

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
General Board Meeting 11/8/2023
MS Teams Video Conference
Meeting Agenda & Presentation - Minutes**

Minutes

Motions

Actions

AGENDA / STRATEGIC PLAN.

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

Call to Order: Dick Feldmann

Introduction of Board:

xDick Feldmann	President
xRon Gorley	Vice President
xBecky Retzer	Treasurer
xBill Brown	Secretary
xLarry Bloomfield	Member at Large
xBruce Cortright	Member at Large
Fritz Buschmann	Member at Large
xRick Forrester	
xMike Norman	ODNR
xCasey Marcum	ODNR

Introduction of Members and Guests:

Approval of Minutes: Bill Brown

- **October Board Meeting, distributed October 20th.**
- **MOTION: Bill made a motion to approve Oct. 11th minutes.**
- **Dick seconded**
- **Motion Approved**

Treasurer's Report, Becky Retzer

FLMSP CASH ON HAND	09/31/23	10/31/23	
Unrestricted	146,012	149,277	3,265
Restricted	18,088	16,707	-1,381
Memorial Benches	2,707	6,707	4,000
Morrow Rest & Info Station	5,381	0	-5,381
Grandin Rest & Info Station	10,000	10,000	-
Reserved	259	259	-
Pollinator Garden	259	259	-
Savings Account	42,533	42,539	6
CD(s)	81,501	81,853	352
Receivables	183	0	-183
Total	164,542	166,243	1,701

P&L Comparison	YTD 10/2023	YTD 9/2023
Revenue	37,699	72,574
Expenses	44,183	58,526
Net Operating Revenue	-6,485	14,048

Treasurer Narrative, Becky Retzer

- Financials emailed to Board on 11/07/2023
 - Dick and Becky had a conference call with Hanna from Fermann.
 - Dick worked on revamping our chart of accounts focusing on expenses.
 - Becky wanted to move some of the administrative expenses to programs to offset our high administrative percentage.
 - Fermann Staun & Company: 990 Received
 - Emailed to Board on 11/06
 - Motion to accept 990
 - They took FLMSP numbers and applied them how the IRS would like to see it.
- MOTION: Becky made a motion to accept 990 Form from Fermann Staun & Company, CPA.**
- Dick seconded**
- Motion Approved**
- Email votes:
 - Pay yearly contract with Advantage Storage \$1,788.00
 - Motion approved 10/20/2023
 - Pay Fermann Staun and Co. for preparation of our 990 \$850.00
 - Motion approved 10/20/2023
 - Upcoming expenses for December/January:
 - Navigate Tomorrow – Annual Web Hosting 1/1

- Philadelphia Insurance (due mid-January)
- **Rick: Does the insurance policy cover the tools in the cache? Becky says she lists the high dollar items like the bump grinder and we do keep an inventory on the website that Dick says he keeps up to date.**
- IRS Mileage Rate (not yet posted for 2024)

ODNR, Mike Norman, Casey Marcum

Staff

- Casey is on her own till spring.
- **Casey wants to mow the trail one more time this season.**
- **Casey helped Bruce and the south crew cut honeysuckle this week. They need help chipping in the next few weeks.**
- **We want to fill the trail slip near Camp Denison, but Casey says the truck needs new tires before it's available to haul the cold patch.**
- **She will do a multi day effort to chip brush along the trail.**

Park sponsored Volunteer Appreciation

- **Thanks to Mike and the crew at Cowan Lake for the Volunteer Appreciation dinner.**

Middletown Rd. bridge (MM 16.5)

- Contract for bridge reclamation is out for bid.
- Part of RFP is that we will reclaim the boards for future fence repair.
- Best bids are unable to start till blacktop operations open in spring.
- Steel plates are holding up well.
- **Asphalt plants start closing this time of year. They wanted to charge the state an \$18,000 convenience fee, so it will be scheduled for next year.**

O'Bannon bridge (MM 41.5)

- Bridge is closed as of October 3.
- Demolition has begun.
- Rich Easterly worked with contractor and Casey to recover the railing lumber for future fencing projects.
- **Great cooperation with Loveland and project partners. Good progress. Owner of the construction company, Prius, is an avid trail rider and is very supportive of this project.**
- **Mike repeated his appreciation of the FLMSP attending the dinner and supporting the State Parks.**

Trail slip at I-71 Jeremiah Morrow Bridge (MM 22.1)

- No change.
- Mike, ODNR Engineers and ODOT continuing discussions a long-term solution to correct the issue.
- Trying to resolve a requirement for a detour during the work where no appropriate detour is available.

Trail slip at Glendale-Milford Rd (MM 50)

- Investigating taking on leveling the blacktop as a joint park staff and FLMSP volunteer project.
- **We will do a cold patch temporary fix once Casey can get the truck after new tires are installed.**
- **There has been some discussion about purchasing a compactor. Ron says a drum compactor produces better results than a plate compactor. The drum compactors are expensive, \$7-8K vs. a plate compactor is only a few thousand dollars.**
- **Rental plate compactor is \$45 / day. There are walk-behind roller compactors for \$190 / day.**

OUTREACH

Funding from Legislature, Ron Gorley

- For pavement replacement.
- Project funding request for \$296,500 has been submitted to Warren County Chamber Alliance
- **Present to Warren County Chamber Alliance on Nov. 16th.**
- **Ron would like FLMSP commitment for \$50K by the time of this meeting.**
- Project vetting process expected to start in December.
- July 2024 is when the Ohio Legislature will pass the capital budget.
- Motion:
 - Whereas Ron and Dick had a conference call with Matt Davis who recommended that our request for capital funding would go over better if we showed our own commitment in the work.
 - Whereas Dick reached out to FLMSP board members and received support for committing our own funds of \$50k.

MOTION: Dick made a motion to reserve and commit to applying \$50k to this project if the state capital budget grants FLMSP \$100k or more, making the project viable.

Ron seconded

Motion Approved

FLMSP ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Grants, Becky Retzer

- Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District
- We were awarded up to \$10,000 (our proposal was for 8K)
- Begins 1/01/2024
- We have 2 years to complete
- Greenfield Farms to provide materials and finish the work other than possibly collaborating with S. Lebanon on use of equipment
- Grant includes signage and poster for Kiosk.
- **Being installed by Zoar Rd and S. Main St.**
- **We will pay and Warren County Conservation will reimburse us.**
- **FLMSP will be responsible for upkeep, including thinning out plants.**
- **Majority of the cost is the labor to prepare the site.**

- Dick asked if the landscaper could give the Board a presentation of the design. Becky has the design submitted for the grant, but thinks the landscaper would agree to present it.
- Ron: How much is on LMSP Property and how much on S. Lebanon property? Becky is not sure, but believes it is state property. Mike confirmed that it is.
- Becky will ask the landscaper to present to the board in Jan.



EarthShare, Dick Feldmann

- Provides our access to Combined Federal Campaign and Ohio State Campaign.
- Applications completed for both campaigns.

2024 Donor Campaign, Dick Feldmann

- Plan for Giving Tuesday
 - November 28, 2023
 - Design post for facebook/twitter.
 - Letter sent to Janet to go out via Constant Contact.

Giving Tuesday TrailMail message

Thank you for your past interest and support to the Friends of the Little Miami State Park. On this Giving Tuesday, we are kicking off our 2024 donor campaign.

Our 100% Volunteer non-profit would like to share with you some of the major plans we have for our Scenic trail for 2024.

- 1) Grandin Road trailhead – informational kiosk, benches, shelter & more
- 2) Pollinator gardens/prairies at more locations along the trail.
- 3) Replace/refresh the park entry signs at all road crossings for over 50 miles of the trail. The new signs will provide consistency as well as highlight the bike trail being designated US Bike Trail Route 21, Ohio Bike Trail Route 1, and a National Recreation Trail.

We will continue our on-going projects of trail blowing, providing portable restrooms approximately every 10 miles, fence repair, hot-line reporting of downed trees and general trail maintenance.

Thanks to your help, the Little Miami Scenic Bike Trail was rated as the second-best rail trail in the country by noted bloggers and bike tourists Roland & Julianna. See their presentation of our trail at the following YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/UEcdSz-BVxc>

Please consider continuing your membership. Any donations received on or after Giving Tuesday will be credited to your 2024 membership in the Friends of the Little Miami State Park.

You can donate on-line at LittleMiamiStatePark.org or by sending a check to
Friends of the Little Miami State Park
9378 Mason Montgomery Rd., STE 395
Mason OH 45040-8827

TRAIL CONDITION & DRAINAGE

King Ave/Grandin Rd/Peters Cartridge factory (MM 35.3)

- Trail Closure at Peters Cartridge.
- Tri-State Trails asked Warren County Engineer directly. Received following:

“We are hopeful to have King Ave/Grandin Road and the LMST back open in early December of this year. We are going to need to have days like today with good temperature and not much rain for this to happen. If it turns cold or we run into a lot of rain, we will probably be looking at opening everything back up in April of next year due to the temperatures needed for placing asphalt.”

Time-lapse tracking of bridge repair, Bill Brown

- Three camera posts and supporting web page ordered. Awaiting arrival.
- O'Bannon Creek bridge.
- King Ave/Grandin Rd. bridge.
- Time stamped photos of status/progress.
- Create link on our web site to photos.

Blower Crews, Dick Feldmann

- Weekly trail blowing is continuing.
- Tom and Dick discussing about \$500 of improvements to the Roxanna Cache.
 - Another set of shelves purchased.

- Hand blower fixed.
- Also, fencing lumber recovered from O'Bannon Bridge work and stored at Roxanna.

Future, Dick Feldmann

- Monkey Bar entrance at Fosters
 - Reached out to Warren County Engineer. They said they have no plans in the next few years to redesign the Foster area.
 - **Becky had some landscaping ideas for this area. She would like a pollinator garden here in the future and the burning bushes need to be trimmed back. Rick says the crew will do this in the next few weeks.**
 - **Mike says the issues between the Monkey Bar and the State have not been resolved.**
- Foster Old 3C Highway.
 - Warren County upgrade to Bear Run Lift Station, Fosters Lift Station and the sewer line between the lift stations that runs on the side of the Old 3C Highway bridge.
 - This will include a replacement of the sewer line that crosses under the trail at Fosters.
 - Project is in the environmental impact study phase.
- Route 48 bridge over Little Miami River
 - In planning & community outreach stage.
- Sewer Project, South Lebanon
 - Ron and Dick Met with Jerry Haddix, City Administrator, City of South Lebanon.
 - Project involves new sewer lines from Lebanon Wastewater Treatment Plant on Mason Morrow Millgrove Rd. across river at Lebanon Countryside Trail, into S Lebanon. It then will continue back to State Park and up the bike trail shy of a mile.
 - South of **Main St.**, route will go under bike trail several times.
 - North of **Main St.**, route will be directly under bike trail for 0.9 mile.
 - Project in the budget phase but goal is for construction to start in 2024 and run through 2025. Bike trail closure still to be scheduled out.

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

Proposed Future Volunteer Events, Linda Buschmann via Dick Feldmann

- Holiday Gift
- **Partner with Corporate LaRosa's**
 - Provide each active volunteer a large 2 topping pizza
- Working to send gift certificates out early December.

Volgistics, Becky Retzer

- Andrea is willing to take over the onboarding. Hope to meet with her next week. Will need FLMSF email for her to use.

Volunteer Status, Dick Feldmann, Don Schweitzer

- 126 active volunteers
- 2-22 ODNR Volunteer Form

- 105 have completed the latest ODNR volunteer form (or are management task only)

AMENITIES/CONVENIENCE

Foster Tool Cache, Rick Forrester

- Tool Cache now has lights



Portable Restrooms, Dick Feldmann

- Winter Restrooms (Corwin, Morrow, Fosters) were delivered October 31st.
- **Dick asked Bruce to check the signage at the restroom in Miamiville to see if it needs replacing. Bruce thinks it does. Dick will get a sign made.**

BEAUTY

Pollinator Gardens, Becky Retzer, Rick Forrester

- MM 19.9 Oregonia Pollinator Prairie
 - Rethinking about planting seeds again - looking into an educational garden area that would represent what native Americans would be using for medicinal, dyes, food.
- MM 39.1 under power lines doing well
- **Beck asked Rick to have (volunteer) update his volunteer paperwork.**
- **Dick talked to Jim Yockey, a volunteer, and he said the website has old forms. Dick notified Janet and she updated them.**
- **Bruce: Our combi pole saw attachments are not oiling. Bruce checked YouTube and found chips can plug oil passages and oil pump.**

Park Entry Signs, Dick Feldmann

- Finally finished cataloging pictorial sign inventory.
- Proposing new signage at all entry points.
- **Hoping to have new sign ideas and pricing in Jan. 2024.**

SAFETY

FUTURE GENERAL BOARD MEETINGS

No December Board Meeting.

January General Board Meeting will be Wednesday January 10th, 7:00-8:30 PM on MS Teams.

- **Electric bike discussion. Ron says Class 1 and 2 are allowed (pedal assist and all electric under 20 MPH), but Class 3 are not allowed. Mike says this has been an issue with increasing concern and comments from park users.**
- **MOTION: Dick made a motion to adjourn.**
- **Bill seconded**
- **Meeting adjourned**