

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
General Board Meeting 3/12/2025
Hopewell Day Lodge, Caesar Creek
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. Outreach
8. Beauty
9. Amenities/Convenience
10. Trail Condition & Drainage
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
Rick Forrester	Member at Large
John Telintelo	Member at Large
Bruce Cortright	Member at Large

Introduction of Members and Guests:

Casey Marcum	ODNR
Tiffany DeChant-Hunt	ODNR
Margee Kirkpatrick	
Diane Wright	

Approval of Minutes: Bill Brown

- February Board Meeting, distributed February 16, 2024.

MOTION: Bill made a motion to approve Feb. meeting minutes.

John seconded.

Motion Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Becky Retzer

FLMSP CASH ON HAND	1/31/25	2/28/25	
Unrestricted	125,055	144,706	19,651
Restricted	127,836	147,880	20,044
Memorial Benches	36	0	-36
Pavement Fund	107,800	129,880	22,080
Grandin Rest & Info Station	10,000	10,000	0
Oregonia Educational Garden	10,000	8,000	-2,000
Savings Account	42,636	0	-42,636
CD(s)	163,400	53,897	-109,503
Premier Savings	0	167,155	167,155
Receivables	2,779	2,628	-151
Total	255,670	295,214	39,544

P&L Comparison	YTD 02/24	YTD 02/25
Revenue	9,453	29,672 / 8,592
Expenses	7,466	16,856
Net Operating Revenue	1,987	12,816 / -8,264

Treasurer Narrative – Becky Retzer

- Financials emailed **03/12/2025**
- CD Renewal Dates: LCNB 04/03/25 4.40% Bal. \$53,894.47
- **Motion: Move \$30,000 from LCNB checking to Huntington Premier Plus Savings**
 - Checking will be at \$37,000.
- **This motion was tabled.**
- **Becky will make an email motion later.**

ODNR, Casey Marcum, Tiffany DeChant-Hunt

- **Staffing: Same two people coming back.**
- **LMSP summer staff from last year are Greg and Russ.**

Morgan Property

- Officially announced: Morgan Canoe Livery and Morgan Campground properties are being acquired by ODNR. Land is currently in Miami Conservancy hands.

Staffing

- Casey Marcum, Maintenance Lead

Spring Tree Removal

New Mower

- Order for solid wheels and blower gate completed.

Bridge Repair

- MM6.1 Spring Valley at Bellbrook Ave.
- Culvert before horse farm (near Oregonia)
- Culvert at Oregonia

Grandin Road Land Transfer

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

- ODNR Engineering developing a renovation plan.

Trail slip at Glady Run (MM 4.5)

- No change.

Trail slip at Glendale-Milford Rd (MM 50)

- **Should be referred to as "Trail Slip South of Galbraith Rd. (MM50)"**
- No change.

FLMSP ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Funding for pavement replacement, Ron Gorley

- Repave between South Lebanon and Morrow.
- Ohio capital budget \$200,000
- FLMSP has committed \$50,000
- Major campaign 2024 ~\$**56,000**.
- Major campaign goal for 2025: ~\$**45,000**.

Repavement Fund		
Balance as of 3/10/2025	147,480	Includes FLMP 50,000
Pledges	2,500	Cincy Cycle Club
	1,500	Beck/Glancy
	151,480	SUCCESS

- ODNR received health budget for trail improvements.
 - The funds would be used for the park infrastructure, but probably other issues such as pavement slips or bridge replacement rather than repaving.
- ODNR may use an existing paving contract through ODOT.
- Transfer of funds to ODNR accounting to occur March 31st.
- S. Lebanon expecting to bid out municipal wastewater upgrade, including repaving 0.9 miles of the trail, spring 2025, with work done later in the year.
- **ISSUE: Bridge at MM 32.5 just east of S. Lebanon needs replacement first.**
 - Wood plank across 2 or more RR I-beams
 - Wavy pavement. Clearly has rotten wood.
 - Suspect will need steel plates within next 6 months.
 - Funding?? - **Tiffany will have to ask Melissa about this funding.**
 - **Same as the middletown bridge in scope.**

- o **Bridge steel is narrow so it will be hard to do 14' trail width on the bridge.**

Board Succession, Dick Feldmann

- By Annual Membership meeting in May.
- President: Becky Retzer
- Vice President: Dick Feldmann
- Treasurer: Bill Brown
- Secretary: John Telintelo
- Member: Bruce Cortright
- Member: Rick Forrester
- Member: TBD
- **Becky nominated Kris Allenson to fill the open at-large board position.**

Kabota tractor, Bruce Cortright

- Tractor at Baxla Tractor Sales for annual maintenance.
- Tractor due for the hydro oil to be changed this year. Also needs fuel gauge repair.
- Maintenance quoted out at \$1,000.
- \$1,200 approved by board by e-mail vote 1/27/2025.

MOTION: Becky made a motion to increase maintenance approval to \$1500.

Bill seconded.

Motion Approved.

Excavator, Rick Forester

FLMSP Large Equipment Storage Facility, Rick Forrester

- Facility Committee: Rick Forrester, John Telintelo, Tony Blizniak, Dick Feldmann.
- Meeting Tuesday, March 18 at noon at Monkey Bar.

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

Volunteer database, Becky Retzer

- Looking for volunteer to manage Volgistics and onboarding process for new volunteers as well as reach-outs to current volunteers.
- Met with Kris Allenson to review Volgistics/Volunteer Coordinator. We are meeting again on Thursday, March 13.
- **We have a 30% response rate when we send interested volunteers the ODNR form to fill out.**
- **Hopefully Kris will help with this issue and scheduling volunteer events.**
- **Becky is looking for a leader to lead another volunteer team on days other than the existing Tue or Thu. teams. It would require job identification and coordination with existing teams for access to equipment.**

2025 Volunteer Events, Dick Feldmann

- Ideas? Planning? Leadership?

OUTREACH

Great Parks Branding Meetings, Bill Brown

- Great Parks is working on an initiative to create a park name for the Little Miami corridor, which contains three of our locations: Little Miami Golf Course, Bass Island, and Avoca.

Robert Kroeger, artist fund-raising event, Becky, Ron

- Robert Kroeger, artist, wants to do a fund-raising event for us.
- Possibly in conjunction with opening of Morgan Canoe building?
- **Ron will respond to him to discuss it further.**

Ohio House of Representatives Natural Resource Committee, Dick Feldmann

- March 5th, Columbus Statehouse, Dick and Ron supported.
- Dick presented testimony to the committee supporting Parks and Watercraft budget.

Ohio House of Representatives Budget Committee, Dick Feldmann

- Ron mailed testimony to the committee supporting Parks and Watercraft budget.

Warren County Convention and Visitors Bureau 2024 Annual Partner Meeting, Dick Feldmann

- March 14, 2025, Great Wolf Lodge, Dick supporting.

Miami Valley Regional Active Transportation Committee, Dick Feldmann

- March 17, 2025, 10:00-12:30, Great Council State Park, Dick Supporting.

Warren County Park District Strategic Plan, Dick Feldmann

- Multiple events in different cities. Dick plans to attend the Waynesville meeting but this is optional.

BEAUTY

Pollinator Gardens, Becky Retzer, Rick Forrester

- No change.
- Grant from Appletree Pet Clinic \$10,000.
- MM 19.9 **Oregonia Educational Garden**
- Meeting with Bill Newton on site on 3/12/2025. Goal is to begin in March/April 2025 with soil remediation.
- MM 39.1 under power lines doing well.
- New area at MM 38.5.

AmeriCorps, Becky Retzer

- Abby Rathers from AmeriCorps provided a proposal for Morrow.
- Abby is working on plans for 2 test plantings between S. Lebanon and Morrow where Thursday crew removed honeysuckle. One area will have a ground cover planted to observe if helps with invasives growing. Abby will utilize our database to invite volunteers who indicated they are available in the evening and/or weekends.
- **Becky presented Abby's project description.**

MOTION: Beck made a motion for \$850 to fund this project.

Dick seconded.
Motion approved.

South Lebanon Rain Garden, Becky Retzer

- Invoice sent to Warren County Soil & Water Conservation to get the \$6,000 grant funds.
- Need to make small culvert to divert water from the road into garden, something our volunteers can do.
- Need to design poster for the S. Lebanon Kiosk.
- Warren County to provide signage to put at the rain garden.

Natorp's Donation for Garden, Becky Retzer

AMENITIES/CONVENIENCE

Information Kiosks, Becky Retzer

- Develop new maps.
- Mount permanent signs on metal backing.
- **Final revisions after 3/12 meeting.**
- Need final review by park management.

MOTION: Becky made a motion to print 30+ posters for \$3,200.

Dick seconded.
Motion approved.

Corwin Parking, Dick Feldmann

- Steve Williamson of Red Barn in Corwin has our approval to purchase the material and increase the bike user parking in Corwin.
- Work hasn't started.

Spring Valley

- Bike Pump broke again. Will need to order new hose and valve connection.

Paint Corwin Restrooms, Dick Feldmann

- Awaiting spring

MM39 Prairie Shelter Roof, Rick Forrester

- Needs roof repair.

FLMSP Train ~~Museum~~ Historical Marker, Rick Forrester

- We have the rail, and lots of spikes and plates.

Park Entry Signs, Dick Feldmann

- No Change (due to winter weather)
- Proposing new signage at all entry points. Trail has
 - 45 Intersections
 - 2 Park Boundaries
- Status
 - Someone hit and destroyed sign tree at MM 42.9 Lower River Rd.

- 67 of 92 sign trees complete.
- 9 out of 17 new or replacement sign posts installed.
- Order for additional signs to complete class B intersections received.
- Issue: At Wilmington Rd. crossing, safety fence hit again and damaged. This is where we were going to place the replacement sign tree.
- Dick would like to move the sign tree up the trail on the other side of the culvert to reduce the chance of this repeating.
- Casey would like to keep the STOP sign where it is as we move the sign tree. We can use a metal u-channel post to achieve this.

TRAIL CONDITION & DRAINAGE

Route 73 Bridge over trail at Corwin (MM 14.5)

- Near completion.
- Trail is open. New pavement in construction area.
- Hope Taft expressed concerns about runoff from the Highway.
- Tiffany reported that the work is not finished and that ODNR and ODOT are meeting to discuss these issues.
- Road: New east and west bound lane open.
- 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>

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

- Near completion
- Trail is open.
- Road: New north and south bound lane open.
- Managed by ODOT District 8.
- <https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/projects/projects/102746>

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 Gladys Run (MM 4.5)

- See above.

Middletown Road area, Rick Forrester

- Part of the trail (north of the intersection about 50 feet) is being undercut by either a collapsed drainage pipe or by groundhogs.

SAFETY

FUTURE GENERAL BOARD MEETINGS

April General Board Meeting, Wednesday, April 12th, 7:00 on MS Teams.

Annual Membership Meeting, May 4th, 4:30-6:30, Waldschmidt Homestead.

May General Board Meeting. Should we skip since Annual Meeting on May 4th.

- Board agreed to skip the May 14th board meeting since we're doing the annual meeting on the 4th.

MOTION: Dick made a motion to adjourn

Ron seconded

Meeting adjourned