

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
General Board Meeting
February 11, 2026
Virtual - MS Teams
Meeting Minutes**

Minutes

Motions

Actions

AGENDA / STRATEGIC PLAN

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Administrative Business
5. Trail Maintenance/Safety
6. Trail Amenities/Convenience
7. Trail Improvements/Beauty
8. FLMSPP Volunteer Events
9. FLMSPP Trail Mail
10. FLMSPP Outreach
11. FLMSPP Future 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 ODNR, Members, and Guests:

Tiffany DeChant-Hunt	ODNR
Casey Marcum	ODNR
Margee Kirkpatrick	FLMSPP Trail Mail
Diane Wright	FLMSPP Trail Mail
Ron Gorley	FLMSPP Memorial Program

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: John Telintelo

- Jan 14, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes distributed Jan 19, 2026, by John Telintelo.
MOTION: John made a motion to approve the January Board Meeting minutes.
Bruce seconded. MOTION APPROVED.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bill Brown

- **Bill was absent. We will discuss our insurance policies, hopefully with Fritz in attendance, in March.**
- **Changes to general liability and umbrella policies are things you cannot change. Standard industry exclusions in many cases. Human Trafficking Exclusion. Sexual/Molestation Exclusion.**
- **The insurance company seems to be tightening up the cyber liability exclusions. For the most part, the forms exclude coverage for disclosure of information from the FLMSPP's database. Examples include personal information of current and former members, current and former volunteers, donors, and 3rd-party/vendor information. Becky noted that we do not keep track of credit card information.**

- Insurance companies (some) offer cyber liability insurance to cover losses in the prior paragraph. I suggest that the board discuss cyber insurance with the agent and obtain a quote. A non-profit of our size hopefully is not a target. However, companies that the FLMSP deals with may become a target that leads to the FLMSP's information being released.
- Discuss 2025 Tax Filing requirements. Bill will discuss it with Becky.
- IRS 2026 Mileage rates:

Mileage Rates for 2026:	
\$0.72/mile	Max. rate for driving personal vehicle along or between points on trail.
	Max. rate for driving personal vehicle while pulling or hauling material
\$0.82/mile	or equipment on the trail (to include hauling equipment to/from the
	equipment storage facility) for purpose of maintaining the trail.

*Volunteers driving back and forth to volunteer locations, picking up supplies, etc. may deduct \$0.14 per mile when filing their personal taxes.

- **MOTION: Becky made a motion to approve the 2026 IRS Mileage reimbursement rates of 0.72 per mile and 0.82 per mile as noted above. Dick seconded. MOTION APPROVED.**

PROFIT & LOSS	Jan 2026	Jan 2025
Revenue	\$8,846	\$3,099
Interest Rev.	\$42	\$206
Expenses	-\$8,034	-\$6,869
Total	\$854	-\$3,564

CASH ON HAND	Jan. 31, 2026	Dec. 31, 2025	Delta
Total Cash	\$175,136	\$174,101	\$1,035
Operating Account	\$64,014	\$63,137	\$877
Huntington Savings	\$111,122	\$110,964	\$158
Cert. of Deposit	\$0	\$0	\$0
Restricted	\$28,529	\$28,529	\$0
Benches	\$1,404	\$1,404	\$0
Pavement Fund	\$6,020	\$6,020	\$0
Grandin Rest Area & Info Station	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Oregonia Garden	\$1,105	\$1,105	\$0
Storyboard Signs on Migrating Birds	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Unrestricted	\$146,607	\$145,572	\$1,035

Storyboard Sign on Migrating Birds

Dick went back to donors, and they agreed to an alternative funding storyboard signs on migrating birds.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS: Becky Retzer

Photo Retention Policy

- Kris will work on the Photo Retention policy.

Annual Meeting

- Tentatively set Annual Meeting for SUN MAY 3rd from 4:30 to 6:30 at Waldschmidt House. Becky to confirm at the March meeting when food will also be discussed.

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, equipment security, and equipment storage caches.

MM 19.6 – Oregonia

- **Dick requested that at the Little River Café, a rail be installed so motorcycles can't get through. Tiffany noted that the Bar & Grill is encroaching on ODNR property and they will notify the new owner.**

MM 22.3 - Trail slip under I-71 Jeremiah Morrow Bridge

- **ODNR has finished the design process and is bidding the project out. There is no available detour route in this area, so the trail will be closed. Project completion is tentatively scheduled for the end of May, but will continue into the summer. When closed, FLMSF can post it on social media and in Trail Mail.**

MM 28.4 to MM 35.3 – Major Pavement Replacement - Center St. in Morrow to Grandin Rd. in South Lebanon

- **The project is currently being awarded, with completion tentatively scheduled for the end of 2026. Tiffany noted that when ODNR knows of a closure, FLMSF can post it on social media and in Trail Mail.**
- **S. Lebanon is bidding out the municipal wastewater upgrade, which will include repaving 0.9 miles of the trail. Construction is underway on the system west of S. Main Street in South Lebanon. While the trail will remain open at this location, contractors will use it to access their construction area.**

MM 28 & 38 - Gravel Fill North of Loveland

- **Casey Marcum had FLMSF purchase gravel for some fill. Casey indicated she has dropped off gravel in-between Fosters and Loveland at the slumping area Rick's crew worked on last year.**

MM 42.5 & 41.5 Loveland District and Trailhead

- **ODNR law enforcement proposed that the following be painted on the pavement at each end of the busy Loveland District. North painting will be near Lyons Rd., and South painting will be near East Broadway.
Three yellow strips
"CAUTION – SLOW"
"High Pedestrian Area"**
- **Rick volunteered Grant to help with this project! Dick is working on creating the stencils and estimates that the project will cost \$300.**
- **MOTION: Dick made a motion to approve spending \$300. Rick seconded. MOTION APPROVED.**

ODNR has engaged an external engineering firm to evaluate and prioritize future major trail projects.

Miscellaneous trail issues being assessed include those listed below:

MM 4.5 - Trail Slip at Gladys Run

MM 6.1 - Bridge Repair in Spring Valley at Bellbrook Ave

MM 13 - Trail Undercut at Middletown Road area

MM 18.7 – Culvert before Horse Farm

MM 33 – Bridge Repair/Replacement at South Lebanon

MM 44 – Culvert Partially Collapsed

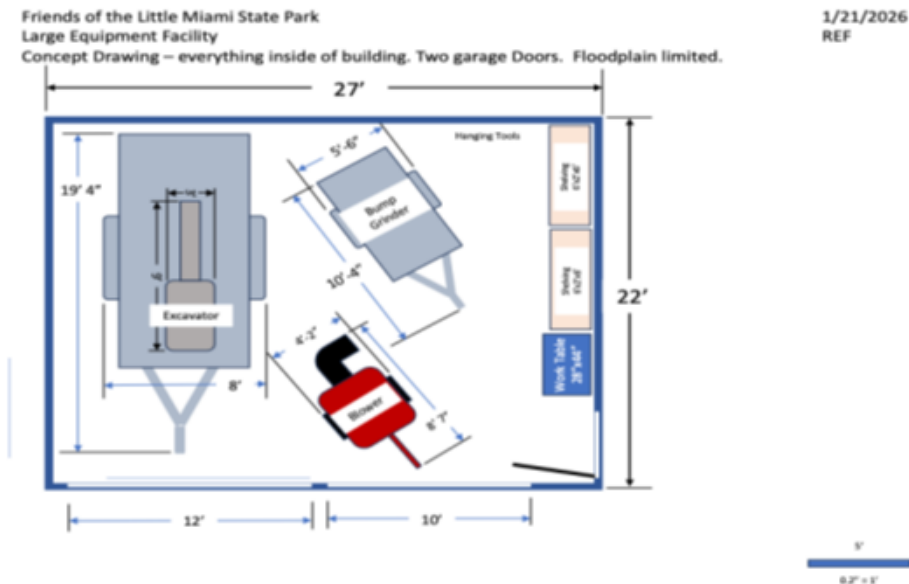
MM 47.7 – Bridge Repair at Miamiville

MM 49.5 – Trail Slip near Glendale-Milford Rd

MM 50.5 – Bridge Repair at Shawnee Run

Foster Large Equipment Storage Facility, Rick Forrester

- Rick noted that when he gets back in town, the team can meet at the site and review the design.
- ODNR agrees with the Foster location. The next step is to finalize the structure, design, and cost. Dick will put together a formal proposal with engineer-stamped drawings, a site plan for Tiffany and the State to review.
- Dick noted that storing the South Lebanon cache fence repair equipment will not be added to the tool barn requirements. ‘



- We are working on issues related to building on a floodplain, which includes the entire Foster's parking lot area. We can build non-occupancy structures, but with restrictions. The building must be anchored at four corners, and must have flood vents to allow floodwater to flow through it. Maximum 600 square feet.
- Rick noted there was talk about going to a single sloped roof style building rather than a pole barn.
- The latest quote from Menards for a 22x24-foot building is \$10,138, but this is still an early estimate. There are still many other requirements. The price does not include installation. Once we lock in the design, we can get a construction quote from the company Menards uses to install the buildings they sell. Not sure if they can adjust the dimensions to 20x30' because their design system doesn't have that as an option. We need at least 20' in width to accommodate the trailer. Agreed to have a concrete floor.
- Rick contacted Worch Lumber (Patrick Bruns), recommended by one of our far-north section volunteers, Richard. Worch can handle the entire project from start to finish and will use Amish carpenters, high-quality craftsmen. The building will be 20x30 feet. They will have a professional engineer sign off on the design. The certified drawing costs \$875. They can also provide clear roof panels for natural light. A concrete floor would be added after the building is constructed. Rick is waiting for two quotes, which should arrive on Monday. One includes a large door on the south side of the building, a smaller garage door on the east side, and at least one personnel door. The other has both large bay doors on the east side and a personnel door on the south side.

Air Tags for all Heavy Equipment, Bill Brown

- Bill will explore the costs involved in buying and putting electronic air tags on all the heavy equipment and trailers as a security measure. Will discuss in March.

Snow Plowing Trail, Tiffany DeChant-Hunt

- ODNR will work w/ any jurisdictions that may want to plow the trail. But absolutely no salt is allowed.

TRAIL AMENITIES/CONVENIENCE

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

Information Kiosks, Becky Retzer, Dick Feldmann

- **Dick will replace the one broken plexiglass pane at Spring Valley.**
- **Dick will change the locks at the Milford Park signage.**
- **Dick will work on the new kiosk at Grandin Trailhead**
- **Group Project – re-staining kiosks the same color for consistency.**

Park Signage, Dick Feldmann

- **Branch Hill / Bridge Street Sign needs to be straightened up. John sent Bruce photos, and the Far South Crew is to repair.**

Memorial Program, Ron Gorley

- Current policy for Benches only. Working on other options, i.e., Birdhouses, Sculptures, Peace Poles, and Picnic Tables for new shelter and elsewhere. The new policy needs to list the item's life and release from liability for FLMSP when the life expectancy has been met.
- Benches remain as is supplied by RJ Thomas. Metal Picnic Tables will be supplied by Barco.
- Tiffany suggested expanding the memorial program and picnic tables at river access points.
- Tiffany suggested that two future memorial benches be installed near the bicycle tie-up area near the Trail Yard Restaurant in Miamiville. Casey and Ron are to meet there and discuss the exact locations.
- **Casey will check with one of the ODNR naturalists for advice on the best locations for birdhouses along the trail. Install on poles. Owl boxes are up high on mature trees.**
- **The bench was removed during construction at the Grandin Road Interchange. It's currently stored at Ceaser Creek and will be reinstalled this spring.**
- **Ft Ancient Visitor Center will need a bench installed in the summer of 2026.**

TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS/BEAUTY

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

MM 19.9 – Oregonia Educational Garden, Becky Retzer

- **Kris will help Becky coordinate a Spring cleanup, weed treatment and mulch - one day event.**
- **Christopher (Eagle Scout) shared with Becky that his project won the Eagle Scout Project of the Year. Becky will submit a short article with a photo to Trail Mail.**

MM 28.5 – Morrow, Becky Retzer

- **Dogwoods need to be removed when the snow is gone.**

MM 48.7 – Camp Dennison Historical Marker Dedication at Cunningham Rd., Tiffany DeChant-Hunt

- **Tiffany stated that a Historical Plaque about Camp Dennison would be installed by ODNR near Cunningham Rd. on Tuesday, April 28, at noon. It was noted that the Schoolhouse Restaurant has a parking lot that might be used by attendees and may include catering of cookies. This dedication is part of the America 250 Celebration.**

FLMSP VOLUNTEER NEWS/EVENTS

Chainsaw Training, Rick Forrester

- **New North Volunteer Crew wants to get chainsaw training in next few weeks. Tom Agin and Jim Snyder will have to have ODNR form to volunteer on chain saw crew.**
- **Dick has updated in Volgistics the volunteers who have completed chain saw training.**

Hot-Line, Ron Gorley and Dick Feldmann

- **Ron and Dick will work on the system technology restraints and how to handle larger numbers of text recipients, say 20, on Hot-Line Calls, as different phones and different cell systems have limits. Dick's phone doesn't work with the system.**

Volgistics

- **Kris will begin processing all new FLMSP volunteer applications and ODNR forms.**
- **Don will run quarterly reminders to volunteers who need to submit updated forms or applicants who have not submitted their ODNR. Form.**

FLMSP TRAIL MAIL

- The articles on the FLMSP web page look dated, particularly with the Repaving Campaign closed last spring and older trail conditions/closings. (Is this something we need to try to recruit a volunteer to keep updated?)
- **Dick Feldmann added two articles from the current Trail Mail.**

FLMSP OUTREACH

- **June 6 will be the Biggest Day Hike for the Buckeye Trail, where we try to have all sections covered (hiking or biking!)**
- **Erin – ODNR Naturalist will host a walk in Loveland in the afternoon of SAT JUN 6.**
- **We will develop more plans over the next months.**
- **September 10-13 will be the 2026 Buckeye TrailFest, and it will happen concurrently with the North Country Trail Trailfest, at Salt Fork State Park - it should be an amazing event. If anyone is considering attending, they can make lodge reservations now by calling the Salt Fork Lodge and asking for the Trailfest rate: (800) 282-7275**
- **Becky met with Matt Latham, Warren County Park District on Wednesday, January 28th.**
- **Matt discussed that Warren County would like to connect three Warren County Parks to LMSP (Hisey Park, Morrow Veterans Park & Corwin Gulley Park.**
- **Matt will share with us the UC Outdoor Recreation Economic Study after he presents to the Warren County Commissioners on February 17. Becky plans on attending the presentation on Tuesday, February 17th in Lebanon. This study puts a dollar amount on the benefits of outdoor activities.**
- **Donald Outterson is coordinating a meeting with Ralph Brueggemann and Scott Holland of the Wasson Way Bike Trail in Cincinnati. They want to learn how to improve their bike trail and upgrade to FLMSP standards. Meeting is set for Sunday, February 15 at 2:00 p.m.**
- **Ron and Tiffany attended the Virtual January 30 Tri State Trails Regional Committee virtual meeting. Ron reported on this spring's repaving project. Ron also reported on any other major 2026 projects that impact the trail.**
- **Margee will forward to Becky the info from Hamilton Twp. Regarding plans at Miami Bluffs and the connection to the trail.**

FLMSP FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

- **WED, March 11, 2026, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, Virtual on Teams.**
- **MOTION: John made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dick seconded. MOTION APPROVED.**