

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
Board of Directors' Meeting 9/12/2018
Hamilton Township Community Bldg, OH**

Board members present: Steve Murphy, Dick Feldmann, Janet Slater, Rick Forrester, Bruce Cortright

Board members absent: Ron Gorley, Tom Fromholt

ODNR present: None; written report filed by Melissa Clark

Members and Guests present: Erick Wikum

Call to Order: Steve Murphy

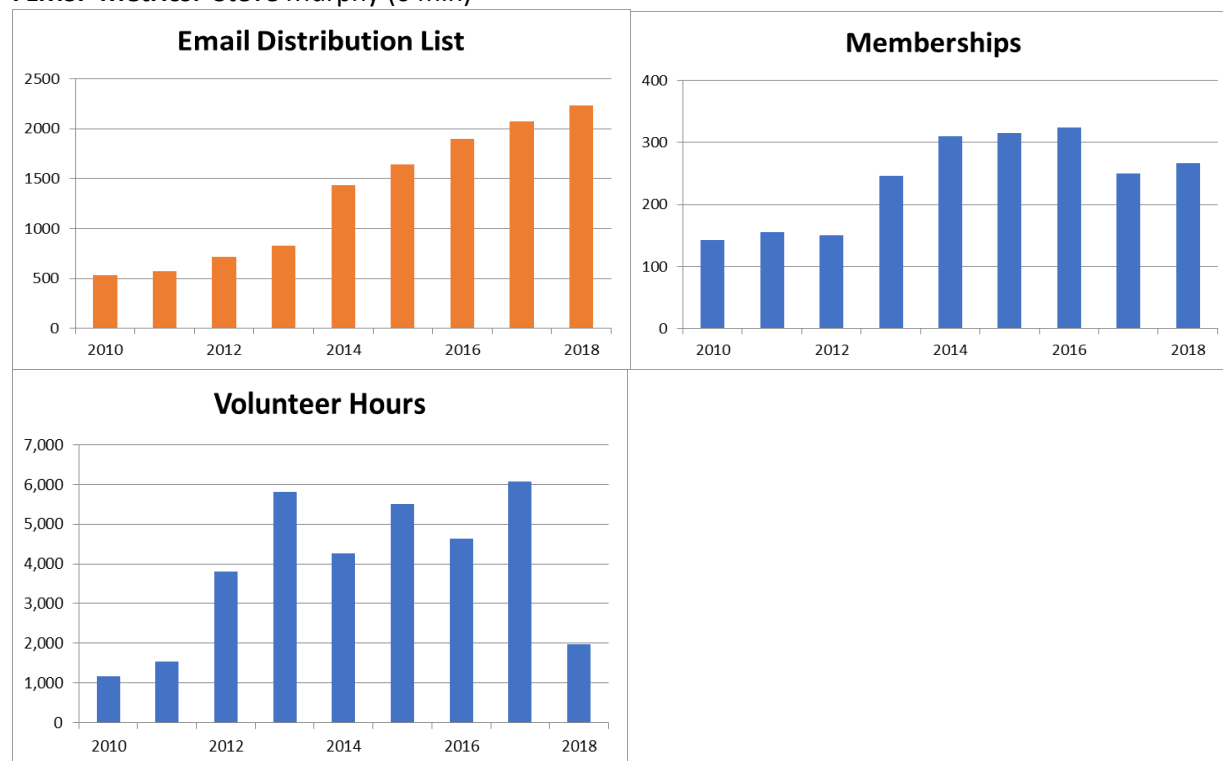
Approval of Minutes from Jul 11: Minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report - Dick Feldmann

		As of 08/31/2018	
Cash On Hand:	07/05/2018	09/07/2018	
Savings Account	\$32,166.72	32,172.20	
Checking Account	<u>6,346.16</u>	<u>7,197.05</u>	
Total	\$38,512.88	\$39,369.25	+\$856.37 \$2,000 reserved (pollinator garden)

- The Milford Storage unit was last paid on 7/13/2018 and the 1 year cost was \$748.00.
- Dick picked up and paid for the kiosk park name signs approved at the September 2017 board meeting.
- Dick moved that FLMSP renew its membership in Green Umbrella for another year; Steve seconded; motion passed.

FLMSP Metrics: Steve Murphy (0 min)



	<u>Jul 11</u>	<u>Sep 12</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>%</u>	
Email Distribution List:	2,203	2,239	+36	1.6	
Memberships:	245	267	+22	9.0	Same time last year: 236 End of year 2017: 253
Volunteer Hours:	1,324	1,979	+655	49.4	
Facebook "Likes":	1,113	1,147	+34	3.1	
Twitter followers:	49	49	+0	0	

1. ODNR (written report submitted by Melissa Clark)

- Trail Reconnaissance. On September 19 Don Mills and Jim Mason will do a tour of the trail to estimate the scope of the spraying work that will be done in October. Board members are welcome to join.
- Trail Reconnaissance. On a November date to be determined, Don Mills and Melissa Clark will tour the trail looking at intersection tree removal. Board members are welcome to join.
- On August 4, Bruce Cortright (with John Telintelo) and Don Mills completed bringing ALL intersection sight-lines up to a satisfactory condition. While there remains some work that can be accomplished in the future by a combined ODNR and FLMSWAT Team, there is little need to spend a lot of time on sight-lines next week.
- "Sapling" versus "Tree" --- 3" in diameter. This is the guideline used for "bat" trees when determining if a tree is considered suitable bat habitat and whether or not it can be cut during the April-October time period.
- Monsanto \$290 million Roundup (i.e. glyphosate) suit. At this time there is no update or direction from ODNR regarding this suit.
- Construction at the Ft Ancient site is nearly complete. The bank stabilization project just needs top soil, planting, and mulching. The two trail shifts in this area are ready for paving. The old asphalt will also be removed. The closure for this work will be the week of September 17. This is a complete closure. There will be no safe passage during this period. Once the paving is complete, the trail will re-open and final clean up and restoration work will begin. Over 300 trees will be planted in the area of these 3 projects. Closure dates are posted on the Little Miami State Park webpage, Facebook page, and Janet has posted these on the FLMSWAT website and social media.
- Crews are mobilizing equipment and materials to the Spring Valley project site. This is also a bank stabilization project. The trail will be slightly shifted. The old asphalt will be removed here as well and the new trail paved. All work should be completed by the end of October. During the milling and paving there will be a complete closure at this site as well. I will update as that date approaches.
- 4 days were spent on culverts and ditches at the end of July. Progress was made but more needs to be done. Additional work is planned for the first week of November along the section immediately north of Oregonia Rd. We will be removing the trees in this section in order for complete re-ditching to be completed.
- Randy and Kyle will remain on staff until November 16th. The priority for November 1-16th will be cutting trees. We will begin with the section north of Oregonia Rd for the ditching project. After that, we will focus on the new asphalt area south of Loveland.

- We are borrowing a boom mower from Grand Lake St Mary's for 2 weeks in October. We will start in the south end and work our way north because the flail mower didn't make it south of Loveland last winter.
- Right-of-way Encroachments:
 - Fosters: Survey has been completed. I am waiting on a final report, and then with ODNR administration will decide how best to proceed. The restroom there is on DNR property, a maintenance agreement exists between ODNR and Hamilton Twp. There is also an easement for the properties to the north which complicates things. Looking at initial survey results, the encroachment appears to be significantly larger than I anticipated.
 - McCracken (former) property: Waiting on survey, land owner has indicated his intention to install a fence along the property line.
- Special Activity Permits: Special Activity Permits are issued to organizations to conduct any special events. The permit specifically prohibits permanent markings on the trail but allows environmentally friendly chalk paint. It does not specify a brand. If there are issues with a permit holder using permanent markings, please bring it to my attention and I will address it with them. Also, if you notice events that did not have a permit, let me know. If I can figure out a contact name, I will discuss the need of a permit application with them. Already this year, I have addressed the issue of trash left behind by event participants, with organizers. If you notice this issue, please let me know and I will talk with the permit holder.

Below is a link to a "chalk paint":

<https://www.whitecap.com/shop/wc/markings-paint/markings-paint/spray-chalk#facet:&productBeginIndex:0&orderBy:&pageView:grid&minPrice:&maxPrice:&pageSize:&>

See link at www.routearrows.com for a way to identify routes for various events.

- Dead trees at Village Grocery. Cincinnati Bell has a current utility easement that requires them to maintain the line near Village Grocery. I have contacted them and the request went to their line maintenance crew to take care of it. I will follow up next week if it hasn't been done.
- We are waiting for these current construction projects at Ft. Ancient and Spring Valley to be completed and will assess how much, if any funds remain. We hope to be able to complete additional work in this current contract. We have requested estimates for 4 additional projects of immediate concern:
 - Culvert replacement and trail shift south of Morrow, mm 29.25.
 - Bridge deck replacement just north of Beech Road.
 - Replacement of Beech Rd culvert.
 - Bridge pier repairs for O'Bannon Creek bridge.

2. Strategic Plan.

- SAFETY, CONDITION, VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT, CONVENIENCE, BEAUTY

3. Capital/Operational Funding: Steve Murphy

- **State Capital Budget:** \$200,000 in community funding.

- **ODNR Capital Budget:** Meeting with Brian Miller and Melissa Clark of ODNR September 26.
- **Robert H Osher \$20,000 donation:** Steve Murphy, Melissa Clark, and ??? met August 16 with Dr. Robert Osher, founder of Cincinnati Eye Institute, to discuss a donation of up to \$20,000 from the Osher Family Foundation. Dr. Osher talked of how the trail has benefited him personally and his desire to give back. He agreed the foundation would donate \$20,000 toward intersection safety with recognition consisting of 4 small signs spaced at intersections along the trail. FLMSF will ask other trail users to contribute toward the effort as well.

4. Trail Safety:

a. Intersection Safety. Don Mills.

- **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:** Don Mills has completed identifying ownership of each intersection (e.g. state, county, township, municipality, etc.)

- **Intersection Design**

Phase One:

- A white “ladder” on the roadway. This will be done with reflective paint rather than thermoplastic, because the latter is eventually broken away by snowplows.
- Clearing of intersection sight lines – 45 feet from intersecting road with 45 degree clearance left and right. Don Mills and Bruce Cortright cleared brush on all intersections; waiting on approval from Melissa for removal of trees.

Phase Two:

- A picture of a pedestrian or a cyclist on a diamond-shaped yellow road sign.
- A 45-degree arrow pointing down to the “ladder” on the road surface.

- **Intersection Priority**

The following are the highest priority intersections:

- State Route 126. ODOT. Done.
- State Route 350. ODOT. Done.
- Branch Hill New Guinea Rd
- Old 3C Hwy. Done.
- Stubbs Mill
- Wilmington

Don Hahn reports ladders have just been painted on intersections at Old 3C Hwy, Adams Rd, and Lyons Rd.

- **Funding Strategy:**

Out of the gate, we went to A&A Safety to get a quote for them doing the “ladders”. Their quote was \$54,500 to paint 50 intersections or \$1,090 per intersection --- sticker shock!

QUOTE - Friends Of The Little Miami State Park Opportunity Various Cty (003).xlsx

So we went back to the drawing board and narrowed the number of intersections to 41 --- still \$44,690 if we have A&A Safety do the work at prevailing wage.

So then we decided to approach Kurt Weber of Warren County since Warren County has, by far, the most intersections at 26. Of those 26, 15 need to be completely painted/repainted --- \$7,500 if the reimbursement to Warren County is \$500 per intersection. Of those 26, 6 need the current paint job to be “freshened up” --- \$2,400 if the reimbursement to Warren County is \$400 per intersection. The remaining 5 intersections are fine as they are.

So for \$9,900 we can do all 26 Warren County Intersections or 63% of all of our 41 intersections.

Warren County has 26 intersections on the Little Miami State Park.

1. Proposed a max of \$7,500 (15 * \$500) for future reimbursement to Warren County:
 - a. County Hwy 12
 - b. Race St
 - c. Corwin Rd at MM 16.4
 - d. Senior Rd
 - e. Adams Rd
 - f. Pigeon St
 - g. Corwin Ave
 - h. S Maple St
 - i. Mill St/St Rt 123
 - j. Front St
 - k. Miranda St
 - l. Park Ave
 - m. Center St
 - n. 14 S Main St
 - o. Lyons Ave

2. Proposed a max of \$2,400 (6 * \$400) for future reimbursement to Warren County. Update and refurbish 6 existing road markings @\$400 each:
 - a. Oregonia Rd
 - b. Wilmington Rd
 - c. Stubbs Mill Rd
 - d. Grandin Rd
 - e. Old 3C Hwy
 - f. Strout Rd
3. Proposed a max of \$0 for future reimbursement to Warren County. The following 5 Warren County intersections are OK as is:
 - a. New Burlington Rd - road markings are in good condition
 - b. Corwin Rd at MM 16.6 - road markings are in good condition
 - c. Little Miami Canoe driveway - roadway markings not deemed necessary at this time.
 - d. Morrow-Cozaddale Rd - private roadway and roadway markings not needed at this time.
 - e. St Rt 350 - ODOT is marking or has marked this intersection as they did with St Rt 126.

Where did \$500 and \$400 come from? Kurt Weber's first thought was that, in order to make this happen budgetarily and politically within Warren County, he would need some contribution from FLMSF. The numbers \$500 and \$400 were put on the table. Don Mills met with Kurt and determined that:

- a. the \$500 and \$400 are "caps", i.e. not-to-exceed numbers.
- b. FLMSF labor may reduce these numbers.
- c. "Whoever paints it, owns it," meaning that Warren County has the responsibility of maintaining the safety markings.

Steve's hope is that as trail users see the "ladders" being completed, they will be motivated to make a special donation to help with the signage and other safety initiatives, perhaps blinking lights at high priority intersections.

Action: Dick Feldmann moved that FLMSF use the \$20,000 from the Osher Foundation to implement the intersection safety improvement plan for ladders and signage, and ask for additional funds from FLMSF members and friends. Steve seconded. Motion unanimously passed.

- **Fundraising: The "Ask"**

On August 16th of this year, we met with a representative of the local family foundation who spoke passionately, even emotionally, about his love of the trail and what it has meant to him over the past 10 years. He also spoke about "giving back":

“After running for more than 40 years, my knees and lower back finally capitulated and pleaded that I find an alternate activity to remain fit. Ten years ago, I discovered the bike trail and a new passion developed for riding after work. The stress of a busy surgical practice would melt away as I pedaled along the river, through open fields, and quiet forests. With each mile, I shared nature’s beauty with other exercise enthusiasts of all ages who were walking, running, skating, and biking on one of the most spectacular trails in America. It was only natural that I would want to “give back” in order to maintain this spectacular resource. I feel privileged to help preserve this treasure for my children and my grandchildren to enjoy as much as I have during the past decade.”

For the record, in our last customer survey, “trail safety” was the number 2 priority of our trail users --- a close 2nd to “trail surface”. So in the spirit of “safety”, this person has offered a generous donation of \$20,000 to improve the safety on all 41 trail intersections. Phase I will be painting crosswalk “ladders” on road surfaces using reflective paint and clearing lines of sight to 45 degrees by removing brush, limbing up, and removing trees. Phase II will be U-channel posts, diamond-shaped road signs with a pedestrian and a bicycle, and 45-degree arrow signs pointing down to the crosswalk “ladder”. The picture above (minus the roadway reflectors and the pedestrian “beams”) is what we have in mind for all 41 trail intersections:

The donor only asks that we place 4 small, discrete recognition plaques beginning in Terrace Park and spaced 5 miles apart going north with the inscription ““Trail improvements made possible by a generous donation from the Osher Family Foundation”.

So can we count on you to join this local family foundation and make a “safety donation”? If so just write “safety” on your check and we will add you and your donation to the list of people who share with us the belief that keeping trail users safe is a top priority.

- b. **Trail sentinel program.** (Don Hahn could not be present, tabled until next meeting)
- This requests your OK with FLMSF moving forward with a Trail Sentinel program on the trail as outlined below. Yes. Melissa.
 - Program Overview.
 - We need to document what we find and do as Sentinels and share the info as appropriate for getting results and tracking what we do—>plan to use Trail Hotline and website
Record Hours” system for reporting issues and time.
 - Sentinels should have some type of uniform, probably a shirt or vest that identifies us as a Sentinel
 - Sentinels need to commit to 50 hours per year of patrolling/commuting/meeting/training—>have dropped this requirement

- Sentinels should apply in writing, have background check, do “ride-along,” and be expected to attend meetings on some frequency.—>have dropped these requirements
- Sentinels must sign ODNR Volunteer Agreement
- Clothing. Vests from A&A Safety.

c. Imminent Safety Issues.

- Three trees at Village Grocery. Cincinnati Bell will remedy.
- Fence at mile marker 18.5. Rich Easterly will make a recommendation.
- On July 26 Janet Slater reported a golf cart on the trail.
- Hanging limb over the trail north of Loveland’s bridge at O’Bannon Creek, south of Lyon’s Road: Rick Forrester will inspect this limb 9/13.

Action: Bruce moved that we hire a professional, if needed, to remove this branch at a cost not to exceed \$300. Janet seconded. Motion passed.

6. Trail Surface. Steve Murphy for Ron Gorley

a. Outreach. The following entities distribute funds for transportation, including alternative transportation such as trails:

- ODOT District 8 Brianne Hetzel: Steve and Janet made contact at Tristate Trails Summit
- ODOT District 8 Tommy Arnold
- OKI Summer Jones: Steve and Janet made contact at Tristate Trails Summit
- MVRPC Matt Lindsay

7. Trail Condition

- Fences. Riverview Park. More input needed from Rich Easterly.
 - Interact for Health has deemphasized trail investment.
- Ditch north of the propane plant in Miamiville: Mud on trail surface presents a safety hazard. Bruce would like to rent a backhoe for one day for he and Mike Dresch to clear out this ditch to reroute water from trail.

Action: Dick moved that we spend an amount not to exceed \$400 to rent a backhoe for one day to clear this ditch. Janet seconded. Motion passed.

8. Trail Convenience/Amenities

- a. GIS.** Dick Feldmann has added parks, restrooms, drinking fountains, parking, and other amenities along the trail on the GIS map from Xenia to Newtown. He asks that FLMSF members inspect the sections we are familiar with and advise of any other features that should be included. Connected trails have also been marked, but some smaller neighborhood trails might not be included.
- b. Rest and Information Centers.** Spring Valley, Corwin, Oregonia, Ft Ancient St Rt 350.
- c. Morrow Shelter** (Don Hahn—not present)
- d. Benches**
 - Marty Holliday – is considering a location to sponsor a memorial bench.

9. Outreach/Events

- **River Floats.** Dick Feldmann
 - July 8th Float Trip
 - Linda Buschmann and Mary Ann Wendeln managed the food
 - Income: \$192.00
 - Expense: \$73.71
 - August 3rd Float Trip
 - Mary Ann Wendeln and Dick Feldmann managed the food
 - Income: \$64.00
 - Expense: \$46.39
 - September 2nd float trip
 - Rick Forrester managed the food
 - Income: \$192.00
 - Expenses: \$89.19
- **Church group volunteering.** Sept. 15-16. Bruce Cortright has received donated black-eyed Susan seeds that the group will plant. Bruce will lead.

10. Policy Review.

- **Mileage Reimbursement.** Policy is posted on the website under Friends > Documents & Forms. Volunteers may submit a Reimbursement Transmittal Form to the FLMSF treasurer for miles traveled beyond their normal segment along the trail, but not for traveling to and from the trail unless working on a section beyond volunteer's normal segment.

11. Meeting Schedule.

- September Hamilton Township
- October Wayne Township
- November Hamilton Township

12. Adjournment. Dick moved for adjournment; Rick seconded; motion passed.

Next Board Meeting:

October 10, 2018, 6:30 PM Wayne Twp Admin Bldg, 6050 N Clarksville Rd, Waynesville OH 45068

