

Friends of the Little Miami State Park
General Board Meeting
March 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 / Buckeye Trail
Ron Gorley	FLMSPP Memorial Program
Fritz Buschmann	FLMSPP Member / Guest

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: John Telintelo

- Feb 11, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes distributed on Feb 13, 2026, by John Telintelo.
MOTION: Becky moved to approve the February Board Meeting minutes.
Dick seconded. MOTION APPROVED.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bill Brown

Insurance Review – w/Fritz Buschmann

- 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 database. Examples include personal information of current and former members, current and former volunteers, donors, and 3rd-party/vendor information.

- Insurance companies (some) offer cyber liability insurance to cover losses in the prior paragraph. Fritz had suggested 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.
- Changes to general liability and umbrella policies are things you cannot change. Standard industry exclusions in many cases. Human Trafficking Exclusion. Sexual Molestation Exclusion.
- Bill noted that we do not store credit card information, just names, emails, and addresses.
- Becky noted that PayPal info is separate from QuickBooks, and so we have minimized our liability. QuickBooks is always secure. The board decided not to obtain a cyber liability quote.
- Dick stated that Birth Date is probably the only risk area and suggested it be removed from Volgistics.
- Dick and Becky will meet to review together what liability items we should remove from the database.

Donations

- Bill received a FLMSP donation from Former Governor Taft and his wife, Hope Taft.
- Bill will note in QuickBooks if any donation will be in memory of someone.

Meier's Gift Cards

- Bill will hold on to them, and check expiration dates.

Chronolog Stations

- Bill suggested that he will move one or two existing Chronolog Stations, probably one to Morrow Bridge and one maybe to Grandin Road. \$500 for a one-year subscription is needed.
MOTION: Bill moved to approve \$500 for a one-year subscription to Chronolog.
Dick seconded. MOTION APPROVED.

PROFIT & LOSS	YTD Feb 2026	YTD Feb 2025
Revenue	\$10,161	\$29,367
Interest Rev.	\$42	\$861
Expenses	-\$9,720	-\$17,356
Total	\$483	\$12,872

CASH ON HAND	Feb. 28, 2026	Jan. 31, 2026	Delta
Total Cash	\$174,765	\$174,178	\$587
Operating Account	\$63,643	\$64,099	-\$456
Huntington Savings	\$111,122	\$110,079	\$1,043
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 Restroom & Info Station	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Oregonia Garden	\$1,105	\$1,105	\$0
Migration Station	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Unrestricted	\$146,236	\$145,649	\$587

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS: Becky Retzer

Annual Meeting

- Tentatively set Annual Meeting for SUN MAY 3rd from 4:30 to 6:30 at Waldschmidt House. Becky has confirmed location. Becky and Dick recommended that we just not offer the house tour, since they're really not set up for that until June.
- Food was discussed. Becky will order food. \$1000 for food is needed.
MOTION: Becky moved to approve up to \$1000 for the food purchase.
John seconded. MOTION APPROVED.
- Anytime a donor receives food, it's up to them to deduct from their donation the cost of food for tax purposes. Dick suggested stating that \$20 is a dinner expense when sending out email. Send the first email on April 10 and follow up one week before the event date.

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

- The project is currently awarded. There is no available detour route in this area, so the trail will be closed. When ODNR knows of its closure, FLMSF can post it on social media, website, and in Trail Mail. Dick will post on the website that trail users shall contact the ODNR Park Office for trail closure information.

Major Pavement Replacement

- The project is currently awarded. When ODNR knows of its closure, FLMSF can post it on social media, website, and in Trail Mail. Dick will post on the website that trail users shall contact the ODNR Park Office for trail closure information.
- 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 that 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"
- Dick is working on creating the stencils. Rick volunteered Grant to help Dick with this project!

ODNR has engaged an external engineering firm to evaluate and prioritize future major trail projects. Miscellaneous trail issues being assessed may 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 the team will meet next Tuesday to review the design and proceed with quotes.
- 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.
- Rick noted that 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 finalize the design, we can obtain 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 favors contracting 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.

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 three trailers as a security measure. Bill will get on this.

Municipality Work on Trail, Tiffany DeChant-Hunt

- ODNR will work w/ any municipal jurisdictions that may want to take care of or snowplow the trail.
- Loveland City will take care of the trail from the Bridge to Broadway.
- Morrow agreement may follow.

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.

Memorial Program, Ron Gorley

- Current policy for Benches only. Working on other options, i.e., Birdhouses, Sculptures, and Picnic Tables for new shelter and elsewhere. The new policy needs to specify the item's life and the release from liability for FLMSP when the life expectancy is met.
- Benches remain as is supplied by RJ Thomas. Barco will supply Metal Picnic Tables.
- 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.
- A 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.
- North Side of Morrow – Benches need to be replaced. Casey and Ron will work on this.
- A request came in for a plaque in Loveland for a pet dog. Ron says it doesn't make sense to do this or to put down pavers. Tiffany noted that pavers are hard to maintain. Ron will notify the requester.

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

- A Historical Plaque about Camp Dennison will be installed by ODNR near Cunningham Rd. with a dedication on Tuesday, April 28, at noon. This dedication is part of the America 250 Celebration.
- It was noted that the Schoolhouse Restaurant has a parking lot available for attendees. Tiffany suggested 35-50 people as a gauge for crowd size.
- FLMSP will have a table with handouts, history books, etc.
- FLMSP may want to lead a short guided hike of Camp Dennison after the ribbon-cutting ceremony with some basic talking points and nature education?
- ODNR may provide cookies.
- Casey has the plan and a work list for Bruce and the Far South Crew to get the place in shape for the dedication.

FLMSP VOLUNTEER NEWS/EVENTS

North Blowing Crew, Dick Feldmann

- BJ Stephens has moved out of the area – he was the North Blowing Crew manager.
- Rick Sedlatschek has agreed to take the team management position. He's active in Green County non-profits and has a well-supplied shop for engine maintenance.

Chainsaw Training, Rick Forrester

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

Buckeye Trail Town Festival in Morrow – Saturday, May 16th 11 am to 3 pm.

- Coordination for a Clean-Up Date between ODNR, Morrow and FLMSP
- Tiffany will attend and be a speaker.
- Do we want to have a table? Yes – 2 hour shifts.
- Formal presentation is at noon.

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 recruit a volunteer to keep updated?)
- I_275 Bridge – '27 & '28 Trail Closure - The I-275 Bridge Smart Lane Project Public Notice was placed on the trail near the I-275 Bridge. This ODOT project is scheduled to start in the spring of 2027. The comment period ends this month on Friday, March 27th, 2026. Ask users to review before the deadline: <https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/projects/projects/115417>

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 on Saturday, June 6 in the afternoon.
- We will develop more plans over the next few 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](tel:8002827275)
- Matt discussed that Warren County would like to connect three Warren County Parks to LMSP (Hisey Park, Morrow Veterans Park & Corwin Gulley Park).
- Becky met with Donald Outtersen, Ralph Brueggemann and Scott Holland of the Wasson Way Bike Trail in Cincinnati. They have a lot of similarities with issues of graffiti and more issues with thrash. They have a strong friends group and we discussed fundraising, volunteer retainage and policies.
- 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, April 8, 2026, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, in person at First Federal. Vicky to confirm.
MOTION: Becky made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bill seconded. MOTION APPROVED.