

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
General Meeting 07/10/2019
Loveland City Hall
120 Loveland Ave, Loveland OH 45140
Meeting Minutes**

Board votes in blue
Action steps in green

Call to Order: Steve Murphy

Introduction of Members and Guests:

Board Members: Steve Murphy, Ron Gorley, Dick Feldmann, Rick Forrester, Tom McCray, Becky Retzer

Absent: Bruce Cortwright

Guests: Jim Mason, Joane Rizkallah, Don Mills, Judy Mills

Approval of Minutes from 06/12/2019: Becky Retzer

Treasurer's Report - Dick Feldmann

Cash On Hand:	05/31/2019	06/30/2019	
Savings Account	\$52,242.13	\$42,251.89	
Checking Account	812.18	21,205.97	
Total	\$53,054.31	\$63,457.86	\$16,823.36 Restricted \$4,382.61 Reserved

06/30/2019 Treasurer Reports:

- Dick reviewed the restricted donations. The Safety initiative restricted donations are sitting at \$11,608.63. This includes the \$5,000 from the Cohens. There is also \$9,100 from the Simeon donations.

Metrics: Steve Murphy

	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>+/-</u>
Email Distribution List:	2,260		-24
Memberships:	189		+25
Same time last year:		186	+3
End of year 2018:		294	-105
 Volunteer Hours:	 1,348	 1,961	 +613
Facebook "Likes":	1,222	1,235	+13
Twitter followers:	50	50	+0

1. Strategic Plan.

1. Safety
2. Condition & Drainage
3. Volunteer Management
4. Convenience
5. Beauty

2. Administrative.

- Volunteer Hours. With the Trail Sentinel program and the Anniversary our volunteer hours are grossly understated.
- Adopt-a-Trail Organization. Don Mills. As discussed at the last Board meeting, the segment concept has been hard to maintain. I believe that a section team concept with the addition of SWAT teams has some merit.

Don stated that the section concept is what has been used recently. The four sections are Far North (Dick Feldmann), Near North (Tom McCray), Mid-South (Don Hahn) Far South (Bruce Cortwright).

- Counters. Ron Gorley. There has been a change in process --- TriState Trails is now doing the counters. If that "change in process" has resulted in an updated annual trail total, what annual trail count should we be using going forward?

Ron stated that there are 21 locations, the last five locations were starting on 7/11.

There was discussion on whether we need to update our equipment and if there were funding options including grants to help offset the expenses. Ron reminded the Board that with TriState we are in a learning curve status.

- Milford Storage Tool Cache.

The amount went up to \$68/month or \$816/year

[Dick moved to approve paying the \\$816 annual renewal for the Milford Storage Tool Cache. Ron Seconded. Approved.](#)

3. ODNR. Melissa Clark – not in attendance she but emailed responses below:

- FLMSP is seeking a plan, a schedule and cost for the issue that Bruce raised with the slippages that are getting worse and worse about a quarter mile south of Fosters.

ODNR does not currently have an identified funding source to address the slippage area near Fosters.

- Entrance signs.

The signs have been ordered.

- Will ODNR contribute \$1,000 towards intersection signage?

ODNR will order an allowable amount of bike signs during standard ODOT order. Since there is not an 2020 approved state budget as of date, and only emergencies are to be expensed during the interim period.

- Will ODNR remove/move the sign at St. Rte 350?

Sign has been removed.

- Recent Flooding 2019-06-25. We are making arrangements for the equipment needed to help clear the areas of mud. We have to coordinate with the Caesar Creek staff to borrow the skid

steer. All the parks in the district have flood damage they are trying to get cleaned up and are in need of staffing time and equipment. Some are worse off than others.

This work was completed with the help of the Caesar Creek equipment and staff.

We will work the MM 17-22 area first. Volunteers can assist by following us to get what is missed by the equipment or attacking a different area all together that may not need heavy equipment support.

We have secured the use of the district mini excavator for a short time. We will get a couple days work on the trail with it before it moves on.

Two days work was completed with the mini in the Oregonia area.

- Signage 2019-06-25. As I stated at the board meeting, I have the standard ODOT bicycle signs. I do not have the arrow. Road signs that will be installed in the road right of way need permission from the road owner, just like the crossings did. We will supply the signs we have to those entities. And I will continue to order more if they are acceptable. I will be able to order more in the fall and we usually get possession of the signs late spring.

4. Fundraising.

- Ohio State Legislature. Ron Gorley.
 - 2019-06-11. The \$25 million made it through the House and on June 11 it was removed from consideration in the Senate. I wrote to Bob Peterson, Senator Pro Tempore on June 12 on behalf of FLMSF to have the money reinstated. I had a draft ready to go out to our 2000+ email distribution asking for support. Brian Miller asked that we not send that to Sen. Peterson, thinking it might do more harm than good.
 - 2019-06-25. Further update. Brian just talked with the ODNR legislative liaison. A select House and Senate committee is in the midst of reconciling differences. We want to hold off today. Brian will give me a call tomorrow morning and let me know if we should email en masse.
 - 2019-06-26. Bad news - it took 3 days to get a response. Good news - the legislature is running late and may not have a bill to the governor by tomorrow night. Still an opportunity for our voice to be heard.
- ODNR
 - May 23 phone conversation with Phil Miller, Deputy Chief Capital Improvements Administrator, ODNR:
 - Agreement that ODNR's primary responsibility is keeping the park (trail) open. ODNR should be able to fulfill that responsibility with existing funding. The \$200,000 in community-based capital was never intended for that purpose, but rather for resurfacing the most damaged sections of the trail. Agreement within ODNR now that this money will be used for resurfacing only.

Melissa's email response re the \$200,000 community-based capital funds: The Division of Parks & Watercraft with draft a MOU between FLMSF and ODNR to execute a resurfacing project for the Little Miami State Park. The purpose of the MOU will allow

ODNR to utilize the funds directed to the FLMSP for resurfacing a portion of the trail. The Target area will begin just south of the Village of Morrow and extend as far as the funds will provide.

The Division of Engineering is going to assist Parks & Watercraft in providing guidelines and information in the preparation of general criteria for bidding the project. This project will not require any particular building or environmental permits and they are considering this a in-kind replacement project. As such, the Division of Parks & Watercraft will execute the project through similar process utilized for similar efforts using either capital or operational funds. Notably, this will require us to go through DAS and obtain Controlling Board approval.

The target for completion will be late fall 2019.

- Engineering has already been involved. Their highest priority for repaving matches our (FLMSP) highest priority, the section just south of Morrow. This repaving will be completed in calendar year 2019. This is essential so we can go back to the trail constituency and get them involved in another grass roots campaign with the state legislature. Expect to have another community-based capital request for the 2020-2022 period.
- Desire from Phil to have FLMSP and ODNR more closely involved in the next iteration. Alignment of priorities between FLMSP and the Division of Parks and Watercraft will be beneficial as we approach the legislature. Need to avoid any confusion over the purpose of allocated funds this round. Expect to have a face-to-face meeting in late summertime frame.
- The previously unexplained "up to \$100,000 in potential additional capital" has been explained. This was originally for an engineering study for a dam. That project is going ahead, and this money is not available for the LMSP. I explained that the first one foot of paving is the most expensive, since the equipment needs to get on site. I encouraged Phil to look for other sources that could be combined in order to repave additional trail. There is plenty of bad surface between Morrow and South Lebanon.

Ron added that the State Budget set for 6/30 approval, has not yet been passed.

- Grants. Becky Retzer
 - Grant Station
- Pipe Safes.
 - Relocate existing Loveland pipe safe to Restroom/Kiosk area.
 - Install pipe safe in Spring Valley.
 - Install pipe safe in South Lebanon.

Dick reported that ODNR would like FLMSP to return 2-3 of the pipe safes.

FLMSP realizes approximately 1,000/year revenue from the pipe safes.

Dick recommends against the effort to relocate or add a second pipe safe at the Loveland Restroom/Kiosk area.

5. **Volunteers.** Tom McCray

- Possible ways to recognize volunteers
 - Personal letters or email from board leadership.
 - Hour pins – 500 hrs., 1000 hrs., etc.
 - Year pins
 - Pins, patches, t-shirts, hats, other?
 - Would provide incentive to log hours

There was discussion on sending out thank you notes from the Board on a monthly basis as well as implementing competitions to encourage volunteers to log in hours

- Activity in Mid-North Section
 - Trail conditions
 - Efforts to organize work sessions

Tom has not had success when trying to recruit volunteers. Don Hahn is usually the only one to respond. There is a need to cut down low hanging tree branches.

6. **Simeon Copple Memorial Kiosk and Bicycle Repair Station**

With Public donations in hand, the promised 1:1 match from the Copple Family, and the promised Private Donation, the “Simeon project” in Corwin is now completely funded, so you can certainly share this material with the Corwin Council. Hopefully the Council can leverage this funding for other improvements in “downtown Corwin”. As of 6/6/2019:

Costs

Corwin kiosk	\$5,500
Corwin bicycle repair station	<u>+1,600</u>
Total for kiosk and repair station	\$7,100

Funding

Public donations:	\$3,650
Copple Family	<u>+5,500</u>
Donations from Public and Family	9,150
Total for kiosk and repair station	<u>-7,100</u>
Excess funding	\$2,050

Dick motioned to use the \$5,500 as requested for the Corwin Kiosk from the Copple funds, Rick seconded. Motion approved.

Dick motioned that up to \$1,600 be allocated for the bicycle repair station. Ron seconded. Motion approved.

Steve motioned that FLMSP hire Mac Robinson of C.D.M Construction using the specifications of the other two recent kiosk to build the Simeon project. Rick seconded. Motion approved.

What will be posted on the kiosk in Simeon’s honor?

7. **40th Anniversary of the Little Miami State Park and 10th Anniversary of the Friends of the Little Miami State Park.** Joanne Rizkallah. Dick Feldmann. The anniversary presents us with the opportunity to update our logo, banner, and our two park entrances and to tell our story.

- **General Overview and Outstanding Issues.** Joanne Rizkallah
- **Logo:** Tabled until next meeting
- **Banners:** Once we have a new logo, we can create new banners.
- **Credit Cards.** We have one swipe reader and one chip/swipe reader. So we should be good to go for taking credit card payments at the start of the bike rides for the festival.
- **Acknowledgements.** Support for sending acknowledgements for Sponsorships and Vendor Applications.
- **2019-06-26.** About ever media outlet in town was sent the press release, including radio, TV, magazines and newspapers. I'm currently working on sending the info to the Dayton Area media since the trail runs to Xenia and beyond.
I'm also simultaneously working on the T-shirt and sponsorship for them. I'll run some designs past you before they are sent to the printer.

8. **Corwin Station.**



Looking Northeast. A grassy area for the Kiosk.



Kiosk. Mac Robinson started work on the kiosk on Monday July 8.

Bicycle Repair Station. Looking East. Existing bike racks. The bicycle repair station will be located near these bike racks

In addition to the planned Repair station in Corwin MM 14.0, there are 4 other repair stations along the 50 miles:

- Xenia MM 0.0
- Loveland MM 41.6
- Loveland MM 42.0
- Little Miami Golf MM 54.5

9. Trail Safety:

- **Imminent Safety Issues.**
- **Intersections Safety.** Don Mills.
 - Hamilton County completed their 3 intersections (Cunningham, Lincoln, Galbraith) today as pictured below.
 - Loveland will be doing their 3 intersections in the near future, i.e. Harrison, Loveland, Broadway.
 - FLMSF will contract out Corwin Avenue and back bill Corwin Council when we have accumulated other intersections that villages can't do.
 - Hedges and Richland Roads will be done by Spring Valley Township.
 - The remaining 8 (South Main, Grandin, US 123, Front, Bridge, Beech, Wards Corner, New) will NAG after 7/4/2019.
 - Dick Feldmann is bird-dogging Spring Valley on West Main and Bellbrook.
 - I will do a separate report on road signage at intersections in the near future. We will need ODNR's financial and physical help to accomplish this task.

Don Mills reported that we need 26 bike/pedestrian signs and 27 arrow signs.

10. Trail Drainage. Tom McCray.



I275 wash.

- Drainage Issue Status Update. Tom McCray
 - June 17 storm clogging culverts and flooding trail primarily between Corwin and Oregonia.
 - Significant mud, gravel, and debris left on at least 8 separate areas of the trail.
 - ODNR out early with skid steer to scrape off mud and debris from most problem locations.
 - ODNR acquired excavator for 2 days (June 27 and 28) to clear culverts – MM19.4 and MM18.3. Major clogs.
 - Clogged culverts not able to attend to at MM13.5 (basin/vault), MM18.1 and MM18.2.
 - Shoveled residual mud from MM17.3, 17.5, 18.2, 18.3. Ran tow blower between Roxanna and Wilmington Rd. to blow off dried mud and other debris.
 - Residual mud/dirt remains MM13.5, 13.8, 17.3, 17.5, 18.2, 18.3, 19.4, 20.7, 21.1, 21.7, 21.9, 22.9, 23.1
- Excavator Rental from Village Tool Rental
 - This is to rent an excavator for one week to be used by ODNR to clear culverts and ditches along areas of the trail.
 - The timing tentatively established is for ODNR to begin using the machine in the latter part of July.
 - The attached quote includes a trailer. ODNR has one that they can use and that amount can be subtracted.
 - It also includes filling the fuel tank (diesel) at \$3.99 per gallon for 16 gallons upon return. We should be able to avoid some or all of this charge through the rental facility but will need to purchase fuel during use of the machine. The machine's fuel tank must be full to avoid these charges.
 - There is a damage waiver fee of \$132.05 included which covers any damage up to \$500. Note that it is capped at \$500. If for some reason there would be damage above that, we would be responsible, either through other insurance or direct payment. We can secure insurance from our current carrier Francis Mannerino to cover us up to \$25,000 for \$1,000 per year for bodily injury and/or property damage.
 - If all goes well, my best guess is that expenses would not exceed \$1,500. Approval not to exceed \$2,000 would give us a bit of room for any other unexpected expenses.
 - Itemized cost for one week of use - Excavator \$1,114.50, Bucket \$106, Damage Waiver \$132.05 Total Rental = \$1,352.55 Fuel cost \$100?? Just a guess on fuel cost as I don't have a sense for how much will be used.
 - Village Tool Rental is in Centerville about 8 miles from Corwin. I have used them in the past for smaller items and have had good experience.

Jim Mason will check with SunBelt. We will move forward if we can determine deductible.

11. Trail Condition: Bruce Cortright - tabled

- **Stabilizations.** ODNR.
 - Trail erosions at I-71 and 4 to 5 places south of Fosters.
- **Fences.** Rich Easterly



- Next week we will start repairing the fences between Fosters (MM 37.5} and Newtown (MM 55).
- Rod and I drove this 18-mile stretch and found mostly just top boards needing repair.
- We checked-out the Red Barn at Fosters to find a large quantity of fence material (boards). I wonder where is all the hardware (bolts, washers, nuts)?
- **Culverts.** ODOT. Melissa here is the reason we are taking so much water under 275. I went up the culvert under the trail. It is cement pipe and then it becomes metal pipe going up the hill 100 feet. The bottom is gone as you can see, and the pipe is getting ready to collapse. The water is running out of the pipe and making its way down the hill and flooding our trail. We need ODOT to fix this. Bruce

“ODOT plans to program the project as a pipe replacement. Design phase will be next year with construction the following year 2021. Thanks, Bruce for providing the photos that nudged this project forward. I know the timeline seems long, but at least it’s on the board now”. Melissa Clark ODNR

Discussion took place as to whether we needed to add to 2020 expenditures for crack filling.

12. Trail Projects Needing Capital and/or Labor

- **Rest and Information Centers.**
 - Potential new locations. Corwin, Spring Valley, Morrow, Ft Ancient St Rt 350
- **Kiosk Locks.** Change locks on all kiosks to combination locks. According to Don Mills only Miamiville and Fosters locks can be changed.
- **Kiosk Glass Replace in Lebanon Spur Kiosk.** Janet
Dick motioned to approve up to \$75 for the Lebanon Spur Kiosk glass replacement. Ron seconded. Motion approved
- **Benches Old.**
 - Remove dilapidated bench in Corwin.
- **Benches New.** Liz Lamar.
- **Intersection Horizontal Signage.** Signage painted on the roadway.
- **Intersection Vertical Signage.** Install intersection vertical signage with ODNR team when they are ready.
- **Spring Valley Nature Preserve.**
 - Work party to finish opening up the view.
- **Repave.** ODNR.

14. Trail Convenience/Amenities

- **Restroom Facilities.** Currently we don't supply a port-o-let in Morrow when their restroom is closed.
Dick will check with Rumpke on the costs of two additional port-o-lets, 1 when Morrow restroom is closed for winter, 1 for Rt. 350 (southwest side) year around.
- **Reforestation.** Rick Forrester
- **Pollinator Project.** Becky Retzer.

15. Invasive Control. Jim Mason

16. Outreach.

16. Meeting Schedule.

- August 14, 2019 Wayne Township Administration Building, 6050 N Clarksville Road, Waynesville, OH 45068
- September 11, 2019 Loveland City Hall, 120 Loveland Ave, Loveland, OH 45140

Dick motioned to adjourn meeting. Rick seconded. All approved

Next Board Meeting:

August 14, 2019, 6:30 PM Wayne Township Administration Building, 6050 N Clarksville Road, Waynesville, OH 45068