

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
General Board Meeting 09/11/2019
Loveland City Hall
120 W Loveland Ave, Loveland OH 45140
Board Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order: Steve Murphy

Introduction of Members and Guests: Steve Murphy

Members Present: Ron Gorley, Dick Feldmann, Rick Forrester, Bruce Cortright, Becky Retzer

Guest: Don Hahn, Rich Salsa (Cincinnati Police Sargent – FLMSP Centennial), Jim Mason, Melissa Clark (ODNR), Joanne Razkallah.

Approval of Minutes from 08/14/2019: Becky Retzer

The Minutes from 8/14/2019 will be approved at the meeting in October.

Treasurer's Report - Dick Feldmann (5 min)

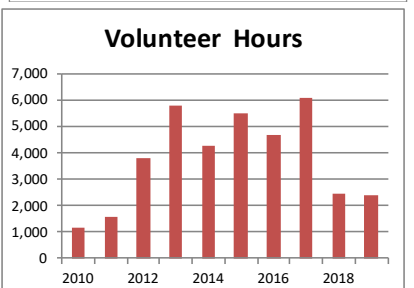
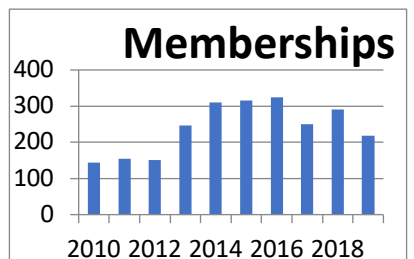
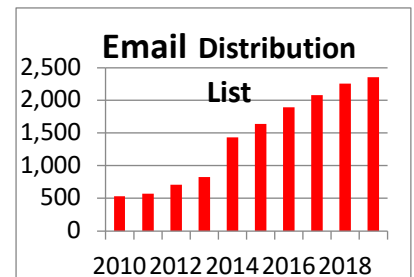
Cash on Hand:	07/31/2019	08/31/2019	
Savings Account	\$42,259.66	\$42,268.06	
Checking Account	19,317.88	19,129.76	
Total	\$61,634.55	\$61,397.82	\$13,735.63 Restricted \$3,850.00 Reserved

09/11/2019 Treasurer Narrative

- Received \$1,380 from Whole Foods and Platform Beer for event in 2017.
- Received \$700 from Colorado Runner (Magazine from Xenia)
- Spent \$7,000 on the Corwin Kiosk
- Latest membership outreach is producing donations
38 Renewals

Metrics: Steve Murphy

	<u>Jul 10</u>	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>+/-</u>
Email Distribution List:	2,341	2,359	+18
Memberships:	209	219	+10
Same time last year:	264		-45
End of year 2018:	295		-76
Volunteer Hours:	2,407	2,829	+422
Facebook "Likes":	1,258		
Twitter followers:	51		



1. Strategic Plan.

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

2. News.

- History and Trail Guide. Janet Slater.
 - We have 500 of these at a cost of \$240 --- about \$.50 each.
 - Who should be given one, e.g. Festival participants, members, etc.?
 - Should will offer them for a suggested \$1.00 at donation.

Dick motioned for approval of a \$2.00 suggested donation for the History and Trail Guides. A label will be made "Suggested \$2.00 donation" to be placed on the printed guides and all future guides will include suggested donation verbiage. We will mail to paid riders of the 40th Anniversary as a gift. We will also give our distinguished guests at the Morgan's Trail Fest on September 29th a copy.

Ron seconded, Approved.

- Trail Entrance Signs. Thanks to Melissa Clark we now have north and south Park entrance signs. Dick Feldmann



- Milford Trailhead.
- Trail Counters. Ron Gorley.

Ron is awaiting an interim report from Wade Johnston on counting, i.e. this year to date vs. last year.

Ron is in communication with Wade – counters are being moved and we received an invoice that will be forwarded to Dick. Amount has already been approved.

3. ODNR. Melissa Clark

- The children are at it again in Spring Valley:



- ODOT bridge – we are not allowed to touch. Per Don ODOT is asking if there are any volunteers who will paint.
- The paving project (Morrow-South) is out for bid. We will have to wait for bids to come in to see how far the 200K will go.
- We are actively seeking funding for the Foster's slip. I will continue to provide updates as we solidify plans.
- Entrance signs at the northern and southern ends have been installed.
- The kiosk and repair station in Corwin looks great! Thanks for FLMSF for providing this additional asset for trail users.
- We will place our annual ODOT sign order in November. If FLMSF could canvas sections and let us know how many new signs we need, we will order in November and receive them sometime in spring...stop signs, stop ahead, speed limit, curve, parking, bike etc. That would be very helpful to us.

Trail section leads – need to submit by 1st of November. Ron Gorley will head and submit info to Melissa.

4. Events/Outreach

- What is the Board's opinion of purchasing our own tent for events?
We will revisit once we have new logo. We have tents available for the 40th Anniversary.
- **40th Anniversary of the Little Miami State Park and 10th Anniversary of the Friends of the Little Miami State Park.** Joanne Rizkallah and Dick Feldmann
Avoca Trail Fest
 - Saturday September 28th, 10:00am – 2:00pm
 - 7 Vendors confirmed - \$125 income
 - L.L. Bean
 - Granny's Goodies on the Go
 - Roads, Rivers and Trails
 - Power Wellness Management - 10:30 Yoga
 - Hamilton County Recycling
 - Buckeye Trail Association
 - Ohio Bicycle Federation

Friends will have a booth
Decorated Bike & Pet Parade at 9:45 a.m.
Kelly, Tess & Steve will be managing/running

Morrow Trail Fest

- Saturday September 28th, 10:00am – 2:00pm
- 3 Vendors confirmed - \$50 income
 - Fort Ancient
 - Revolution Group Fitness
 - Warren County Soil and Water
- Riders will be provided lunch at Morrow's Phegley Park picnic shelter (Sub-way)
- ODNR Naturalist (Amanda)
- Guitarist

Friends will have a booth
Ron, Becky & Teresa will be managing/running
Dick Feldman to give \$100 cash to Becky for guitarist

Morgan's Festival

- Sunday, September 29th, 11:00am – 3:00pm
- No vendors
- Live music from noon to 3
- ODNR Naturalist (Amanda)
- Distinguished visitors
 - Bob Taft
 - Ron will make introductions
 - Ron Gorley will send personal invite to ODNR**
- Catered lunch available
 - Included in cost of ride for riders
 - For other visitors - \$10?
 - Ron Gorley will pick up cake from Costco and cookies if Becky does not get donations**
 - Becky will get paper plates and forks for cake**

Steve, Ron, Becky Joanne's husband will be managing/running/raffle tickets

Festival Bike Ride

- 34 registrations to date - \$1,850 income
 - Two Day – 12
 - Saturday North – 6
 - Saturday South – 9
 - Sunday North – 4
 - Sunday South – 3
- Call for Help
 - SAG Support. We need people to take shifts to be on call to provide SAG support. Riders who are in trouble will call the hot line. The call will be forwarded to the SAG support who will drive out to help the rider.
 - Need especially for afternoons 12 to 4 – south end
 - Bike Racks and air pumps - We need bike racks and air pumps to supply to SAG drivers
- Snack Stops at Corwin and at Izaak Walton League

Sponsors

- 13 Sponsors - \$600 and gifts in kind
 - American Modern Foundation - \$250
 - Eads Fence - \$250
 - Corwin Peddler - \$100
 - Morgan's Riverside Campground – Providing Venue and band for Sunday Festival
 - Fifty West Brewery – Providing beer for each rider with wrist band
 - LL Bean – Woman's bike - \$494
 - Hand and Stone Eastgate – Store Gift Cert. - \$199.95
 - Fifty West Cycling – Providing venue for ride start
 - Ohio Trail Shuttle – Providing Bike and rider shuttle service
 - Bike Revival – Providing Mechanic and bike repair
 - The Izaak Walton League - Providing venue for snack stop
 - Thirty Drink – 300 bottles
 - Montgomery Cycle – ebike/bike rental

Final Call for Help

- Request approval to spend \$2,860 on the festival expenses

Bruce motioned to allocate up to \$3,000 for the event expenses. Dick seconded - approved

- **Lebanon Channel 6 August 20th 4:00 PM.** Joanne Rizkallah and Steve Murphy attended this 15-minute interview.
- **WVXU.** Joanne Rizkallah. "John Stevens, our media volunteer, has reached out to Josh Elstro at WVXU 91.7 and they are offering us a 25 minute radio interview segment on either of these dates at 12:30 at the station located behind Music Hall downtown Cincinnati, 1223 Central Parkway. They would like to discuss the trail history, also the entire OTET, with a short bit about the upcoming event, as it is to be more informational and less promotional. We have decided on September 23. Potential interviewees are Ron Gorley, Joanne Rizkallah, Don Mills, and Steve Murphy. We are trying to line up a prerecorded phone interview with Bob Taft.
- **Question:** Who should be the keeper of banners, credit card readers, GPS units, , table, two chairs, History and Trail Guides, etc.

Treasurer – keep electronics

Other: Morrow cache– all other things

5. Trail Safety

- **Imminent Safety Issues.**
 - **eBikes.** Gerald Koehne. "I believe use of these bikes on the trail needs to be addressed as speeds of 20-25 mph are possible and I can visualize groups in draft formation. As you must know there are MANY OCCASSIONS when in 3-8 biker (draft formation) going 12-15+ mph blow pass walkers and bikers. Many parts of the trail are truly UNSAFE for walking due to poor judgement of inconsiderate riders. Personally, I would NEVER walk the trail on weekends."

- Loveland Bollards. Don Mills. These are rubber and plastic so a vehicle can drive over them.
- Stubbs Mill. Bruce Cortright.



- **Intersections Safety.** Don Mills.

- **Laddering:**

There are 49 intersections in our 50 miles.

16 intersections do not warrant markings because of little traffic conflict.

24 intersections have been marked in the last year.

7 intersections will be marked in the near future.

2 intersections have not received approval for marking from the governmental “owner”, e.g.

Spring Valley. Dick Feldman and I will continue to work with Spring Valley in an attempt to improve safety in their Village.

- **Road Signage:**

FLMSP has ordered the required vertical signage that will be installed by the owners of each roadway over the next year. There are 15 roadways that warrant vertical signage. Five of them will be completed in the next month. The other 10 will be at the discretion of the “owner”.

- **Lines of Sight:**

There are 5-6 intersections where ODNr’s chainsaw crew can open up better visibility for bikers & motorists, i.e. Strout North East, Wilmington North West and South West, 350 North East and North West, Wards Corner South East.

Melissa Clark “The 4 intersections needing cut back for sight lines are already on our maintenance plan for fall.”

- **Corwin Ave.** Thanks to good information secured by A & A employee (Steven - project manager) about a tar and chip of Corwin Ave I am postponing the Corwin Ave laddering until I talk to The Mayor and find out what Corwin’s plans are for re-pave.

- **Trail Sentinel Program.** Don Hahn

- Don Hahn reports that there are currently 15 Trail Sentinels who have volunteered.
 - Don has one unclaimed vest. Can order more depending on demand.
 - Trail Sentinel Phil Obermiller reported “Getting great cooperation from trail maintenance volunteers in my sector...in one instance I mentioned a problem at Wards Corner Road on my way to Loveland, and it was cleared up by the time I made my return trip”.

Don talked re promoting helmets especially among children on the trail. National Bike Safety Month May – Children’s Hospital would donate 50 helmets (3 sizes). There are two options:

- 1) Measure and get actual sizes
- 2) Random sizes – give away

After discussion it was decided it would be easier to go with option 2. Don also felt that with extra helmets available from his church we would have plenty of each size available.

- **Fences.** Rich Easterly
 - All remaining “fence hardware” is now in FLMSF’s hands having been moved from ODNR to the Morrow cache.

6. Trail Condition

- **Stabilizations.** ODNR.



- Trail erosions at I-71 and 4 to 5 places south of Fosters.
- **Bumps, Crack-filling.**
 - The last time we did crack-filling was some number of years ago. This is something that should be on our radar.
 - Don Mills will be cold-patching in October.
- **Trail marking.** We need to agree on color-coded trail marking standards, e.g. bumps, cracks, culverts, trees, etc.
 - Concave. Circle or semi-circle. Yellow.
 - Bumps. Wavy line. What color? Bumps should be marked no more than 2 months before they are ground. Bumps that are big, at least 3/8 inch high, can be marked for safety reasons; in addition to the wavy line, I recommend 3 slash marks across the wavy line to increase visibility.
 - Cracks. Picture needed.
 - Culverts. Picture needed.
 - Trees. Picture needed.



7. Trail Drainage

- Drainage Issue Status Update. Tom McCray - tabled

8. Fundraising.

- ODNR. Ron Gorley. In an email to Phil Miller of ODNR dated 9/9/2019:

"I'm following up on a conversation we had several months ago. We talked about how our two organizations can work together better as we prepare to go to the legislature in early 2020 to once again ask for community-based capital to be used on the Little Miami trail.

We want to avoid confusion that took place during the current biennial period where there was uncertainty whether the money was allocated in a "spendable" account, whether FLMSF would need to release the funds, whether ODNR lost the institutional knowledge over how the money was designated to be spent, etc.

During our previous conversation, you suggested that we get together at the end of summer. That time is now. Who from ODNR do you suggest join you for this meeting? Let's get it scheduled."

Ron wants to try to avoid any snags. Melissa suggested herself, Brian be part of the conversation/meeting. Ron asked Melissa that this be scheduled as soon as possible.

EarthShare. Dick Feldmann

Dick attended and represented FLMSF. About 200 others there – Dick met and talked to about 20 people. Dick will also attend the National EarthShare event in Dayton.

- Grants. Becky Retzer
 - Grants and communication with Akron Zoo
 - Counters. Wade Johnston of TriState Trails is following up on the suggestion at the last Board meeting to ask ODOT about potential funding for upgraded pedestrian/bicycle discriminating counters.
- Pipe Safes.
 - Install pipe safe in Spring Valley.
 - Install pipe safe in South Lebanon.

9. Volunteers.

- **Recognition.**
 - Ray Jacobsen.
 - Fence team founder
 - "No job ever too hard to tackle"
 - Never missed a good cup of coffee or political discussion

Becky will order a plaque and coordinate an article to be in a future Trail Mail as well as get a picture. Dick will send Becky the information on where we have ordered plaques in the past.

- Corwin Kiosk. Simeon Copple
- Loveland Kiosk. Steve Murphy
- Milford Kiosk. Mary Brown
- Fosters – Kiosk provided by FLMSF

Becky will order the above plaques

10. Amenities.

- Spring Valley kiosk and port-o-let. Dick Feldmann
 - I just got off the phone with George McGowan, my contact into the Spring Valley ACTS organization. ACTS owns Founders Park. George attended the last Spring Valley ACTS meeting and introduced the ideas I had given him previously.

ACTS is positively inclined to letting us put an information kiosk in Founders Park.

ACTS is positively inclined to paying for an upgrade to the kiosk of three additional display cases for Spring Valley's use.

I'd still like to pour a slab and build an enclosure for the portable restroom to mask it's appearance and get it to stand upright, but I'm suspecting that ACTS isn't willing to pay for that.

George is going to set up a meeting for the two of us I to meet with the ACTS leadership at Founders Park. So we're seeing good progress, but more to come.

- **Corwin Simeon Copple Memorial Kiosk**

The Corwin Simeon Copple memorial kiosk is now complete including the bicycle repair station.

- **Kiosk Locks.** Change locks on all kiosks to combination locks. According to Don Mills only Miami and Fosters locks can be changed.

Steve reported that combination locks will also be needed for Corwin and S. Lebanon
Becky will order

- **Morrow Restroom Facility**

At its July meeting, the Board voted to provide a port-o-let in Morrow in the winter months since their restroom is closed in the winter.

11. Invasive Control. Jim Mason

- Fall Spraying?
- There is a patch of Ailanthus at the intersection of State Route 73 and Corwin Road
- There is another patch of Ailanthus south of Center Street in Miami

Honeysuckle Proposal 2019:

I would propose making application to selected areas along the river from St. Rt 350 south to Center St. in addition to this, we need to push back some encroachment areas traveling back north. North of Foster to Stubbs Mill and Morrow through Fort Ancient. There are some very good naturalized areas along this side of the trail we can open up.

Melissa Clark supplied herbicide and some surfactant in lieu of herbicide. That worked out and is a big help.

Total amount proposed \$2,800.00 for 2019 (Last year \$2300)

Volunteer Contribution (of Jim Mason & Company)

We have the opportunity to open up some significant areas along the river from Fort Ancient north to Corwin Station based on previous work done in these areas. I'll follow up on everything I did last year from Spring Valley to south of the Spring Valley Wildlife area and back to Spring alley. I'll spray along Corwin Road traveling north past the crossing just south of Middletown Rd going east. I'll also treat the Ailanthus south of Corwin and south of Center St. in Miamiville.

Melissa will supply herbicide – needs to get together with Jim to order.

Jim will let us know if any intersections are treated so we can contribute to Safety.

Bruce motioned to allocate 2800 for spraying. Rick Forrester seconded. Approved

12. Reforestation. Rick Forrester

Rick reported that he had a recent work crew from Advics. There will be more tree planting days scheduled.

- **Pollinator Project.** Becky Retzer.

Becky sent an email to Melissa Clark and is waiting for an update.

13. Miscellaneous Projects Needing Capital and/or Labor

- **Benches.**

- Liz Lamar and Ron Gorley surveyed every existing bench on the trail, complete with location, condition and photograph. First priority is to install benches where none exist. (We have three potential donors right now). Second priority is to repair or replace existing benches. We'll work on a report for the board after I return to town in a couple of weeks.

Ron reported there are three potential donors with one being very anxious to proceed with a bench. In the future we will provide locations for potential donors to select from.

- **Port-o-let Enclosures.**

- Below is a picture of Terrace Park's enclosure.
- Our current specifications: 3-sided, no roof, no door, 6' tall, 6" clearance under walls.
- Locations: Miamiville, Oregonia, Spring Valley.
- One potential solution: <https://www.homedepot.com/p/Outdoor-Essentials-6-ft-x-6-ft-Pressure-Treated-Cedar-Tone-Moulded-Wood-Fence-Panel-Kit-162523/204146019>



- **Morrow Kiosk**

- A project to retrofit the existing 3-sided structure in Morrow into a kiosk is a potential future project.
- There is no funding available at this time.

Morrow Administrator, Carol Whitacre, is taking this project to The Morrow Beautification and Improvement Committee for consideration. Apparently they have funding and are looking for worthwhile projects. Don will keep in touch with Carol to find out what the committee decides.

- **South Lebanon Kiosk**

- Becky Retzer identified the following problems with this kiosk:
- Mac Robinson of CMD Construction will provide us a quote to repair. Mac built the Loveland, Morrow, and Corwin kiosks.

- **Lebanon Spur Kiosk**

- Replace glass in display cases \$75.

- **Spring Valley Kiosk**

- Negotiations with Spring Valley's ACTS who own Founders Park.
- We have \$2,100 for this kiosk --- the excess funding from the Simeon Copple Memorial fundraising. We need additional funding of \$3,400.



SpringValleyKioskA
ndRestStation-2019

- **State Route 350 Kiosk**

- There is no funding available at this time.

- **State Route 350 Restroom Facility**

- Don Mills recommended a port-o-let at St Route 350. Dick Feldmann will verify with Rumpke that the topology would support installation of a port-o-let at the location.
- Don Mills will talk with Randy Morgan re cost-sharing for a port-o-let.

14. Meeting Schedule.

October 9, 2019	Wayne Township Administration Building, 6050 N Clarksville Road, Waynesville, OH 45068
November 13, 2019	Loveland City Hall, 120 W Loveland Ave, Loveland, OH 45140

15. Meeting was adjourned by Steve.