

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
Board of Directors' Meeting 6/13/2018
Wayne Township, OH**

Board present: Steve Murphy, Ron Gorley, Dick Feldmann, Bruce Cortright, Janet Slater, Tom Fromholt*, Rick Forrester

Board absent: Don Hahn* [*See "Election," Item #1 below]

Members and Guests: Holly King, Becky Retzer, Ron Dodier, Denis Egan, Jim Mason, Nancy Jackson, Tom McCray

ODNR present: Melissa Clark

Call to Order: Steve Murphy

Approval of Minutes from May 6: The minutes from the Annual Meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report - Dick Feldmann

As of 5/31/2018

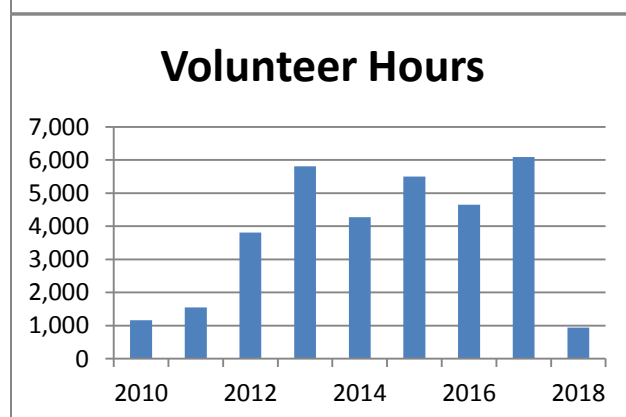
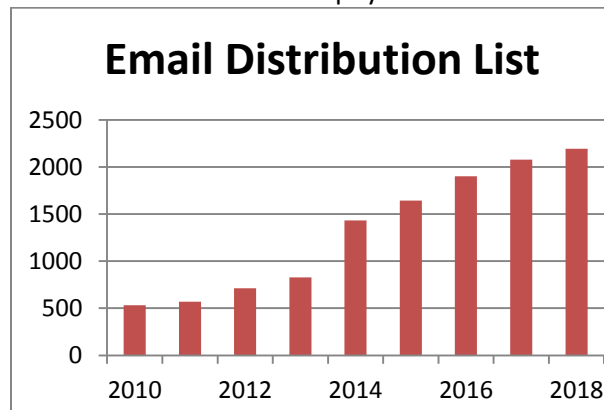
Cash On Hand:

Savings Account \$22,164.97

Checking Account 14,183.61

Total \$36,348.58 All funds are unrestricted

FLMSP Metrics: Steve Murphy



	<u>May 6</u>	<u>Jun 13</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>%</u>	
Email Distribution List:	2,187	2,192	+5	.3	
Memberships:	135	186	+41	37.8	Same time last year: 208
Volunteer Hours:	169	940	+771	456.2	

Facebook "Likes":	1099	1,107	+8	.7
Twitter followers:	47	48	+1	2.1

1. Election:

- Bruce moved that we accept the resignation of Don Hahn from the Board; Dick Feldmann seconded. Motion unanimously approved. The Board thanks Don for his service.
- Bruce moved that we appoint Tom Fromholt as Board Member at Large to complete the term of Don Hahn; Janet seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

2. Capital Funding: Steve Murphy

- **State Capital Budget:** \$200,000 in community funding.
- **Representative Tom Brinkman.** "Everything is finally moving in Columbus with a new Speaker. ODNR is preparing to meet with me this summer with a full report. The eBike bill is moving along."
- **ODNR Capital Budget:** Meeting with Brian Miller of ODNR in Columbus June 25, 10:00 AM. Ron Gorley, Jay Avner and Steve Murphy will represent FLMSF; Melissa Clark and perhaps other staff will represent ODNR.
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):** Grant application due November 15. At a minimum, we're hoping to secure a matching grant for the \$200,000 in community funding. Ron Gorley is heading this initiative with the assistance of Jay Avner.

3. Insurance: Dick Feldmann (5 min)

- FLMSF holds two liability policies: 1. Commercial/General Liability, one-year policy in effect through Jan. 2019, \$2,879; 2. Directors and Officers Liability, 3-year policy recently rebid. Old policy was \$1,147/year; new policy is \$1,200/year for 3 years.
- Ron moved that we approve the \$1,200 expenditure for the 3-year Directors and Officers Liability policy; Janet seconded; motion unanimously approved.

4. ODNR: Melissa Clark

- **Berm Clearing:** logs remain on berm in scattered locations awaiting crew and equipment from Caesar's Creek. Melissa said berm must be dry for the equipment, and expects work won't be done until at least August.
- **River Floats:** Individuals in charge of food for the July (Linda and Fritz Buschmann), August (Dick Feldmann), and September (Rick Forrester) floats identified.
- **Adopter Segments Communication:** Melissa would like to meet with section leaders outside of the board meetings to keep updated with FLMSF's work along the trail.

5. Strategic Plan

- Reminder of Top Four FLMSF Priorities: SAFETY, CONDITION, CONVENIENCE, BEAUTY.

6. Trail Safety:

- **Slump at Fosters.** No change. No action for FLMSF to take; awaiting plan from ODNR.
- **Flashing Stop Signs or Ladders (see photo) on the Roadway.** Bruce Cortright
Priority Intersections:
 - Branch Hill New Guinea Rd

- Old 3C Hwy
- Stubbs Mill
- Wilmington



Barrier blinking lights (solar) cost about \$100 each; Flashing lights \$1,000. Some board members oppose bright flashing lights. It was agreed that before voting on if or what additional warnings should be installed, a survey is needed of what's currently at each of the 48 intersections. Steve will ask Don Mills, long-time champion of this issue, if he will conduct this survey.

7. Trail Condition: Bruce Cortright

Fences. Repair or replacement needed at Riverview Park (south of Loveland); Eads quote for replacement is \$5,787, which includes extending the fence 44 feet to the south. Rich Easterly looked at this fence last week and said his crew could repair the fence, but its construction differs from other trail fences in a way that promotes rot. Bruce believes repair would only be a temporary fix, and Rich's fence crew should be spending its time on other fences needing repair. There was a question about Interact for Health possibly providing a grant. Action: Melissa will inspect the fence, and Tom Fromholt will ask one of his fence contacts if they will make assess the problem and give a quote. He will ask Melissa for ODNR standards for the fence and provide these to the fence company.

- **Root Encroachment:** Trees very close to the trail cause trail bumps. The recently repaved southern section of trail (Milford to Camp Dennison) is of special concern, and there is general agreement we should take action to protect this pavement investment by removing priority trees (fewer than 10) already identified by Bruce. Melissa said she plans to reserve staff for two weeks in the fall to remove trees along the trail; the question is how many they can remove and whether FLMSP should appropriate funds for further tree removal.
- **Bridges:** Repair of the bridge north of Beech Road—Bruce and crew have shored up the area with board.
- **Culvert Maintenance Strategy and Tracking.** Tom McCray has documented and prioritized culvert problems for the trail from the northern end to Fosters. He stresses that regular clearing of culverts after heavy rains will prevent larger future clogging and cleanup. Tom agreed to be "owner" of culvert documentation; Ron will ask volunteers to document culverts in the southern section and report findings to Tom.

8. Trail Convenience

- **Rest and Information Centers.** Recommended for the future: Spring Valley, Corwin, Oregonia, 350 Morgans.
- **Morrow Kiosk.** Don Hahn recommended using existing structure.
- **Portalet Rentals.** FLMSF provides portalets in 6 locations—3 seasonal, 3 year-round. Agreed to adapt a standard winter schedule of Nov 1 thru Mar 31 for seasonal portalets. Cost of each portalet is currently \$110 to 120 a month. Ron moved that we fund these 6 portalets for the next year up to a total of \$7,000; Janet seconded; motion unanimously approved.
- **Corwin Restroom:** repairs to toilet and pipes are complete. This is a seasonal restroom, closed in winter.
- **Memorial Benches:** Liz Lamar has bench policy; specifies size of bronze plaques is 2 1/2" X 11 3/4". Cost of bench, plaque, and mounting supplies is currently about \$1,350; last two benches have been provided for a \$1500 donation. Discussion: What is our labor worth for installation (12 hours for a recent bench)? What is an appropriate total cost (donation) for a memorial bench that reflects product, installation, and a donation to FLMSF? Becky Retzer pointed out that probably the total amount of money given for a memorial bench represents a tax-deductible donation, as the bench is owned by the park, not by the donor. Janet moved that we charge \$2,000 for a memorial bench; Ron seconded; motion unanimously approved. This amount may need to be changed by vote in the future to reflect increases in cost of the bench itself.

9. Trail Beauty.

- **Pollinator Garden.** Becky Retzer outlined plans for a pollinator garden of native grasses and wildflowers between the trail and Corwin Road approximately one mile south of the Corwin trailhead. This is a joint project with FLMSF and ODNR. The area, about 1.5 acres, will be sprayed with herbicide, and seed will be sown next spring by ODNR. Temporary signs are planned to describe the project timeline for the area that will, for a while, appear desolate until seed is established. Permanent signs will display logos of ODNR and FLMSF and name of project. Some maintenance and occasional mowing of the garden is required; this will be done by the township. Becky is asking for FLMSF to agree to spend up to \$1800 for seeds and signage, although she will be working to obtain donations from local businesses to reduce this cost for our organization. Ron moved that we allocate \$2000 for the pollinator garden; Janet seconded; motion approved.

10. Outreach.

- **Little Miami River Floats**
 - July 8 Little Miami Nature Paddle: all 16 slots filled
 - Aug 3 Fish of the Little Miami Float: 0 out of 16
 - Sep 2 Labor Day Canoe Trip: 1 out of 16
- **Tri-State Trails Biannual Summit.** August 31 at Univ. of Cincinnati. Janet moved that we become a \$250-level sponsor of the event, which includes one ticket to the summit and an exhibitor table. Steve or Ron will attend to represent FLMSF.

11. Plan Your Trip: Dick Feldmann

- **Add Camping, Lodging, Attractions to GIS?** We have previously voted NOT to include commercial establishments (e.g. restaurants, etc.) in our GIS offering. However, it has come to our attention that the Ohio to Erie Trail (OTET) has a trip planning option on their web site that includes camping, lodging, and attractions. There was general agreement on the board that FLMSP focus on trail features not easily accessible elsewhere, such as mile markers, restrooms, kiosks, and bike repair stations, at least initially, and NOT include commercial establishments. Dick asked that the GIS map he has been working on be posted on our FLMSP website as a Beta version.

12. Meeting Schedule. All meetings to begin at 6:30 p.m.

- July Hamilton Township
- August Wayne Township
- September Hamilton Township
- October Wayne Township
- November Hamilton Township
- December

Board Roles: Steve asked that we review draft organizational list and furnish suggestions for unfilled positions.

Next Board Meeting:

July 11, 2018, 6:30 pm. Hamilton Twp Community Center, 131 US-22/3, Maineville, OH 45039

Motion to adjourn from Ron was seconded by Bruce and approved.