Pavement Fund	10,000	10,000	0
Grandin Rest & Info Station	10,000	10,000	0
Reserved	259	259	0
Pollinator Garden	259	259	0
Savings Account	42,547	42,554	7
CD(s)	82,102	132,226	50,124
Receivables	132	199	67
Total	202,251	204,720	2,469

P&L Comparison	YTD 1/2023	YTD 1/2024
Revenue	3,006	8,006
Expenses	6,355	5,472
Net Operating Revenue	-3,351	2,534

Treasurer Narrative, Becky Retzer

- Financials emailed to Board on 2/12/2024
- Year-end reports Revised sent to Board on 02/12/2024
 - Vote for acceptance of 2023 year-end statements.

Vote: To accept the 2023 year end financial statement as reviewed. Accepted.

- **CD's** - 30,000 matures 2/27/2024 – 4.86% 2/27/2024

MOTION: Becky made a motion to rollover the \$30K to a new 7 month CD with Huntington Bank.

Dick seconded

Motion approved

- Updated expense report forms sent via e-mail as well as on shared drive & website
- Upcoming expenses for
 - Navigate Tomorrow – Annual Web Hosting – Rod is sending e-mail \$385.00
 - UPS Mailbox \$300.00

MOTION: Becky made a motion to pay these expenses.

Dick seconded

Motion approved

ODNR, Casey Marcum, Caden Sauerbrey

Staff

- Mike Norman moved to head of ODNR Safety Administrator on January 28th.
- Robbie Trace interim park manager for Little Miami and Cowan Lake.
- Casey is on her own till spring.
- Hiring plan for 2024 is being developed.

ODNR Native Plant greenhouse, Dick Feldmann, Caden Sauerbrey

- Caden supplied an initial plan. Rick Forrester negotiated a larger greenhouse.
- Plan presented to board by email. Ron had questions and a desire to have a clear agreement between FLMSF, Friends Caring for Cowan Lake State Park and the ODNR Naturalist concerning continuing access to the greenhouse.
- Mike Norman confirmed that "This would be consistent and in support of our sustainability efforts!" (1/26/2024 email)
- Dick Feldmann contacted Wade Hall, President, Friends Caring for Cowan Lake State Park and discussed.
- Based on this discussion we came up with the following Memo of Understanding:

Memorandum of Understanding

Subject: Greenhouse project at Cowan Lake Nature Center

ODNR Cowan Lake Naturalist

Friends Caring for Cowan Lake State Park

Friends of the Little Miami State Park

It is the intention of the organizations listed to work together to build a greenhouse for the propagation of native Ohio seeds and plants.

The native Ohio seeds and plants produced are to be used equally in Cowan Lake State Park and the Little Miami State Park to add native plants to the parks where invasive species are being removed and in new areas as appropriate for each park.

The Greenhouse is to be built at Cowan Lake State Park next to the Nature Center.

Any required utilities, primarily water and electrical, will be provided by Cowan Lake State Park.

The Greenhouse will be managed by the Cowan Lake Naturalist.

Volunteers from both Friends organizations will have access to the Greenhouse to aid in the maintenance of the greenhouse and the care and growing of the plants in support and approval of the naturalist. The naturalist and park staff will see to the care of the plants on a day-to-day basis.

Each Friends organization will provide \$1800 for the purchase and delivery of a ShelterLogic GrowIT Heavy Duty Round Greenhouse 12 ft W x 24 ft L \$1,344.25 or equivalent, 4 EZ-Grow Complete Bench kits, propagation trays, Geo Textile Fabric, rental of any equipment necessary to prepare the ground and erect the greenhouse, and purchase of seed and plant stock to get the greenhouse started. Any excess funds will be returned equally to the Friends organizations after the greenhouse is fully operational.

Caden Sauerbrey,
Naturalist
Cowan Lake State Park,
ODNR

Dick Feldmann, President
Friends of the Little
Miami State Park

Wade Hall, President
Friends Caring for Cowan
Lake State Park

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- Board of Friends Caring for Cowan Lake State Park approved the MOU and \$1800 at their board meeting on 1/6/2024.

MOTION: Dick made a motion to accept the Memo of Understanding with Cowan Lake State Park naturalist, Friends Caring for Cowan Lake State Park, and FLMSP.

Bruce seconded

Motion approved

MOTION: Dick made a motion to approve spending \$1,800 on the Ohio Native Plant greenhouse project.

Bruce seconded

Motion approved

Middletown Rd. bridge (MM 16.5)

- Contract for bridge reclamation required re-awarded.
- Work will start this spring.
- Part of RFP is that we will reclaim the boards for future fence repair.
- Steel plates are holding up well.

O'Bannon bridge (MM 41.5)

- Bridge is closed as of October 3.
- Awaiting arrival of steel structural components from manufacturer.

Trail slip at I-71 Jeremiah Morrow Bridge (MM 22.1)

- No change.
- Mike, ODNR Engineers and ODOT continuing discussions a long-term solution to correct the issue.
- Trying to resolve a requirement for a detour during the work where no appropriate detour is available.

Trail slip at Glendale-Milford Rd (MM 50)

- Investigating taking on leveling the blacktop as a joint park staff and FLMSP volunteer project.

FLMSP ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Grants, Becky Retzer, Bill Newton

- Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District.
- We were awarded up to \$10,000 (our proposal was for 8K).
- Begins 1/01/2024.
- We have 2 years to complete.
- Greenfield Farms to provide materials and finish the work other than possibly collaborating with S. Lebanon on use of equipment.
- Grant includes signage and poster for Kiosk.

Jennifer:

- **Bill & Jennifer drove to site today (Feb. 14)**
- **Bill says a lot of soil needs to be removed to make this area a rain garden,**
- **Water flow needs to be slowed down before it gets to the storm drain.**
- **Soil will need to be amended.**
- **S. Lebanon has offered to do the excavation overseen by Bill.**
- **Cars will need to be prevented from parking in this area. There will need to be a barrier in this area for this purpose.**
- **Bill suggests boulders for this purpose.**
- **Becky asked Casey to look at that area with her to review options for barriers and plantings.**
- **June and July is a tentative time to begin the project based on Greenfield Farms availability to start the project.**

- We will move the O'Bannon Bridge Chronolog time lapse camera station to this location to capture this project as it progresses.

ACTION: Becky will contact Bill, Jennifer and Casey to meet at the site to review excavation work.

Trail usage counters, Ron Gorley, Dick Feldmann

- Due to O'Bannon Creek bridge repair, we decided to do our permanent counting between fosters and Grandin for 2024. As TriState Trails had an additional counter, we opted to leave our permanent counter in Loveland and TriState Trails installed theirs.
- The TriState Trails counter was stolen about a week ago.
- We will once again be relying on Great Parks data from Avoca Park for our 2024 count.
- TriState Trails is working the issue and Ron will work a plan B when he gets back from vacation.

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

Proposed 2024 Volunteer Events, Dick Feldmann

- Linda Buschmann reviewed budget.
 - She had the same request as Ron: That we group her budget and allow her to work out the funding profile.
- Individual team events
 - 2024: Continue to provide \$100 budget to each of the 11 project teams.
- Three Volunteer get-togethers in 2024.

MOTION: Dick made a motion to set a budget of \$1,500 for Linda Buschmann to organize and run three volunteer get-togethers during 2024. Linda may augment events with in-kind donations as she is able.

Bruce seconded

Motion approved

- Winter Volunteer gift
 - 2024: Budget \$1200
- Volunteer birthday card

Motion: Dick made a motion to budget \$100 for Becky to send out birthday cards to volunteers.

Bruce seconded

Motion approved

AMENITIES/CONVENIENCE

Park Entry Signs, Dick Feldmann

- Proposing new signage at all entry points. Trail has
 - 33 Major Intersections – Require full sign tree in each direction.
 - 11 Minor Intersections – Requires just the Park sign in each direction

- 2 Terminations – Already has a large park sign but needs the trail and rules signs only in one direction.
- Signs needed
 - 88 New LMSP park signs
 - 70 Route signs
 - 25 Street signs to replace missing street signs
 - 67 New Rules Signs
- Phase 1. Replace State Park signs
 - Received Two Quotes
 - KLEEM, Inc
 - Engineer Grade Prismatic Finished Signs
 - .080 Aluminum
 - Digital Printed
 - Clear Protective Laminate
 - \$112.25/sign for qty 90
 - Does not recommend reusing old signs for backing.
 - Park Signs: \$10,102.50
 - Also quoted following:
 - Route Sign: \$64.45/unit; \$4,511.50 for 70 signs
 - Street signs: \$42.65/unit; \$1,066.25 for 25 signs
 - Rules signs: \$99.35/unit; \$6,954.50 for 70 signs
 - Project total: \$22,634.75
 - A&A Safety
 - Quoted \$42/sign for qty 90
 - No specs on quote, so telephoned Jeremy Porter at A&A Safety and asked for specs.
 - 0.080 Aluminum
 - Digital printed
 - On high intensity sheeting.
 - Laminated
 - “Just like stop signs”
 - Suggested we reuse old signs for aluminum backing to save money.
 - Total: \$3,780.

MOTION: Dick made a motion to purchase 90 State Park signs from A&A Safety. Budget \$4,000 for signs and installation hardware.

Bruce Seconded

Motion approved

TRAIL CONDITION & DRAINAGE

Funding for pavement replacement, Ron Gorley

- Project funding request for \$296,500 was submitted to Warren County Chamber Alliance who submitted to Ohio legislature as 2nd priority on their list.
- Ohio house passed their capital budget in an expedited manner. Only capital funding project included in the budget from Warren County is the \$13.75 million for the Cincinnati Open Tennis Tournament.

Route 42 Bridge over trail at Spring Valley (MM 7.0)

- Bridge Replacement will begin 15 February.
- Managed by ODOT District 8.
- ODOT reports no closure of the trail is intended for this project. However, there will likely be some intermittent, short-term closures, and specifically when US 42 will be closed for two, separate weekends for beam setting. They will be constructing a trail canopy under 42 with lighting. So that's the good news.
- The downside is that up to 6 closures of up to 5 days each are authorized in the project plan, and the contractor only needs to give one week's notice to do that. Hopefully they do not decide to use all of those closures.

King Ave/Grandin Rd/Peters Cartridge factory (MM 35.3)

- Future Amenities
 - Sign Tree
 - Information Kiosk
 - Picnic Shelter
 - Benches
 - Memorial to Steve
- Met with Warren County Engineer Roy Henson 1/22/2024. Discussed underground utilities and where we can place these items.
- There are quite a few different underground utilities in the area. Roy was able to identify and provide locations for the utilities for us.
- Roy sees no issue with our plans for Sign Tree and Information kiosk. He only asked that we wait till after the contractor finishes the landscaping in the spring.
- Ron presented an approach for a picnic shelter and benches.
 - Push over the old riprap railroad track berm to the north east of parking and place the picnic shelter there.
 - Issue: The land is still owned by Warren County Commissioners but is in the process of being transferred to ODNR in a land swap. This is in progress and possibly could

happen by this fall. Roy recommends waiting until the land swap is completed before we begin our project.

Time-lapse tracking of bridge repair, Bill Brown

- Three camera posts and supporting web page arrived and two were setup.
- <https://www.chronolog.io/project/FLM>

O'Bannon bridge (MM 41.5)

- Bridge is closed as of October 3.
- Foundation work is finished.
- Awaiting steel structure to arrive.

Middletown Rd. bridge (MM 16.5)

- Contract for bridge reclamation required re-awarded.
- Work will start this spring.
- Part of RFP is that we will reclaim the boards for future fence repair.
- Steel plates are holding up well.

Future, Dick Feldmann

- Foster Old 3C Highway.
 - Warren County upgrade to Bear Run Lift Station, Fosters Lift Station and the sewer line between the lift stations that runs on the side of the Old 3C Highway bridge.
 - This will include a replacement of the sewer line that crosses under the trail at Fosters.
 - Project is in the environmental impact study phase.
- Route 48 bridge over Little Miami River
 - In planning & community outreach stage.
- Sewer Project, South Lebanon
 - Ron and Dick Met with Jerry Haddix, City Administrator, City of South Lebanon.
 - Project involves new sewer lines from Lebanon Wastewater Treatment Plant on Mason Morrow Millgrove Rd. across river at Lebanon Countryside Trail, into S Lebanon. It then will continue back to State Park and up the bike trail shy of a mile.
 - South of Main St., route will go under bike trail several times.
 - North of Main St., route will be directly under bike trail for 0.9 mile.
 - Project in the budget phase but goal is for construction to start in 2024 and run through 2025. Bike trail closure still to be scheduled out.

OUTREACH

Other Outreach, Dick Feldmann

- Cincinnati Cycle Club Annual Banquet 2/4/2024. Dick Feldmann supported and staffed a vendor's table. Talked with Cincinnati Cycle Club leadership about FLMSF getting a grant from Club.
- Tri-State Trails Regional Trail & Bikeway Committee meeting 1/26/2024. Ron presented.

- Buckeye Trail, Ohio River Chapter Mid-Winter Trail Celebration 1/13/2024 at Cartridge Brewing. Dick supported.
- US Department of Transportation Volpe National Transportation System Center telecon discussing "Case Study Interview Request for the Ohio to Erie Trail" 1/17/2024. Dick supported.
- Heritage at Miami Bluffs Health and Wellness Fair 4/27/2024. Dick and Ken Speicher will support.

BEAUTY

Pollinator Gardens, Becky Retzer, Rick Forrester

- MM 19.9 Oregonia Pollinator Prairie
 - Rethinking about planting seeds again - looking into an educational garden area that would represent what native Americans would be using for medicinal, dyes, food.
- MM 39.1 under power lines doing well
- New area at MM 38.5.

SAFETY

FUTURE GENERAL BOARD MEETINGS

March General Board Meeting will be **In-Person** on Wednesday March 13th, 7:00-8:30 PM at First Financial Bank, 9660 Mason Montgomery Road, Mason

Annual Meeting, Sunday in April or May. **WaldenSchmidt Homestead?**

- **Everyone was fine with using Waldenschmidt for the annual meeting again**

MOTION: Dick made a motion to adjourn.

Bruce Seconded

Motion approved