

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
General Board Meeting 6/14-2023
MS Teams Video Conference
Meeting Minutes**

Minutes

Motions

Actions

AGENDA / STRATEGIC PLAN.

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Treasurer's Report
4. ODNR Report
5. FLMSF Administrative Business
6. Volunteer Management
7. Condition & Drainage
8. Amenities/Convenience
9. Beauty
10. Outreach
11. Safety

Call to Order: Dick Feldmann

Introduction of Board:

Attendees

Dick Feldmann	President
Ron Gorley	Vice President
Becky Retzer	Treasurer
Bill Brown	Secretary
Larry Bloomfield	Member at Large
Bruce Cortright	Member at Large
Fritz Buschmann	Member at Large
Mike Norman	ODNR
Casey Marcum	ODNR
Rick Forrester	

Introduction of Members and Guests:

Approval of Minutes: Bill Brown

- April Board Meeting, distributed April 18th.
- Annual Meeting, distributed May 18th.

Motion: Bill made a motion to approve minutes of April 18th and May 18th.

Dick Seconded

Motion approved

FLMSP CASH ON HAND	04/30/23	05/31/23	
Unrestricted	130,791	147,588	16,797
Restricted	17,710	16,785	-925
Morrow Rest & Info Station	7,710	6,785	-925
Grandin Rest & Info Station	10,000	10,000	0
Reserved	259	259	-
Pollinator Garden	259	259	-
Savings Account	52,517	72,521	20,004
CD	50,000	50,329	329
Receivables	0	0	
Total	148,760	164,632	15,872

P&L Comparison	YTD 5/2022	YTD 5/2023
Revenue	20,216	40,151
Expenses	24,215	28,075
Net Operating Revenue	-4,099	12,076

Treasurer Narrative: Becky Retzer

- Corrected Financial Statements for May sent to board on June 13th.
- Filed with Secretary State of Ohio – Certificate of Continued Existence
- Received 20,000 bequest from Steve Murphy estate
 - Discussion do we want to reserve any funds for a memorial project.
- √ Navigate Tomorrow invoice for web hosting 1-1-2023 \$385.00
 - No record of receiving this email invoice before.
 - Motion to approve paying \$385.00
- Benevity Renewal due 7/12/2023
- Recommend opening another CD 15 month 30-50K @ 4%
- Opening Tax Exempt Status
 - Working on a policy so there is consistency and easy access for other volunteers who may want to use tax exempt status at particular vendor.
- √ With help of Fritz Buschmann – plans to revamp FLMSP Chart of Accounts.
 - We need to wait until 2022 990 is filed. Will review with accountant with goal to implement January 2024.
 - Chart of accounts will reflect better our mission – will deflect some of the current categories that are lumped into administration.
- √ Our 990 is first on list to be completed by Fermann Staun & Co., LLC. Hanna will call soon to give an estimated completion date. She is aware we would like to have it completed asap.

Treasurer Minutes: Steve Murphy Memorial Discussion

- **Dick suggested a Grandin Road picnic shelter as a memorial as one idea.**
- **\$10K restricted for Grandin Road already.**
- **Shelter cost is \$15 - \$17K**
- **Dick and Becky recommend leaving money in the general account until we decide.**

- **Need to wait for the bridge project to be completed.**
- **Dick Action Item: Warren County GIS website to check property lines in that area.**

MOTION: Becky made a motion to pay Navigate Tomorrow invoice for \$385 for FLMSF website hosting.

Dick seconded

Motion approved

- **ACTION: Becky checking into penalty for withdrawing CD early.**
- **Becky is working on a tax exempt policy to establish a process to make it easier to use.**
- **By Sep. we have to renew state and federal donation programs and need the Form 990 by then. Becky will ask Hanna to have it completed by Aug.**

ODNR, Mike Norman, Casey Marcum

Mike:

- **O'Bannon Bridge: Mike on trail and areas of concern noted. Wood rotting on the bridge. ODNR worked with Loveland to move steel plates as an emergency safety repair. Good example of ODNR and village working together. This is an example that the bridge is at the end of its life. Safety is the first priority. Mike and Casey saw it one day, ODNR out there the next day to inspect it. Fixes made quickly to assure safety.**
- **Kick off meeting for Todd Fork bridge project in Morrow. Completion June 16, 2024.**
- **Other items are waiting for the Ohio Senate and House conference process.**
- **Mike got a lot of good feedback on trail conditions. Recent fence work was noticed during Mike and Casey's tour.**
- **Efforts to address landowner issues continue to establish ODNR property boundaries and rights.**
- **Rick asked about organizations promoting stuff on the trail: Mike says organizations should not be posting crosses, erecting booths or other performing activities on the trail without ODNR permission. Mike has asked security to enforce the rules. They must deal with these issues consistently. If we see these items, we should contact Casey, Mike or ONDR.**
- **Casey: Working canopy and edges. Made it as far south as Corwin so far. Would like to coordinate with FLMSF to clean up an area that is overgrown in the mow-path.**
- **Ron: June 29th for FLMSF and Casey to work near fences north of Corwin. Meet at Spring Valley.**
- **Casey tries to remove brush from the trail with the truck when they cut it and not leave it on the trail edge.**
- **Bruce: Lot at Camp Denison near horse farm was sold for \$300K. Area is between Lincoln Rd. and Derbyshire Stables. Bruce brought this point to our attention as a reminder that the same owner of the above sold lot had land he wanted to donate back in 2021.**

Staffing

- Mike Norman, Park Manager
- Casey Marcum, Trail Maintenance Lead
- Carol Foell, Mowing
- New hire, Mowing

ODNR use of Roxanna tool cache

- ODNR has decided not to store a gator at the Roxanna Tool cache.

O'Bannon bridge

- Bridge has reached emergency state. Wood has rotted out. City of Loveland implemented emergency maintenance procedures to keep bridge open.

Morrow trees

- Existing trees in power lines have been removed.

King Ave/Grandin Rd/Peters Cartridge factory

- Trail Closure at Peters Cartridge
- From Warren County website:
 - Warren County Engineer's Office Press Release May 26th.
 - Grandin Road will remain closed until June 16th weather permitting.
 - On June 16th, King Avenue will close for 6 months.
 - **Meeting consensus was that it will probably be early 2024 before the trail is open.**

Trail slip South of Isaac Walton

- No change
- **Correction: This is a culvert failure in this location.**
- **Trail slip referenced here is actually ~1M north of Milford Trailhead.**

Trail slip at MM 22, I-71 Jeremiah Morrow Bridge

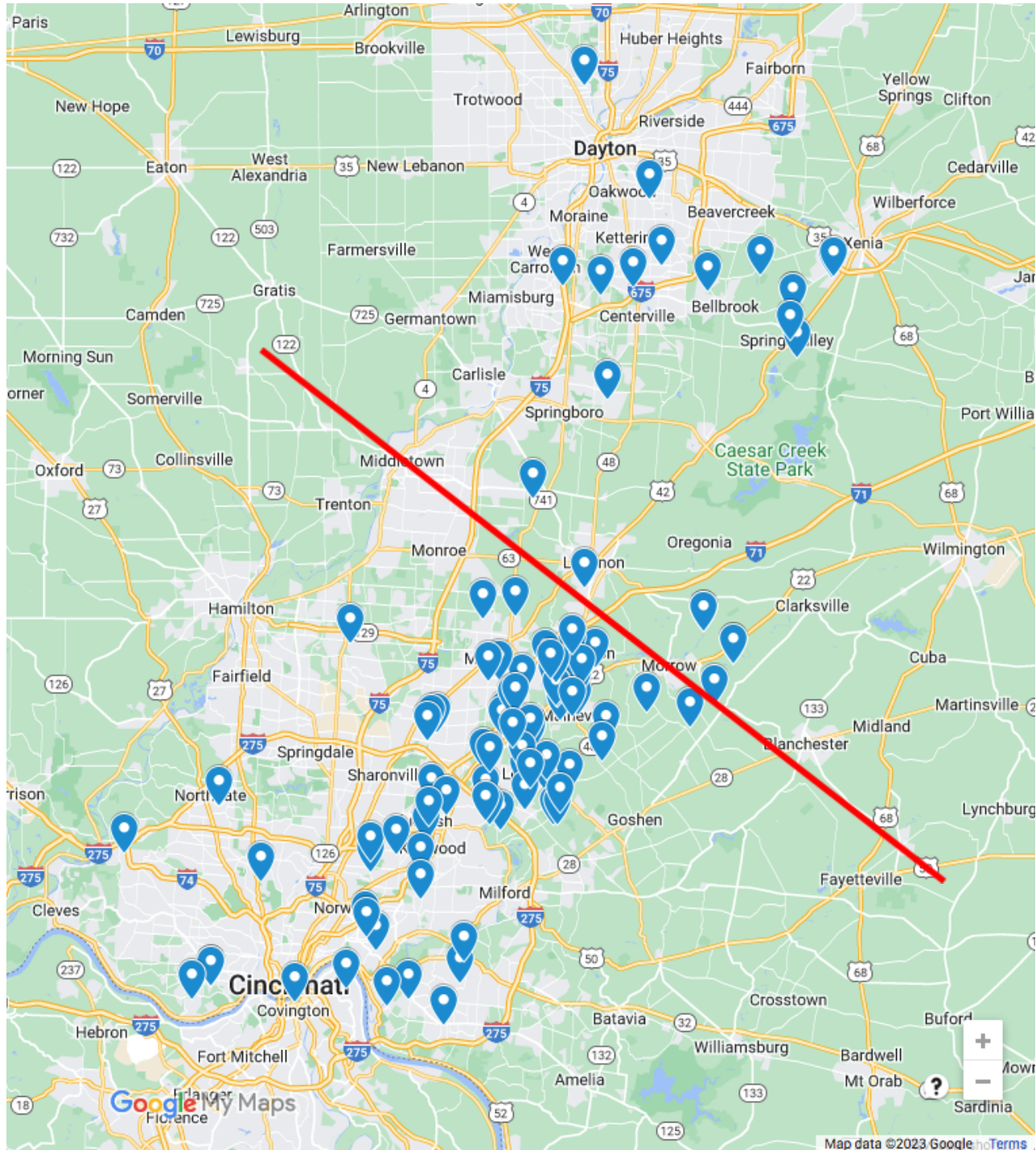
- No change
- Mike, ODNR Engineers and ODOT continuing discussions a long-term solution to correct the issue.

FLMSP PRESENTATION

Near and Far North Section Maintenance, Dick Feldmann

- Xenia to Morrow
- Issues:
- Hedges to Richland pavement horizontal cracks. These don't appear to be getting worse, so believe a good patch job should suffice.
- Oregonia South drainage issues. Heavy rains bring mud across trail.
- Trail Slippage at MM 22, I-71 Jeremiah Morrow Bridge.
- Bridges are showing signs of rot.
- Heavily forested
 - Canopy of trees over trail.
 - Continuous tree-fall, damaged fences and tree litter.

- Need to raise canopy.
- Limited Population/ Limited Volunteers (see map)open.
- Limited Leadership
 - Dick Feldmann – Trail Maintenance Coordinator
 - Tom McCray – Blowing Crew Lead



- Proposal: Purchase of commercial grade LONG pole saw
 - Miami Valley Power, Corwin quoted Stihl HT131 15' pole saw \$700.

MOTION: Dick made a motion to spend \$700 to purchase Stihl HT131 pole saw from Miami Valley Power.

Ron seconded

Motion approved

Q U O T A T I O N

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Miami Valley Power Equipment
814 Corwin Ave
Waynesville, Oh 45068 USA
Phone #: (513)897-0523

PHONE #:
CELL #:
ALT. #:
P.O.#:
TERMS: **Cash**
SALES TYPE: **Quote**

DATE: **6/9/2023**
ORDER #: **21338**
CUSTOMER #: **100001**
CP: **AJ**
LOCATION: **1**
STATUS: **Active**

BILL TO 100001
CASH SALE
OH

SHIP TO
CASH SALE
OH

MFR	PRODUCT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	QTY	PRICE	NET	TOTAL
STI	HT 131	HT131 PRUNING SAW	1	\$769.99	\$693.99	\$693.99

Prices reflected on this quote are valid for 30 days and while current supplies last. However, prices are subject to change if the program or promotion the prices were quoted under is no longer in effect.

SUBTOTAL: **\$693.99**
TAX: **\$46.84**
ORDER TOTAL: \$740.83

FLMSP ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Annual Meeting, Dick Feldmann

- Occurred Sunday May 7th at 4:30-6:30 at Waldenschmidt Homestead

Board Membership, Dick Feldmann

- Following board was elected at Annual Meeting
- Dick Feldmann, President 2022-2023, will run for two more years (2023-2025)
- Ron Gorley agreed to be Vice President until May 2024, completing Steve's term.
- Bill Brown, Secretary 2022-2024
- Becky Retzer, Treasurer 2022-2023, will run for two more years (2023-2025)
- Bruce Cortright 2021-2023, will run for two more years (2023-2025)
- Larry Bloomfield 2022-2024
- Fritz Buschmann 2022-2024

MOU Addendum with ODNR

- Finalized May 19th

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

Summer Volunteer Picnic, Linda Buschmann

- Cookout for volunteers occurred June 3rd at Morrow train station. Approximately 40 volunteers attended. Bob Glubzinski and Pat Kline handled the grills.

Proposed Future Volunteer Events, Linda Buschmann

- Fall Volunteer Recognition Picnic
 - September 10th
 - Morgan's Riverside Campgrounds
 - Food to be donated by vendors
 - Budget, \$200 for paper products utensils, condiments, etc.
 - Holiday Party
 - Discuss further and confirm need.
 - December 2nd or 3rd.
 - Little River Bar and Grill in Oregonia
 - Proposed budget \$750-\$1000
 - Raffels Catering, 10160 Reading Road
 - Proposed budget \$1500-1700
- o Board polled if they think this event should be held. 4 no/ 2 yes/ 1 abstain**
o Some members felt the three events we have are enough.
o ACTION: Is there another event we could do in its place? Becky, Dick and Linda will discuss other alternatives.

Volunteer Status, Dick Feldmann

- Active Volunteers: 114
- ODNR Volunteer Agreement forms
 - ODNR requested all volunteers complete the new (as of February 2022) Volunteer Agreement Forms.
 - Forms sent to active individual volunteers.
 - As of last month:
 - 69 volunteers have completed the new forms.
 - 39 are still pending.
- Next step is to send out a standard volunteer information packet.
 - ODNR Volunteer handbook
 - "FLMSP Rules and Requests", to be written.

Volgistics, Becky Retzer

- Program is now sending out on the 1st of the month updated volunteer lists to leads.
- Averaging 2-3 new applicants per month. Applicants are being notified within a week via a phone call from Becky, then ODNR form is sent. Once received applicant is moved for "applicant" to active.
- Need to send out reminder to use VicNet.
- Goal is to have the majority of our leads sending out their volunteer emails through Volgistics by end of 2023.

Kings HS Service Day, Becky Retzer

- Monday, September 9/11/2023
- Projects? How many seniors? How many Chaperones?
- FLMSP Lead?
- **Becky asks team members and leaders for ideas for this group to work on.**

TRAIL CONDITION & DRAINAGE

Fence repair, Rich Easterly

- Extensive fence repair completed on north half of trail this spring.
- Less repair needed on south half.
- So, caught up with fence repair.

MM and Stop painting, Rick Forrester

- All the southern mile markers have been repainted but not the stripes and stop ahead.
- **Working Thu. starting at MM33 heading north.**

Graffiti at I-275 overpass.

- Trail user reported to David Kennedy, Loveland City Manager who passed on to us.
- Bruce corrected



Other, Rick Forrester

- Hemlock dead-headed at powerlines
- Ditch reclamation at Rt. 350
- Wildlife continues to thrive.
- **Rick asked Casey for gravel when she gets back from vacation after next week.**



AMENITIES/CONVENIENCE

Morrow, Dick Feldmann, Becky Retzer

- Rest and information station going into Phegley Park in 2023 paid for by Appletree Pet Clinic.
- Status – kiosk & bench
 - Bench installed.
 - The kiosk under roof. Working display cases.
- Pollinator garden has been planted.
 - Garden was very dry – asked Caroline to give FLMSp access to the locked faucet by restroom so a volunteer may water 1-2x per week dependent on weather. Waiting for response.
- Trees – planted and drying out.
 - Rick Forrester's team removed stumps from tree removal.
 - Purchased Tree Watering Rings for the larger trees
 - Reminded Caroline of need of deep watering
 - Have budget to purchase more trees to be planted in the Fall if Morrow waters what is currently planted.

Kiosks, Becky Retzer

- All but Loveland have updated QR codes requested by ODNR to be included. QR code directs user to Little Miami State Park with an option to open map. There is a FLMSp link.
- Need to re-stain many of our kiosks.
 - Valspar solid exterior stain and sealer, color: PineBark

Portable Restrooms, Dick Feldmann

- Miami Valley Restroom now being serviced twice a week.
- Spring Valley portable restroom has been replaced.
- Rumpke charging us \$500 for destroyed restroom, Spring Valley ACTS agreed to split the cost with us.

BEAUTY

Pollinator Gardens, Becky Retzer, Rick Forrester

- MM 19.9 Oregonia Pollinator Prairie
 - Seeds are beginning to grow.
 - Will need to reseed in Fall
- MM 39 under power lines was seeded March 2nd

Park Entry Signs, Dick Feldmann

- No change
- Proposing new signage at all entry points.
- Currently surveying every intersection (46 intersections, two set of entry signs at each intersection) and creating a pictorial inventory of the signs at the intersections. Have completed capturing pictures of every intersection.

OUTREACH

Miami Valley Regional Active Transportation Committee Meeting, Dick Feldmann

- June 9th, Xenia City Administration Building

- Sponsored by Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission

Ohio Low to High Bike Trail, Dick Feldmann

- Jim Cook of Simon Kenton Pathfinders (Champaign and Logan Counties)
- Ohio Low to High Trail from Ohio River (lowest point in Ohio) to Bellefontaine Campbell Hill (1,549ft, highest point in Ohio)
- 125 miles almost completely off road except for separate bike lanes on Rt. 540 between Bellefontaine to Campbell Hill.
- Not exactly 14,000 ft, but it's a cute marketing idea.

50th Anniversary of the National Scenic River designation of the Little Miami River, Dick Feldmann

- June 10th, Washington Mill Park, Bellbrook, Ohio
- Little Miami Watershed Network (Hope Taft)
- Dick Feldmann supported ODNR display table with Mike Norman

Spring Valley Proclaimed a Trail Town, Dick Feldmann

- Buckeye Trail Association
- June 17th, Spring Valley

SAFETY

Intersections

- Start keeping an eye on brush growth blocking site lines at intersections.
- **Bruce asked if the state is working with Jim Mason to do honeysuckle removal. Casey said ODNR buys the Roundup and Jim does the spraying. Casey suggested we should also be spraying the Poison Hemlock, but not with Roundup.**

MOTION: Bruce made a motion to speed \$500 for two new tractor tires. Allocate up to \$500 for two new tractor tires.

Bill seconded

Motion approved

- **Casey: We should use one uniform color to paint graffiti on fences. Gray recommended. since it blends well and you cannot tell it was painted.**

FUTURE GENERAL BOARD MEETINGS

July General Board Meeting will be Wednesday July 12th, 7:00-8:30 PM on MS Teams.

September Board Meeting will be in person.

MOTION: Dick made a motion to adjourn.

Becky seconded

Meeting adjourned