

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
General Board Meeting 7/9/2025
Virtual - 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. FLMSF Administrative Business
6. Trail Maintenance/Safety
7. Trail Amenities/Convenience
8. Trail Improvements/Beauty
9. FLMSF Volunteer News/Events
10. FLMSF Trail Mail
11. FLMSF Outreach
12. Future General Board Meetings

Call to Order: Becky Retzer

Introduction of Board:

Becky Retzer	President
Dick Feldmann	Vice President
Bill Brown	Treasurer
John Telintelo	Secretary
Rick Forrester	Member at Large
Bruce Cortright	Member at Large
Kris Allenson	Member at Large

Introduction of Members and Guests:

Casey Marcum	ODNR
Tiffany DeChant-Hunt	ODNR
Margee Kirkpatrick	FLMSF Trail Mail
Diane Wright	FLMSF Trail Mail

Approval of Minutes: John Telintelo

- June 11th, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes distributed July 2nd, 2025 by John Telintelo.
MOTION: John made a motion to approve the June Board Meeting minutes.
Dick seconded. Motion Approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bill Brown

- **Checking account and QuickBooks reconciled through June to within \$166 vs. \$3,000 difference at the beginning of the month. Remaining items are being addressed. All expense reimbursements are up-to-date.**
- **Completed a P&L Report for Jan-June 2025. Archived over 5000 emails.**

- **A \$10,000 donation was received from Dr. Robert Reed and is designated for the Miamiville bench and table(s). Donor wishes Miamiville memorial bench to honor Bill Schwin. Tiffany will review placement of picnic table(s) and reply to Bruce. Ron to review and process this memorial.**
- **A \$5,000 donation was received from Thomas Osterhus and is designated for another bump grinder or other trail maintenance equipment. Bruce suggested a PTO-type wood chipper for honeysuckle and smaller 2" -3" tree limbs and brush. The PTO-type chipper requires the Kubota tractor. The chipper is under \$4000, from China, and \$7000 in the USA. Some felt that needing the tractor to operate this equipment hinders its use along entire trail. Bruce will reconsider other equipment and report back at the August meeting. Some suggested new chainsaws or equipment that will remove moss on trail edge with a brush attachment on a rotor tiller. Casey will send out info on that. Cost is \$700 +/-.**

ODNR REPORT: Tiffany DeChant-Hunt, Casey Marcum

Morgan Property Status

- ODNR is acquiring the Morgan Canoe Livery and Morgan Campground properties. The land is currently in the Miami Conservancy hands.

FLMSP ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Record Retention Policy

- **John has revised the record retention policy and emailed a copy to Becky, Dick, and Bill for their initial review. Will discuss in August and finalize.** Current is from 2012 and is very excessive on required record keeping. The goal is to store data using Google Drive, QuickBooks, and digital files. 2012 – 2019 minutes will need to be scanned by Dick and Becky.

Photo Retention

- **Kris will report on photo storage in August. Please put any photos in the Photos folder for her use.**

TRAIL MAINTENANCE/SAFETY

Focuses on preserving the trail's condition, preventing further deterioration, and emphasizing safety. Review of trail slips; bridge repairs or replacement; bump grinding, root cutting, crack filling; drainage swales and culverts; clearing intersection sight lines; equipment purchases and storage caches.

Major Pavement Replacement between South Lebanon and Morrow

- **Tiffany will meet with South Lebanon to discuss the project timeline. ODNR will use an existing paving contract through ODOT. If the project is 4 days, it will be done this summer. If the project is longer, it will be scheduled after Labor Day.**
- The Ohio capital budget \$200,000. FLMSP has delivered \$152,580 to ODNR.
- S. Lebanon expects to bid out municipal wastewater upgrade, including repaving 0.9 miles of the trail, with other work done later. S. Lebanon has blue water lines marked (also into the rain garden)

MM 4.5 - Trail slip at Gladly Run

- **No Change.**

MM 6.1 - Bridge in Spring Valley at Bellbrook Ave.

- **Tiffany stated Project is in Engineering.**

MM 13 - Trail undercut at Middletown Road area

- **Rick stated part of the trail (north of the intersection about 50 feet) is being undercut by either a collapsed drainage pipe or by groundhogs.**
- **Large hole in asphalt nearby. Area may not have an existing culvert.**

MM 18.7 – Culvert before horse farm

- **No Change.**

MM 19.6 – Culvert at Oregonia

- **No Change.**

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

- **Tiffany stated ODNR Engineering has completed a plan.**
- **Project not currently scheduled. Aiming for the fall as trail will be closed.**

MM 33 – Bridge Repair/Replacement at South Lebanon

- **No Change.**

MM 50 - Trail slip at Glendale-Milford Rd

- **No Change.**

FLMSP Large Equipment Storage Facility, Rick Forrester

- Facility Committee: Rick Forrester, John Telintelo, Tony Blizniak, Dick Feldmann.
- **Next step is to finalize structure, design and cost.**
- **Dick will put together formal proposal for Tiffany to take for State review.**
- **Dick asked Rick to provide engineer-stamped bldg. drawings and a site plan.**
- **Rick noted that he has a concern with the low interior height of Crickett bldgs. He will research other manufacturers and finalize in the next month.**

- Proposing prefab 14' x 24' metal structure dropped on site.
- Location: Foster parking lot just north of existing barn and shed.
- Cost (still rough estimates)

Barn kit with delivery.	\$10,500
Site Prep.	\$200
Gravel foundation.	\$200
Gravel compactor	\$200
Roof skylights.	\$500
Solar lighting system	\$500
Security (locks) & alarm	\$200
Miscellaneous	\$500
TOTAL	~\$13,500

- **Phil Obermiller's friend, David Osborne, is involved with the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. He gave Becky a contact to find out how we can apply for a grant for \$20,000. Sarah Weiss has responded "There will be an RFP for community and cultural vibrancy on July 14th with an August deadline and funding would be determined in the fall. Is there a timeframe that you're hoping to secure a grant?**

TRAIL AMENITIES/CONVENIENCE

Focuses on directional aids and places to stop and recharge, consisting of park signage, rest and information kiosks, restrooms, memorial benches, tables, bike stands and pumps, and rain shelters.

Information Kiosks, Becky Retzer

- Metal signs came within \$3200 budget
- ODNR requested we stain cork or remove and stain board. Also requested that in future all kiosks be stained same color. Aim is to be consistent with ODNR branding in Park.
- Foster's Kiosk restained and signs on wood backing –visually posters stand out.



Park Entry Signs, Dick Feldmann

- New signage at all entry points. Trail has 45 Intersections and 2 Park Boundaries. Status - 67 of 92 sign trees complete. 9 out of 18 new or replacement sign posts installed.
- Issue: Sign at south end Oregonia hit and taken down.

Prairie Shelter Roof MM39, Rick Forrester

- Needs roof repair – **Green Roof is desired by the State to be consistent.**

Memorial Program incl. Benches, Ron Gorley

- **Currently have policy for Benches only**
- **Working on several other options i.e. Birdhouses, Sculptures, Peace Poles, Tables for new shelter and elsewhere**
- **Picnic Tables – Ron Gorley**
 - **RJ Thomas (supplier of benches)**
 - **Similar quality as benches**
 - **Room for a plaque \$263**
 - **One is WXT Version build to ADA guidelines for wheelchair accessibility \$1205 + 350 Shipping**
 - **UT table is not ADA accessible \$1026 + 350 shipping**
 - **ODNR uses The Park metal picnic tables, slightly cheaper at 993 but are not hot dipped galvanized.**
 - **Tables are made of expanded metal, rather than recyle plastic.**
 - **No area for plaque**
 - **Bill Brown sent 2 examples he has seen on other trails.**

- New policy needs to list life of item and release from liability for FLMSF when life expectation has been met.
- Songbird and Blue Bird houses approved in June 2025 meeting.



Corwin Restrooms, Dick Feldmann

- Painting to begin as soon as temperature become less humid.
- **Will have new volunteers to do painting.**

Spring Valley

- Bike Pump broke again. Will need to order new hose and valve connection
- **Will order and repair this in coming months.**

TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS/BEAUTY

Enhances the trail beyond its current state with substantial changes, increasing its value, beauty, and overall image over time by creating pollinator gardens, raingardens, tree plantings, river vistas, riverbank restorations, railroad memorabilia elements, and developing strong districts and landmarks.

Pollinator Gardens, Becky Retzer, Rick Forrester

- **MM 19.9 Oregonia Educational Garden**
 - **Becky has found water bladders to use to transport 80 gallons of water at a time. One also given to new volunteer, Micki Anderson and to Kris.**
 - **Recruiting garden plot adopters to help maintain the weeds**
- **Grand Opening scheduled for Wednesday, July 16th at 10:00 a.m. with invites to Applebaums & Eagle Scout, Christopher Todorov. Hope Taft is unable to attend.**
- **MM 39.1 Prairie / Pollinator Garden under power lines doing well.**

AmeriCorps, Becky Retzer

- **Plants are doing well - would like to have Thursday group clear area around the bushes one more time. There is a lot of mullein growing in the area. Since it is not a native, we will remove.**
- **Featured in Facebook post by ODNR on June 1st – Sustainability Spotlight.**

South Lebanon Rain Garden, Becky Retzer

- Blue water lines painted on gravel in center of garden – need to contact S. Lebanon
- Garden is doing great. **Becky will weed.**

FLMSP Train Memorabilia Elements, Rick Forrester

- We have the rail, and lots of spikes and plates. **Rick suggested Foster area.**

FLMSP VOLUNTEER NEWS/EVENTS

New North Crew, Dick Feldmann

- Dick held meeting on at the Mary Cook Library on Saturday, June 28th. Consensus was to plan on Monday mornings.

Volunteer Events, Kris Allenson

- **Summer Volunteer Cookout - We had 28 volunteers attend. Becky said there was a suggestion to do something other than cookout next year.**
- **Annual Volunteer Recognition Picnic – Testerman Park Shelter confirmed for Sunday, October 5th. Becky wrote sponsorship request to Interact for Health to cover meal and extras. We will be informed if awarded by August 15th. Kris recruiting volunteers to solicit gift cards and getting good results.**

FLMSP TRAIL MAIL

Trail Mail, Margee Kirkpatrick / Diane Wright

- **Margee has requested someone to help provide pictures, graphics and proofread. Dick willing to proofread.**
- **Article suggestions are welcomed. As we expand the memorial program to include more than benches, we need description on process for trail lovers who may want to donate and participate in a memorial. Ron Gorley to write up.**
- **Articles about trailside bar / restaurants, events, etc. without endorsing any private business.**
- **Will have an announcement about cancer ride event SUN JULY 27th.**

FLMSP OUTREACH

- **ODNR July 29th Invite from Glen Cobb – Dick Feldmann and Kris Allenson attending. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Watercraft invites partners and friends to the Blue Ribbons and Green Spaces event on July 29th at the Ohio State Fairgrounds, featuring a social hour, networking, and appreciation for collaboration in preserving Ohio's natural resources; attendees must RSVP by July 18th to receive tickets and parking passes. Those who register after July 18th will not receive a parking pass and will need to pick up their passes at the gate between 3 pm and 6 pm on July 29th.**
- **Margee suggested a FLMSP booth at Hamilton Township Cardboard Boat Regatta in early August. Still needs a volunteer.**
- **TriState Trails Webinar, FRI JUL 25, will talk about trail maintenance. Dick to participate representing the 'volunteer model'.**

FUTURE GENERAL BOARD MEETINGS

WED, AUGUST 13TH, 2025 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM on MS Teams

**MOTION: Dick made a motion to adjourn.
Bruce seconded. Motion Approved.**