

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
General Board Meeting 4/10/2024
MS Teams
Meeting Agenda & Presentation- minutes**

Minutes

Motions

Actions

AGENDA / STRATEGIC PLAN.

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

Call to Order: Dick Feldmann

Introduction of Board:

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

Introduction of Members and Guests:

Robbie Trace	ODNR
Casey Marcum	ODNR
Tiffany DeChant-Hunt	ODNR
Rick Forrester	Mid-South Maintenance Manager
John Telintelo	Far-South Maintenance

Approval of Minutes: Bill Brown

- February Board Meeting, distributed March 1st.
- Minutes have been caught up on the website and are now being posted

MOTION: Bill made a motion to approve March minutes

Ron seconded

Motion Approved

Treasurer's Report: Becky Retzer

FLMSP CASH ON HAND	01/31/24	02/29/24	
Unrestricted	180,086	181,253	1167
Restricted	24,026	24,026	0
Memorial Benches	4,026	4,026	0
Pavement Fund	10,000	10,000	0
Grandin Rest & Info Station	10,000	10,000	0
Reserved	259	259	0
Pollinator Garden	259	259	0
Savings Account	42,561	42,568	7
CD(s)	132,226	132,674	448
Receivables	64	64	
Total	204,371	205,538	1,167

P&L Comparison	YTD 3/2023 2024	YTD 2/2024
Revenue	9,253	12,725
Expenses	12,646	9,571
Net Operating Revenue	-4,392	3,154

Treasurer Narrative, Becky Retzer

- Financials emailed to Board on 04/09/2024.
- Working on new chart of accounts – plan to send to Board by 4/17/24.
- Fermann & Co will not work on our tax filings until May.
- D&O Insurance due May.
- **No benefits to depreciating equipment since we are a non-profit organization.**
- **Dick received an email from D&O insurance asking if we are approving the policy as is. Fritz says we should look into cybersecurity as an addition to policy.**
- **Dick suggested we approve it as is and look into cybersecurity insurance this summer.**

ODNR, Casey Marcum

Management

- Park Administration Changes.
- **Tiffany DeChant-Hunt, the park manager for Caesars Creek, has picked up Little Miami as a second park she manages.**

- Clint Tellep, the Assistant Park Manager at Caesars Creek is now also the assistant park manager for the Little Miami. His primary responsibilities will be Caesar Creek but will be on call for when Tiffany is out.
- All park and administrative business should go through Tiffany (and not Clint) at this time.
- Maintenance business should continue directly to Casey.
- Casey Marcum will continue as Little Miami State Park maintenance lead and has moved to Caesar Creek.
- ODNR Native Plant greenhouse
 - Let's say "Will we proceed..." Not "We will proceed...", since it is very much up in the air.
 - Tiffany reported that she has the following Friends organizations at Caesar Creek
 - Nature Center Association of Caesar Creek
 - Caesar Creek Horsemen Association
 - Cincinnati Off-Road Association (CORA)
 - Friends of Caesar Creek Campground
 - Friends of Ohio Canine
- The move was for the benefit of the park and FLMSF.
- Tiffany lives in Loveland and is very familiar with the park and frequent user.
- Dick and Ron meeting with Tiffany next Wed.
- Who is the ODNR administrator we should send new volunteer applications to? Tiffany said to send them to her.

Request for Support

- Casey has moved to Caesar Creek.
- Casey is asking if FLMSF can provide a backpack blower that did not transition from Cowan Lake in the move.
 - Miami Valley Power: \$567
- Casey has access to a dump truck at Caesar Creek.
- Main entrances at Hedges and Spring Valley and Corwin have been mowed so far.
- Will start mowing the rest of the trail next week.

MOTION: Dick made a motion to buy a backpack blower for \$567.

Fritz seconded

Motion Approved

Staffing

- Two part time staff budgeted.
- Jimmy Dean hired and working. He was working with Casey, but stayed at Cowan Lake when Casey moved since he lives near there.
- Casey has Greg working for her now on LMSP.
- Fiscal year for ODNR starts in July. Tiffany has money in the budget to have a person work with Casey and he may be pulled for other park duties when needed. (Jack Pulsar sp)

- **Caesar Creek has all returning staff who are experienced. This will help support Casey working out of Caesar Creek.**

Grandin Road Amenities.

- On Hold by ODNR.

ODNR Native Plant greenhouse (Cowan Lake)

- Signed Memorandum of Understanding provided to Caden from FLMSP and Friends Caring for Cowan Lake SP.
- ODNR has project on hold till October.
- **Given Administrative change, what's the way forward?**
- **We will proceed to spend \$1800 with Cowan Lake greenhouse since the administrative change?**
- **Dick says Cowan Lake is closer to the LMSP trail. Dick will talk to Rick when he returns to discuss this.**

Todd Fork bridge (Morrow MM 28.2)

- Bridge maintenance and painting.
- Detour in place.
- **Casey: She believes the end of May was the scheduled completion, but she would have to check her email to be sure. Detour is easy there and a concrete sidewalk was installed for trail users to get around.**

O'Bannon bridge (Loveland MM 41.5)

- Bridge is closed as of October 3.
- Steel structure has been installed. Concrete poured.
- On schedule for May 24th completion and opening ceremony.

<https://www.chronolog.io/site/FLM101>

Caesar Creek / Middletown Rd. bridge (Oregonia MM 16.5)

- Contract for bridge reclamation required re-awarded.
- Work will start this spring.
- Part of RFP is that we will reclaim the boards for future fence repair.
- Steel plates are holding up well.

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.

Trail slip at Gladys Run (MM 4.5)

- Slip is within 2 inches of pavement.
- Gladys Run is covered by scenic rivers restrictions.

FLMSP ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Annual Meeting, Dick Feldmann

- To occur Sunday, April 28 at 4:30 at Waldschmidt Homestead
 - 7567 Glendale Milford Road, Camp Dennison, OH 45111
 - <https://www.dar.org/national-society/historic-sites-and-properties/christian-waldschmidt-homestead>
- Everyone can attend but for
 - Bill unavailable
 - Bruce - ?? **is available**
 - Rick - ?? **Out if town, Will check when he returns**
- Dinner
 - Dick Feldmann – Sandwiches
 - Becky Retzer – grape salad

Board Succession, Dick Feldmann

- President: Dick Feldmann – 2023-25
 - Plans to step down to vice president in 2025
- **Vice-President:** Ron Gorley – 2022-~~24~~
 - Is willing to continue as vice-president until 2025
- **Secretary:** Bill Brown – 2022-~~24~~
- Treasurer: Becky Retzer – 2023-25
- **At Large:** Fritz Buschmann – 2022-~~24~~
 - Intends to resign from the board this year.
 - Nominating Rick Forrester, Mid-South Maintenance lead
- **At Large:** Larry Bloomfield – 2022-~~24~~
 - Intends to resign from the board this year.
 - Nominating John Telintelo, Far-South Maintenance volunteer
- At Large: Bruce Cortright – 2023-25

S Lebanon Rain Garden, Becky Retzer,

- Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District awarded up to \$10,000 for rain garden along trail at S. Main St. and Zoar Road. Begins 1/01/2024 and 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.
- Work will start in late August and plants will go in in the fall.

Trail usage counters, Ron Gorley, Dick Feldmann

MOTION: Ron moved that we purchase one Eco-Counter PYRO evo counter with a mounting post. Cost is \$4,300 and will be purchased by Tri-State Trails, who already have an account with Eco-Counter. We will reimburse Tri-State Trails for the full cost. Justification for this motion is in the amended board meeting notes from March 2024.

Larry seconded

Motion approved.

MOTION: Ron moved that we contract with Tri-State Trails (TST) for trail counting and analysis for 2024. \$4,140 cost includes labor and expenses for TST to count at 26 locations along the trail and \$540 direct cost paid to Eco-Counter for data transmission. Note that the cost for TST labor and expenses is \$520 more than it was in 2022 and 2023. Contract to be paid 80% now and the remaining 20% when the 2024 report is published.

Bruce seconded

Motion approved.

- **Becky asked if these counters should be on our insurance. Ron suggests they should be.**
- **Ron will send board members a copy of these invoices for the counter and counting analysis.**
- Also received the final 2023 report. With this, we can release the final 20% for the 2023 monitoring. The final count is 1.509 million (an increase of 1.85% from 2022).
- **Peaked at 1.8 million users in 2020.**
- **Ron will send the 2023 report to the board members along with the invoices. There will be three attachments in all.**

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

Proposed 2024 Volunteer Events, Dick Feldmann

- Volunteer Cookout scheduled for June 1st at Phegley Park, Morrow
 - Pat Klein is organizer.
- Fall Picnic at Morgan Campgrounds for October.
 - **Need someone to organize.**
- Winter Volunteer gift
 - LaRosa's gift certificates worked well last year.

AMENITIES/CONVENIENCE

Park Entry Signs, Dick Feldmann

- Proposing new signage at all entry points. Trail has
 - 33 Major Intersections – Require full sign tree in each direction.
 - 11 Minor Intersections – Requires just the Park sign in each direction
 - 2 Terminations – Already has a large park sign but needs the trail and rules signs only in one direction.
- Signs needed
 - **90** New LMSP park signs
 - **80** Route signs
 - **28** Street signs to replace missing street signs
 - **80** New Rules Signs
- Phase 1. Replace State Park signs
 - **90 signs have been received from A&A Safety.**
- Attaching signs
 - Need ~1200 screws to attach signs at 4 screws per sign.
 - Lag screws ¼ x 1.5" are ~\$0.50 each
 - Security screws ¼ x 1.5" are ~\$1.00 each

- Recommend we use the Security screws: Button Torx head Stainless Steel.
- **Casey: Her dad worked at a sign company and she has some suggestions based on her experience. Security screws and four screws per sign were two of those suggestions. Also suggested using stainless steel.**

9



- Motion to purchase 1000 of the security screws and washers for not to exceed \$1,000.

MOTION: Dick made a motion to buy security screws and washers not to exceed \$1,000.

Bruce seconded

Motion Approved

- Also working issue that current park signs attached with same lag bolts and nuts that attach stop signs.
- Additional sign trees
 - 7 Intersections/Entry Points
 - Motion to purchase 6"x6"x10' posts passed by e-mail vote. Posts are being held by Eads Fence.

MOTION: Dick made a motion by email to purchase 6x6x10 posts.

Motion Approved by board member email voting

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- Phase 2. Route signs and street signs
 - Still trying to get permission to use "National Recreation Trail" emblem on route signs.
 - Like to get A&A Safety working on replacement street name signs. Budget 28 signs at \$42.00 each. Move to purchase signs and budget \$1,200.

MOTION: Dick made a motion to purchase 28 street name signs for \$1,200 from A&A

Safety

Ron seconded

Motion Approved

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

- Rick Canavan, project manager.
- Projects on hold by ODNR.
- Future Amenities
 - Sign Tree

- Information Kiosk
- Picnic Shelter
- Benches
- Memorial to Steve

Restrooms

- Restroom buildings opened by April 1st.
- Portable restrooms removed from Corwin, Morrow, Fosters.
- Miamiaville restroom now maintained twice a week.

TRAIL CONDITION & DRAINAGE

Funding for pavement replacement, Ron Gorley

- Project funding request for \$296,500 was submitted to Warren County Chamber Alliance who submitted to Ohio legislature as 2nd priority on their list.
- Ohio house passed their capital budget in an expedited manner. Only capital funding project included in the budget from Warren County is the \$13.75 million for the Cincinnati Open Tennis Tournament.
- Chamber Alliance has asked for a reformatting of our request to match Ohio Senate requirements. Ron provided.
- **Ron contacted Senator Wilson's office and was told nothing more we need to do and everything is proceeding.**

Todd Fork bridge (Morrow MM 28.2)

- See above

Route 42 Bridge over trail at Spring Valley (MM 7.0)

- Bridge Replacement began 15 February.
- Managed by ODOT District 8.
- <https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/projects/projects/102746>
- ODOT reports no closure of the trail is intended for this project. However, there will likely be some intermittent, short-term closures, and specifically when US 42 will be closed for two, separate weekends for beam setting. They will be constructing a trail canopy under 42 with lighting. So that's the good news. **No canopy has been installed.**
- The downside is that up to 6 closures of up to 5 days each are authorized in the project plan, and the contractor only needs to give one week's notice to do that. Hopefully they do not decide to use all of those closures.
- "The interim completion for the project is November 2024, and the final completion is June 2025."

Route 73 Bridge over trail at Corwin (MM 14.5)

- Bridge Replacement began 4 March.
- Managed by ODOT District 8.

- <https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/about-us/news/district-8/warren+county+bridge+rehab+project+set+to+begin+on+s.r.+73+02+14+24>
- “The Little Miami Scenic Trail, however, will remain open to bicyclists and pedestrians.”
- “The project is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2024.”

O'Bannon Creek bridge (Loveland MM 41.5)

- See above.

Caesar Creek bridge at Middletown Rd. (Oregonia MM 16.5)

- See above.

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

- See above.

Trail slip at Glendale-Milford Rd (MM 50)

- See above.

Trail slip at Glady Run (MM 4.5)

- See above.

Future, Dick Feldmann

- 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.
- 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.

OUTREACH

Trail Condition Reporting, Dick Feldmann

- The seven trail conditions posted to FLMSWP web site and provided to Janet and team for newsletter and social media on March 26.

Other Outreach, Dick Feldmann

- Ohio Legislature 2024 Trails Advocacy Day April 10th at the Ohio Statehouse. Sponsored by Rails to Trails Conservancy. Did not support this year due to other conflicts.
- Miami Valley Bike to Work day Friday May 17th. Dick planning to attend.
- Heritage at Miami Bluffs Health and Wellness Fair 4/27/2024. Dick and Ken Speicher will support.
- Greene County Cycling Classic August 22-24, 2024.

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
- New area at MM 38.5.

SAFETY

FUTURE GENERAL BOARD MEETINGS

Annual Meeting, Sunday April 28th at Waldschmidt Homestead

May General Board Meeting, Wednesday, May 8th on MS Teams.

MOTION: Dick made a motion to adjourn

Bill seconded

Meeting adjourned