

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
Board of Directors' Meeting 11/14/2018
Hamilton Twp Community Center, OH
Meeting Minutes**

Blue: board votes
Green: board action

Call to Order: Steve Murphy

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

Members and Guests: Dan Stacy, Tom McCray, Tony Blizniak, Jim Mason (horticulturist), Jim Coppock

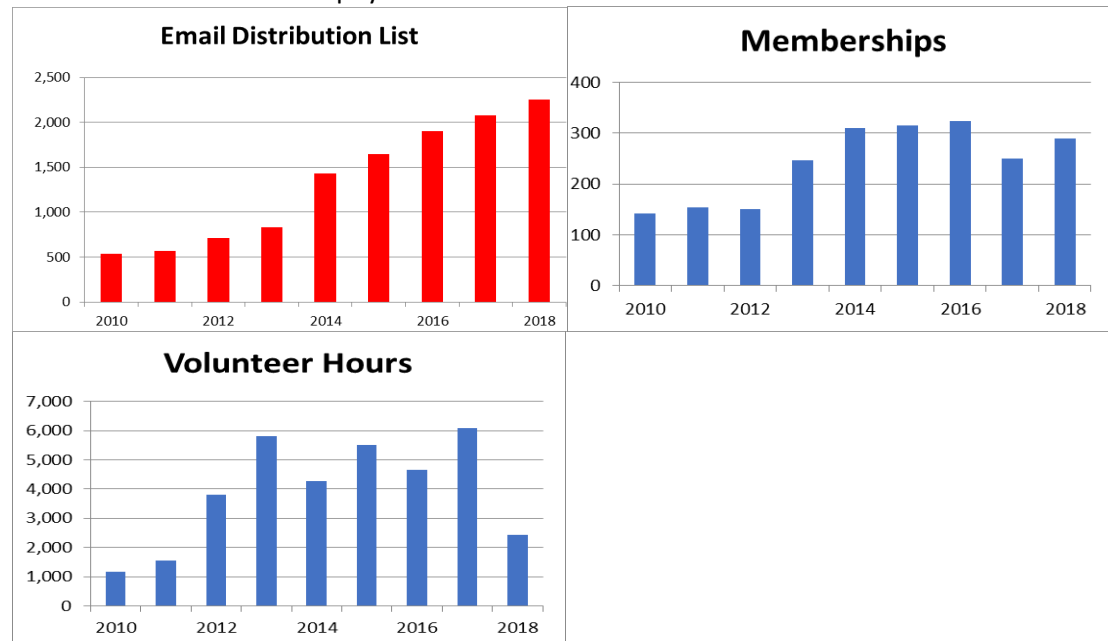
ODNR: Melissa Clark (first half)

Approval of Minutes from Oct 10: Minutes were unanimously approved as submitted

Treasurer's Report - Dick Feldmann

		As of 10/31/2018		
Cash On Hand:	09/30/2018	10/31/2018		
Savings Account	\$32,172.20	\$52,179.57		
Checking Account	<u>27,274.69</u>	<u>11,742.57</u>		
Total	\$59,446.89	\$64,422.14	\$22,785.00 Restricted	\$2,000 Reserved

FLMSP Metrics: Steve Murphy



	<u>Oct 14</u>	<u>Nov 14</u>	<u>+/-</u>	
Email Distribution List:	2,250	2,256	+6	
Memberships:	277	290	+13	Same time last year: 248 End of year 2017: 253
Volunteer Hours:	1,979	2,429	450	
Facebook "Likes":	1,147	1,164	+17	
Twitter followers:	49	49	0	

1. **Janet.** Even before her cancer diagnosis, Janet's plan was to not stand for reelection to the Board at the next Annual Meeting. Therefore, we need to inventory all that Janet does for us and anticipate that she will be unavailable after the Annual Meeting. Janet will provide a list of her involvement and recommendations for maintaining continuity.

2. **ODNR.**

- New Items

- Melissa is now the Park Manager for Cowan Lake and Little Miami State Parks. She is no longer the Regional Scenic River Manager and that position is in the process of being filled now.
- Kyle Ranck is the Assistant Park Manager; he will oversee maintenance for Cowan Lake and Little Miami.
- The last day for Randy and Kyle will be November 20th. Return dates will be sometime in April.
- Restroom at Corwin is now closed for the winter. FLMSP has provided a seasonal portalet next to it.
- Don Hahn: Does ODNR still plan, and if so when, to remove cut trees laying on the berm since the tree blitz last year and this spring? I am especially concerned about the ones remaining between Grandin Rd. and Loveland. They are blocking full mowing with ODNR flail mower and/or our FLMSP bush hog or DR Mower. I would remind you, the board and her that Gus Smithhisler, ODNR engineer, Jim Mason and our Trail Adopter Manual say the entire berms thru the ditches should be mowed at least once a year to keep ditches from clogging and causing trail drainage damage like we have been seeing at many locations. [Is there an update or action steps to add to this?]

- Carryover Items and updates:

- a. Construction at the Spring Valley and Ft Ancient sites are complete. The trail is open and we don't anticipate any additional closures for these projects. The bank stabilization portion of the projects still needs some top soil, planting, and mulching. Over 300 trees will be planted in the area of these 3 projects during late November/early December.
- b. Work with the flail mower borrowed from another district was completed in October, working from Loveland-south and then moving north. Most of the trail has been mowed with the boom mower; the small remaining sections may be completed before Randy and Kyle leave for the season.
- c. On Monday October 22, Don Mills and Melissa Clark of ODNR began a 50-mile end-to-end reconnaissance marking those intersection trees that can be cut beginning November 1. They completed about half the trail.
- d. Tree cutting this year is not be a blitz of the entire trail as we did last year. The following priority projects have been **completed** since November 1:
 - Trees felled in the Oregonia section so that the much-needed ditch work can be done. This was not a selective cut; everything between the trail and ditch has been removed.

- Trees felled in the new pavement area that had the potential to cause root bumps. were causing issues with the new pavement, as well as a handful of trees that were already causing root bumps.
 - Trees felled in the new pavement area that had been identified as causing root-bump problems in the past.
- e. Ditch work near Oregonia was completed using the district mini-excavator and some assistance from Caesar Creek and the skid steer.
- f. Encroachments
- Fosters: The restroom there is on DNR property; a maintenance agreement exists between ODNR and Hamilton Twp., and then Hamilton Twp entered an agreement with the owner of the Train Stop for maintenance. Land and Water Conservation Fund money was involved in the acquisition of those properties which places restrictions on how the property can be used. There is also an easement for the properties to the north which complicates things even more. Looking at initial survey results, the encroachment appears to be significantly larger than I anticipated. ODNR is currently working on details for a lease agreement.
 - Former McCracken property (between Beech Rd. and Miamiville): still waiting on survey; land owner has indicated his intention to install a fence along the property line.
- g. Dead trees at Village Grocery, Miamiville: Cincinnati Bell has cut trees under their lines to just below the wire level.
- h. We are currently assessing change orders from the construction projects to see 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 and have received them for item a, b, and c below. Melissa had a meeting 11/13 regarding these projects:
1. Culvert replacement and trail shift south of Morrow, MM 29.25
 2. Bridge deck replacement just north of Beech Road
 3. Replacement of Beech Road culvert
 4. Bridge pier repairs for O'Bannon Creek bridge
 5. Fosters slump
- i. Next year is the 40th anniversary of Little Miami State Park, so it's time to prepare some celebration activities. Joanne Rizkallah has led preliminary planning meetings , and Melissa and Mandy (park naturalist) are meeting with Joanne on Wednesday 11/14. Ron is serving as Board liaison for this Event Planning group.

FLMSP responses to ODNR's report:

- g. Dead trees in Miamiville: [Bruce Cortright](#) moved that FLMSP pay a professional tree service up to \$500 to remove a large dead ash tree near our kiosk in Miamiville (not under the Cincinnati Bell lines) with funding to be taken from our Safety fund. Rick F. seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- h. Projects for remaining money from the state's funding (if any):
- Tony Blizniak expressed his concern about a part of the Fosters' slump where the trail drops away four feet. He said this should be a higher priority than the trail shift south of Morrow. Melissa said the Fosters slump will probably cost more than the amount of money possibly left over from the state funding, but ODNR is

aware of the safety concern the slump poses. When money is available, the project will be addressed.

- Ron Gorley reported that Gary Obermiller of ODNR has resigned, and Melissa Clark said that ODNR Director Zehringer also plans to leave when the new state administration takes office. This means that all non-emergency decisions regarding state funding will be delayed until January 2019.

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

- Created a new Restricted Funds account (category) to track the Safety funds coming in
- Also created an Unrestricted account
- Dick plans to restructure all FLMSF accounts to re-label or reassign items within categories to promote consistency and clarity of how FLMSF spends its money. Dick asked for someone with accounting experience to "look over his shoulder" as he does this, and Tony Blizniak volunteered.
- Dick moved that we pay \$194 for the 7 volunteer recognition plaques we recently ordered; Ron seconded; motion unanimously approved.
- Dick moved that we spend \$100 for treasurer expenses (stamps and return address envelopes); Bruce Cortright seconded; motion unanimously approved.

4. **Strategic Plan.**

- CONDITION, SAFETY, **VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT**, CONVENIENCE, BEAUTY

5. **Capital/Operational Funding:** Ron Gorley

- **ODNR Capital Budget 2014:** Still no news on contingency funds left over from the 2014 ODNR Biannual Capital Budget.
- **State Funding 2018:** \$200,000 in community funding. It is still unresolved whether ODNR or FLMSF is authorized to spend this money.
- **ODNR Capital Budget 2018:** Still no news on any new funding from the 2018 biannual ODNR Biannual Capital Budget.
- **Interact for Health** has deemphasized trail investment, but FLMSF is still the recipient of \$2,500 in donor-advised grants.

6. **Trail Safety:**

- **Imminent Safety Issues.**
 - Three trees at Village Grocery: these were cut by Cincinnati Bell
 - Fence at Mile Marker 45.5: Rich has a torn Achilles and a bulging disc in his back. Considering the imminent threat that MM 45.5 poses and Rich's physical situation, **Steve is asking Rich to solicit new quotes from EADS and Mills Fence** with details of the specific work required to meet specs where the contractor would do all work.

New:

Tony Blizniak asked about removing the wooden bollards next to the parking lot within the village of Morrow. Their removal would facilitate the good job the village is currently doing of trimming and cleaning the area, allowing them to better use their equipment. Melissa said the village can contact her to discuss this; **Steve Murphy will relay the information to Don Mills**, who is already working with officials in Morrow in regard to intersection safety.

- **Intersections Safety.** Don Mills.
 - Replacement street signs from A & A Safety are now available (9 total)

- Hamilton County. The crossings will be marked with piano key crosswalk markings at the E. Galbraith and Cunningham crossings sometime in the summer of 2019.



Microsoft Word
Document

Don Mills Report Nov. 12, 2018

- **Trail Blowing.** Dick Feldmann

Successes:

- Two fully functional and effective blowers – Fosters and Spring Valley
- Two Blowing teams handling North half and South half of trail
- 19 volunteers checked out on blower use. 6 active volunteers.
- Trail being blown end to end once a week during the fall season, weather permitting.
- Good safety record with blowing team stopping car and blower to let trail users pass.
- Calendar used to manage schedule – 27 calendar entries since mid-September

Problem:

One volunteer, Bill Appel, has been blowing the trail outside of his scheduled time and area. This has caused complaints and threats to stop volunteering among other volunteers who take the time and trouble to pick up the blower and go to their designated area at their scheduled time, and find the work already done. The blower leadership has talked with him about the problem with little result. He is using his own blower which is not as powerful or as effective in removing debris as the FLMSB blowers. There is also some indication he may not be following safety protocol established by FLMSB blower leadership. **Action:** Dick Feldmann will prepare a letter to Bill requesting he no longer blow the trail, specifying the concerns, and distribute it to the board for input and approval before sending to Bill.

- **Fences.** Rich Easterly

- MM 45.5: See Imminent Safety Issues above
- Lake Isabella: A new fence is needed near the newly installed bench close to Lake Isabella, just south of I-275, because of a steep drop-off. **Bruce will get 2 quotes.**

- **Trail sentinel program.** Don Hahn- written report submitted:

- Not much to report. I have 6 who have replied to my email this week asking if they would be a Sentinel. I have heard from only two who said they are not able to help but in past were interested. I plan to follow up with the several others who were interested in past but have not replied to my email.
- I am still researching vest needed for sentinels—it needs to be breathable which complicates any printing and needs to be adjustable so we don't have to deal with numerous sizes. A&A Safety says they don't have anything to meet my criteria. I am working with Tony Blizniak to customize a vest similar to what he has already done.

7. Communications.

- **Facebook.** Brian Sullivan, by phone, with graphics below. He explained the various data reported by Facebook. Followers have slowly and steadily increased. These people receive all our posts in their news feed. Facebook reports can show effectiveness of posts—how many users see them and how many engage with some kind of action.



FacebookUpdate201
8-11-14.pdf

- **Recognition Plaques:** Janet Slater
 - 7 plaques recognizing previous Board members and volunteers: *these will be sent out by Dick with a cover letter composed by Steve. Janet will provide recognition in the next Trail Mail and/or on our website.*
 - 8 (4 * 2) Osher recognition plaques: Janet's design was approved by Melissa. *Janet will order the signs, to be installed on fences near the 4 intersections determined earlier.*
- **Outreach/Events.** Joanne Rizkallah
Little Miami State Park 40th anniversary, i.e. 1979
Joanne Rizkallah is the volunteer coordinating with ODNR on the trail's 40th anniversary next year. One event being planned for the celebration is an overnight ride that will cover the entire distance of the trail (with option to return the following day).
Ron, serving as board liaison for Joanne, relayed some of her questions:
 - Reserving a block of rooms at hotel: *we can use FLMSP credit card to hold these; riders will book their rooms directly; unsecured rooms can be canceled 31 days ahead and our card will not be charged.*
 - How do we handle money for support services and other costs? *Dick Feldmann suggests using Event Brite, used for the canoe floats.*

8. Counter Program. John Theuring.

John will not continue working with the counters after this year, due to other work commitments and his feeling that the data has not been used productively and does not justify the time involved. John will return counters to the Fosters cache at the end of December, and will submit a final report in early January.

Ron Gorley responded to John's report by explaining how the counter data has been instrumental in securing grant money and support for FLMSP and the trail. Ron also met with Wade Johnson of Tri-State Trails which has established a counting program.

Working with them and enlisting volunteers such as Scouts may reduce the work for a future FLMSP leader of the counting program.

9. Invasive Control. Jim Mason

Jim updated the board on the cross-traffic spraying and the invasive control applications to some of the scenic areas, providing a report of locations sprayed with amount of material applied and costs involved. He reports big progress in controlling invasive species, with more native species appearing and new scenic views resulting from selective spraying. He hopes to accomplish more from Morrow north.

10. Culverts and Drainage: Tom McCray

ODNR has done some significant trenching work this week around Oregonia, removing trees in the ditch. Melissa says Kyle's ability to use the equipment is helpful. She says ditch work will continue as staffing and equipment permit. The next area they want to address is the washout north of Grandin.

11. Trail Surface. Ron Gorley [tabled due to time]

- **Outreach.**
 - ODOT District 8 Brianne Hetzel
 - ODOT District 8 Tommy Arnold
 - OKI Summer Jones
 - MVRPC Matt Lindsay

12. Trail Condition:

- Ditch north of the propane plant in Miamiville. Bruce Cortright. [tabled due to time]

13. Trail Convenience/Amenities [tabled due to time]

- **GIS.** Dick Feldmann
- **Rest and Information Centers.** Spring Valley, Corwin, Oregonia, Ft Ancient St Rt 350, Morrow
- **Benches**
 - Remove dilapidated bench in Corwin.

14. Equipment

Bruce Cortright moved that the board pay up to \$550 for necessary maintenance on the tractor using funds restricted for Trail Maintenance. Ron seconded; motion unanimously approved.

15. Meeting Schedule.

- November Hamilton Township
- February Wayne Township

The Hamilton Township meeting location will not be available in 2019. Steve will attempt to schedule the Loveland City Hall room to alternate with the Wayne Township location.

Next Board Meeting:

February 13, 2019, 6:30 PM Wayne Twp Administration Bldg, 6050 N Clarksville Rd, Waynesville, OH 4506