

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park  
TEAMS Online General Board Meeting 10-12-2022  
Meeting Agenda**

**Minutes**

**Motions**

**Actions**

**Call to Order:** Bill Brown

**Introduction of Board:**

Dick Feldmann President

Steve Murphy Vice President

Becky Retzer Treasurer Present

Bill Brown Secretary Present

Larry Bloomfield Member at Large Present

Bruce Cortright Member at Large Present

Fritz Buschmann Member at Large Present

Ron Gorley Present

Mike Norman ODNR Present

Kyle Ranck ODNR Present

**Approval of Minutes:** Bill Brown

- September Board Meeting minutes will be amended to add Green Umbrella funding motion.
- Minutes will be approved at the next Board Meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Becky Retzer

- PayPal donations were down.
- We usually do another appeal in Nov.

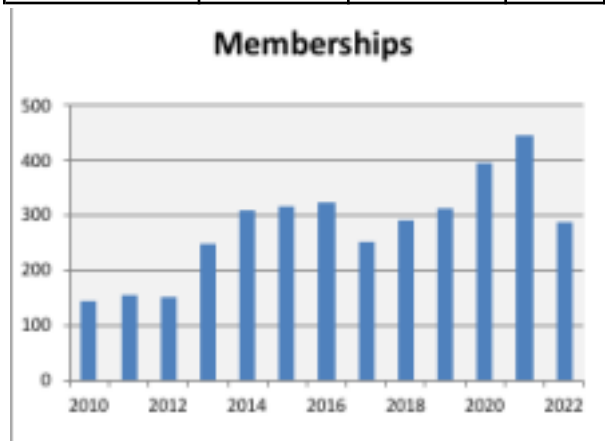
| <b>Cash on Hand:</b>       | <b>8/31/22</b> | <b>9/30/22</b> | <b>Change +/-</b> |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Unrestricted               | <b>112,130</b> | <b>112,302</b> | +172              |
| Restricted                 | <b>8,171</b>   | <b>7,948</b>   | -223              |
| Morrow Rest & Info Station | 8,167          | 7,944          | -223              |
| Volunteer Picnic           | 4              | 4              | 0                 |
| <br>Reserved               | <br><b>259</b> | <br><b>259</b> | <br><b>0</b>      |
| Pollinator garden programs | 259            | 259            | 0                 |
| Operating Account          |                |                |                   |
| Savings Account            | 72,474         | 72,474         | 0                 |
| <br>Receivables            | <br>126        | <br>0          | <br>-126          |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>120,686</b> | <b>120,409</b> | <b>-277</b>       |

- Financial Statements sent to board on October 8
- Received \$1,000 gift from John DeJager
- Received \$2,000 gift from the Hughes Foundation
- Received \$1,000 gift from Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- Paid Green Umbrella \$650.00 bal for 2021 and 2,600 80% of 2022

**Metrics:** Dick Feldmann

|                       | 7/12/2022 | 10/11/2022 | +/-   |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------|-------|
| Trail Mail:           | 2,497     |            |       |
| Memberships:          | 287       |            |       |
| Volunteer Hours:      | 1,463     | 2,911      | +1448 |
| Facebook "Followers": | 2,295     | 2,369      | +74   |
| Facebook "Likes"      | 2,083     | 2,154      | +71   |
| Twitter               | 62        | 63         | +1    |

|              |  |  |  |
|--------------|--|--|--|
| "Followers": |  |  |  |
|--------------|--|--|--|



**STRATEGIC PLAN.**

1. Safety
2. Condition & Drainage
3. Volunteer Management
4. Amenities/Convenience
5. Beauty
6. Outreach
7. Administrative

## **FLMSP ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

- EarthShare Annual Application, Dick Feldmann
  - They support us in the Combined Federal Campaign and State of Ohio Employee Giving Campaign.
  - Due October 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - They require recent 990 tax filing. Dick called our CPA and they agreed to complete our tax filings in time to support this application.

## **ODNR, Mike Norman**

- Staffing:
  - Mike Norman, Park Manager
  - Kyle Ranck, Maintenance Supervisor
  - Casey Marcum, Trail Maintenance Lead.
  - Currently 2 seasonal staff: Carol and Cheyenne.
- Introduction of Mike Norman
  - Mike Norman introduced himself to the Board as the new Park Manager.
  - His professional background is in public safety and health care. He was an EMS.
  - Mike toured the entire Little Miami State Park trail with Kyle soon after assuming his role.
  - Mellisa briefed him before her departure.
  - Cowan Lake staff is 100% staffed
  - Kyle is out on emergency medical leave.
  - Mike expressed his deep appreciation for the two volunteer organizations that support his area of responsibility: FLMSP and Friends of Cowan Lake.
  - Mike provided a rundown of all FLMSP trail issues including the trail slippage and the O'Bannon Creek Bridge replacement.
  - Ideas being reviewed for slippage repair, including costing.
  - Considering outsourcing vs. in-house repair.
  - They are talking to ODOT about who should own the project.
  - Bruce asked about dotted center lines on the trail and Mike offered to reach out to ODNR to see what the practice is statewide in Ohio.
- Met with Mike Norman 10/5/2022
  - Dick Feldmann, Becky Retzer, Rick Forrester
  - Received invitation to the Host and Friends Group Dinner on October 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00
  - Discussed various projects. Notes below
- Trail slip at MM 22, I71 Jeremiah Morrow Bridge
  - Mike, ODNR Engineers and ODOT met again to discuss a long term solution to correct the issue
  - See Mike Norman report above.

- Morrow trees:
  - Mike indicated that additional trees are scheduled for removal in Morrow this fall.
  - Dick shared with Mike the available support from the volunteers to help with the fall tree removal
- King Ave/Grandin Rd/Peters Cartridge factory.
  - No change
  - Trail Closure at Peters Cartridge
  - 05/09/2022 thru 12/01/2022
- O'Bannon bridge
  - No change
  - Expecting wider steel construction with minimal structure in the creek.
  - Design at 90%,
  - Don't need Scenic Rivers Review or Approval
  - Timeline still being determined
  - See Mike Norman report above.
- Trail slip South of Isaac Walton
  - No change
  - Kyle will look into it.
- Volunteer shirts
  - No change
  - Available to all individuals signing 2-year agreement
  - Must order for specific person
  - Need to capture shirt size

## **VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT**

- **Volgistics**, Becky Retzer, Dick Feldmann
  - **No change**
- **Volunteer Recognition**.
  - Volunteer Magnetic signs (24) for volunteers driving on the trail have been ordered.
  - 17 signs have been received and distributed.
- **Warren County Juvenile Court**. Becky Retzer
  - No change
  - We are being asked whether we would have any volunteer opportunities for

juveniles on probation.

- There would be no more than 4 youths with 1 to 2 supervisors (including Dianne M Ruwe, Community Outreach Probation Officer).
- Becky will follow up with Dianne and send information to trail section leaders.

- **Trail Blowing**

- Trail Blowing / Web page calendar currently not functioning. Dick Feldmann unable to correct. Steve Murphy is investigating.

## OUTREACH

- **Trail User Counting Program**, Ron Gorley

Tri-State Trails delivered the 2021 Trail Usage Study. This report contains data for the Little Miami State Park (Hedges Rd in Xenia to Avoca Park in Terrace Park) as well as the Little Miami Scenic Trail (from Hedges Rd in Xenia to Clough Pike in Cincinnati). FLMSP has contracted with TriState Trails (TST) to conduct the counting and to write the final report. The comments below relate only to the Little Miami State Park.

- The total number of trail users for 2021 is 2,029,838. This is 11% less than the pandemic-related record setting year of 2020, but 33% higher than the pre pandemic record year of 2019.
- There are a total of twenty-five counting locations, one permanent location between Loveland and Fosters and twenty-four locations that are counted for a one-week period of time. The non-permanent locations are annualized by proportioning the 365-day data from the permanent counter.
- The Fosters intersection was blocked by the Warren Co. Engineering Dept. due to the closure of Route 3C for bridge maintenance from June 7 to July 27. This affected the normal flow through the one permanent counter on the trail (between Loveland and Fosters). Since this counter is typically used to calculate the counts at all the other locations, we used other regional permanent counters to fill in.
- There were two counter failures during the year that required imputing the result from nearby counters and previous years' data.
- Trail usage was highest between Milford and Loveland, with usage decreasing south of Milford and north of Loveland.
- This year's study was delayed because some of the calculations have historically been done by a UC professor who was out of the country this past year and is no longer associated with UC. (There is a binomial regression that takes weather conditions into account). This knowledge now resides at TST, so this will not be an issue in the future.
- Counter failures will not be a concern for 2022 because TST has purchased additional EcoCounter counters that have cellular transmitters. Any error, such as a zero count for a day, will generate an automatic notification to TST.
- FLMSP-owned TrailMaster counters are now retired and sitting in storage. FLMSP board approved donating these to other trail entities?

- The proposed \$3,500 charge for TST to provide 2022 counter collection data and a written summary report is 7.7% higher than the 2021 amount. They explained this is a combination of increased transportation costs as well as their purchasing of additional EcoCounter counters (and the associated cellular bill) that they now use on our trail. Board approved \$3,500 for 2022.

## **SAFETY**

### **TRAIL CONDITION & DRAINAGE**

- **MM 22 I-71 underpass slump**

- Mike reported that ODNR is continuing to plan a solution.

- **South of South Lebanon**

- Have a report through Holly that we have sections of blacktop with moss that are slippery when wet.
- Dick Feldmann investigated.
- Dick asked Rick Forrester to spray with 50% bleach solution to see if that will eliminate.

### **AMENITIES/CONVENIENCE**

- **Pipe Safes**

- Jim Schneider is managing a project to strip, clean, paint and relabel the 7 functioning pipe safes

- **MORROW**, Dick Feldmann

- Rest and information station going into Phegley Park in 2023 paid for by Appletree Pet Clinic.
  - Remove three-sided building
  - Install standard 6-panel information kiosk.
  - Install memorial bench; bench has been ordered and will be delivered to Ron Gorley shortly.
  - Install trees and landscaping to replace ODNR removed trees.
- Status
  - No change, Start delayed due to Dick's sinus infection. Now looking at early November.
  - Becky is contacting Nathorp's and Greenfield Farms for trees
  - Becky is going to propose to Morrow village administrator putting a native garden in front of the train station.

- **PORTABLE RESTROOMS**, Dick Feldmann

- Winter restrooms will be ordered for November 1<sup>st</sup> install at Fosters, Corwin, Morrow.

- Cleaning of Miamiaville will be cut back to once a week.

- **POLLINATOR GARDENS**, Becky Retzer

- MM 19.9 Oregonia
- MM 39 under power lines
- Seed has been ordered and in storage at Becky's
- Holding off planting due to hot weather

## **FUTURE GENERAL BOARD MEETINGS**

- Virtual via Microsoft TEAMS
- Schedule 2 in person meetings: September and March
  - Considering Libraries:
    - Mason Public Library, 200 Reading Rd.
    - Cinci Public Library – Symmes Township, 11850 Enyart Rd.
    - Cinci Public Library – Loveland, 649 Loveland Madeira Rd.
    - Cinci Public Library – Madeira, 7200 Miami Ave.
  - Wayne Township hall is still available to us at no charge. (Gus Edwards) The next General Board

Meeting will be **Wednesday November 9th, 6:30–8:00 PM on MS Teams.**

Bruce reported on a couple items:

### **Trail Line Stripping:**

- Bruce got an estimate for trail striping for \$1,435 / mile for 10' strips at 30' spacing.
- Existing stripes near Milford are 3' long with 9' spacing.
- We assume 5' stripes at 15' spacing would be similar to the 10/30 pricing.
- Mike Norman agreed to look into ODNr practice statewide regarding trail striping.
- Topic will be revisited at a future meeting.

### **Donation Being Offered for a Trail PProject or Equipment:**

- Bruce was approached about a donor who would like to make a significant donation to a LMSP project.
- The striping project above was determined to be more than the donor was considering.
- Bruce also proposed the purchase of a Concrete Planner (Bump Grinder), which the FLMSp has rented in the past. Estimated cost of the planner is \$6,000, which is within the range of what the donor was considering.
- Topic will be revisited at a future meeting.

**MOTION: Bill made motion to adjourn**

**Becky seconded**

**Meeting Adjourned**