

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
Board of Directors' Meeting 7/11/2018
Hamilton Township, OH**

Board members present: Steve Murphy, Ron Gorley, Dick Feldmann, Janet Slater, Rick Forrester

Board members absent: Bruce Cortright, Tom Fromholt

ODNR present: None

Members and Guests present: Don Hahn, John Biederman, Diane Colvin, Larry David

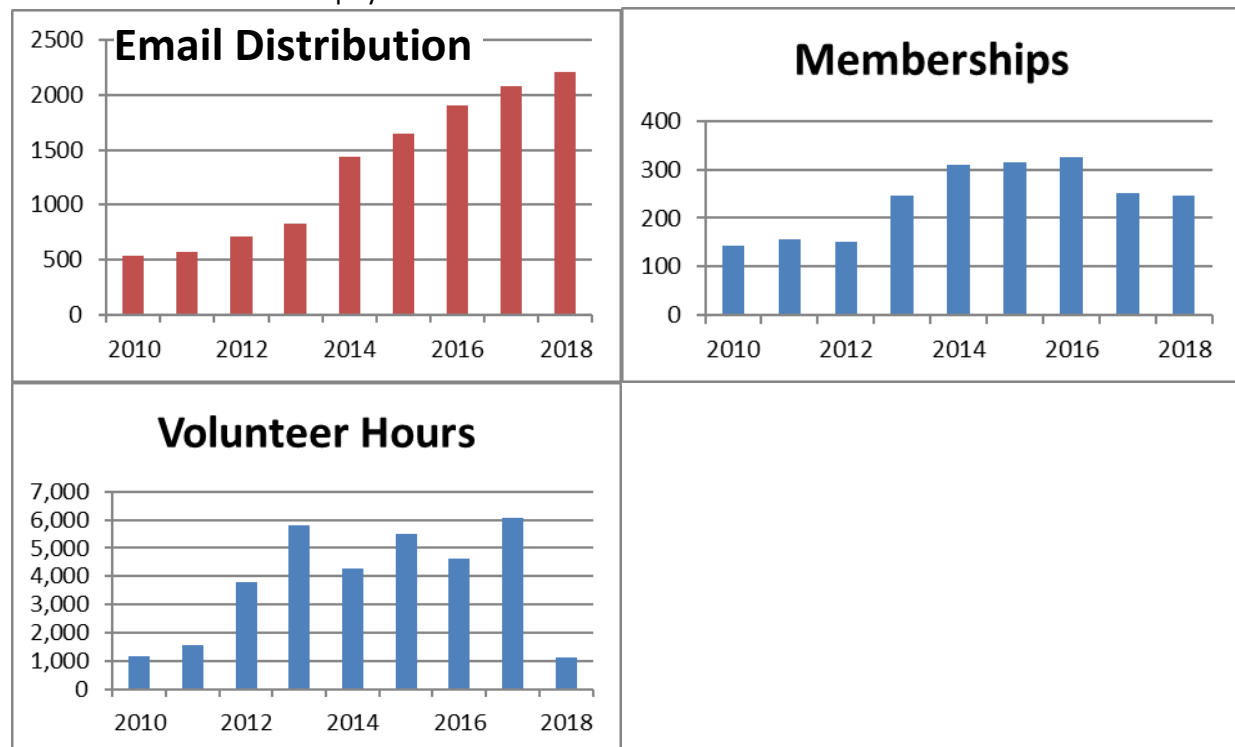
Call to Order: Steve

Approval of Minutes from June 13: Ron moved to accept the minutes as submitted; Dick seconded; motion unanimously approved. Dick Feldmann then corrected an item reported in the previous meeting regarding the number of rented portalets. FL MSP rents a total of 4 year-round, 2 seasonal.

Treasurer's Report - Dick Feldmann

As of 6/30/2018			
Cash On Hand:	05/31/2018	07/05/2018	
Savings Account	\$22,164.97	\$32,166.72	
Checking Account	<u>14,183.61</u>	<u>6,346.16</u>	
Total	\$36,348.58	\$39,012.88	+\$2,664.30
Restricted funds: \$250.00 for Tri-State Trails membership; \$2,000 for Corwin pollinator garden. All other funds are unrestricted.			

FLMSP Metrics: Steve Murphy



	<u>Jun 13</u>	<u>Jul 11</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>%</u>	
Email Distribution List:	2,192	2,203	+11	.5	
Memberships:	186	245	+59	31.7	Same time last year: 220

Volunteer Hours:	940	1,324	+384	40.9
Facebook "Likes":	1,107	1,113	+6	.5
Twitter followers:	48	49	+28	2.1

Ron Gorley said he expects volunteer hours will not reach 2017 levels primarily because of no labor-intensive special projects like last year's Tree Blitz or the 2015 root-cutting effort.

1. **Capital Funding:** Steve Murphy, Ron Gorley

- **State Capital Budget:** \$200,000 in community funding.
- **ODNR Capital Budget:** Meeting with Brian Miller of ODNR in Columbus June 25 was cancelled and has not been rescheduled. The purpose of this meeting had been to determine how much of the money from the state budget allocated for ODNR was to be used in the Little Miami State Park.
- **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."
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):** Ron explained that the federal government's LWCF was legislated to last 50 years, and expired in 2015; it was then extended 3 years, expiring in 2018. In even-numbered years, local governments may apply for funds; in odd-numbered years, state governments. Therefore, the first year we could apply would be 2019. The fund, unless extended again, will have expired by then, so we may not be able to apply for a federal grant as we had hoped to do in November 2019 to match the \$200,000 community funding allocated by the state. Ron has been informed the only other "deep" source of funds for trail repaving may be the Federal Highway Administration, which allocates grants for Alternative Transportation.

2. **Treasurer's Report:** Dick Feldmann

- Treasurer transition: Steve commended Dick for his good work as the new treasurer.
- Milford Storage renewal: Janet moved that we spend \$756 to renew our rental of the tool storage area for the next year; Ron seconded; motion unanimously approved.
- Training Classes: Dick has been emailed information from the Ohio Attorney General's office about financial training classes for nonprofits. He will forward this information to board members.

3. **ODNR:** Melissa Clark (on vacation and not present)

- Construction at the Ft Ancient projects should begin end of July.
- Flashing lights will be installed along the trail in Loveland week of July 23.
- We are planning to work on culverts July 23-26. We will first focus on the Corwin-Mathers area then move down to Grandin-Fosters as time allows.
- Adopter Segment Communication.
- July 8 float. Dick Feldmann reported that \$192 was received by FLMSF in registration fees; \$73.71 was spent to provide sandwiches and snacks for 20 participants. The lunches were dropped off before the event with a card about FLMSF in each. Dick expects to have a better opportunity for outreach to participants as he leads FLMSF's support effort in the August float.

4. Strategic Plan.

- SAFETY, CONDITION, **VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT**, CONVENIENCE, BEAUTY. Steve has added the Volunteer element to our priority list.

5. Trail Safety:

- **2017 Strategic Plan**
 - Maximize the trail user and volunteer safety.
 - Work with AAT teams to establish clear sight lines at all intersections.
 - Add ladder-type crosswalk marking at critical intersections.
 - Develop Trail Sentinel program.
 - Make safety number one for trail volunteers and users.
 - Remove “potentially unstable” trees and limbs.
- **Intersection Inventory.** We need to determine ownership, i.e. state, county, township, municipality, etc. Don Mills has completed an inventory of every road intersection on our trail, providing a photograph of each and details of warning elements present.
- **Intersection Safety.** What we need to do as a Board is decide what signage we are going to put at each intersection. To get the discussion started, the picture below has the following components:
 1. A white “ladder” on the roadway.
 2. A picture of a pedestrian or a cyclist on a diamond-shaped yellow road sign.
 3. A 45-degree arrow pointing down to the “ladder” on the road surface.
 4. One or more reflectors on the road surface.
 5. Intersection sight lines.

Once we agree on what our intersections should look like, we can update our Intersection Inventory to show what signage (if any) is already present. Having done that, we can marshal the necessary resources (e.g. labor, capital, ODNR, ODOT, etc.) and start down our Intersection Inventory in priority order.



The following are the highest priority intersections.

- Branch Hill New Guinea Rd
- Old 3C Hwy
- Stubbs Mill
- Wilmington

Larry David, guest at our meeting, expressed his concerns about trail safety. He suggested that in addition to the 4 intersections named above, we focus on the intersection just north of Nisbet Park in Loveland [Cones Road, which crosses and then parallels the trail going north]. He says there are many trucks that use this road, and the posted speed limit is 40 mph, much too fast for crossing a trail in an area where there are many children. He also asked that FLMSP make a public effort to push for better trail etiquette, addressing fast cyclists and dogs in the middle of the trail.

6. Trail Condition: Bruce Cortright (not present)

- **Fences.** Riverview Park
 - Interact for Health has deemphasized trail investment.
 - EADS quote \$5,787.
 - Mills Fence Company quote \$3,450. Steve has asked Rich Easterly to look at this plan and see if the specifications are satisfactory.

Ron made a motion that we accept the \$3,450 bid from Mills Fence Co. contingent upon Rich Easterly's agreement that the proposal is suitable for our trail. Motion was seconded by Rick Forrester and unanimously approved.

7. Volunteer Management.

- **Strategy for New Volunteers.** Following outreach by John Stevens to his press contacts, we received communication from Sheree Paoello of Channel 5 about an interview opportunity on the trail focusing on the need for new FLMSP volunteers. Janet Slater and Ron Gorley were concerned about accepting help from WLWT until we fix our internal systems. Janet responded to Sheree that during the summer we are not as well prepared to train new volunteers and would like to revisit her offer sometime during the fall. We know that we can use all sorts of help with tree preparation and planting in the fall and winter.
- **John Biederman:** John summarized the history of his Volunteer Coordinator position and his current problem: "I'm not getting any favorable responses from people in the FLMSP when I try to get new volunteers hooked up with Section Managers or others in the FLMSP. I can't coordinate volunteers into the FLMSP if there isn't anyone in the FLMSP who needs volunteers. If anyone has any ideas here, I would be very glad to hear them."
- John reports 3 potential volunteer sources that no one has responded to:
 - Michelle Snow, HR Manager at ADVICS Manufacturing Ohio, Inc. in Lebanon. This company is looking for a group project on the trail.

- Troy Reisner Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 947, Liberty Township; he suggested providing signs and a bench before the path to Fort Ancient; John feels he would be open to other suggestions for his project.

- Susan Maggard, Children's Meeting House, Loveland; this is a Montessori elementary school, so children are under 12 years old.

- Discussion on how we manage volunteers centered on the need for leadership for trail sections and for volunteer groups and individuals. Ron Gorley has volunteered to be the temporary Mid-South point of contact to receive volunteer requests from John since Paul Morgan has stepped down as section leader.
- It was agreed that the children from the Montessori school are too young to work on the trail with FLMSF and that we suggest the school contact the park naturalist for possible trail programs.
- Rick Forrester will be prepared with lots of work for volunteers in the fall, so John will tell groups looking for a project about the fall reforestation effort and direct them to Rick.
- **Current Section Leaders**

Bruce Cortright	Far-South
Ron Gorley (Temp)	Mid-South
Rich Easterly	Mid-North
Dick Feldmann	Far-North
- **Inventory of Volunteer Opportunities.** This list helps John identify where to direct potential volunteers, and should probably be updated; input is sought from the Board.

8. Outreach.

- **River Floats**
 - Aug 3 Fish of the Little Miami Float
 - Sep 2 Labor Day Canoe Trip
- **July 20 Ohio Legislative Trails Caucus with Senator Wilson.** Steve is planning to participate in the lunch, canoe portion, and dinner. No other board members are able to attend. Ron is going to extend the invitation to several other dedicated volunteers.
- **August 31 Tri-State Trails Biannual Summit.** \$250 funded by Tom Fromholt and Messer Construction. Steve Murphy attending.

Motion to adjourn was seconded and passed.

Next Board Meeting:

August 8, 2018, 6:30 PM Wayne Twp Admin Bldg, 6050 N Clarksville Rd, Waynesville OH 45068