

Friends of the Little Miami State Park
TEAMS Online General Board Meeting 08-11-2022
Meeting Agenda and Minutes

Minutes

Motions

Actions

Call to Order: Dick Feldmann

Introduction of Board:

Dick Feldmann	President	Present
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
Kyle Ranck	ODNR	Present

Introduction of Members and Guests:

- Janet Slater - FLMSP Social Media Present

Approval of Minutes: Becky Retzer

- July Board Meeting
- **MOTION: Bill made a motion to approve minutes for the July meeting.**
- **Dick seconded.**
- **Approved.**
- Send copy to Fritz

Treasurer's Report: Becky Retzer

Cash on Hand:	6/30/22	7/31/22	Change +/-
Unrestricted	110,393	110,832	+439
Restricted	8,680	8,680	0
Morrow Rest & Info Station	8,430	8,430	0
Volunteer Picnic	250	250	0
Reserved	3,344	2,867	-477
Pollinator garden programs	1,350	1,350	
In-Kind Donations	1,994	1,517	
Operating Account	47,961	48,395	+434
Savings Account	72,462	72,467	+5
In-Kind Donations	1,994	1,517	-477
Receivables	0	62	+62
Total	122,417	122,441	+24

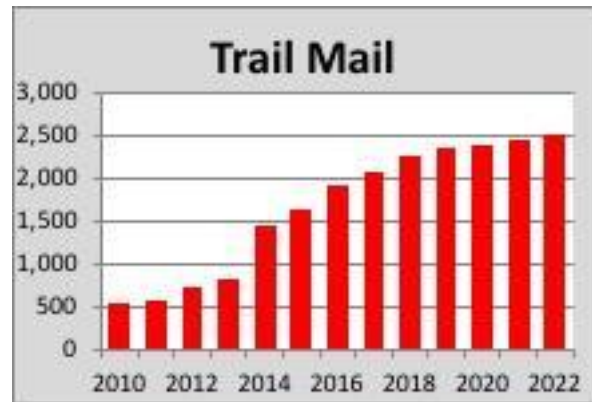
Treasurer Narrative: Becky Retzer

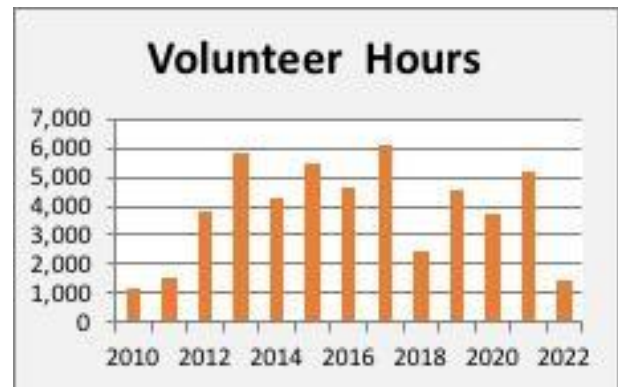
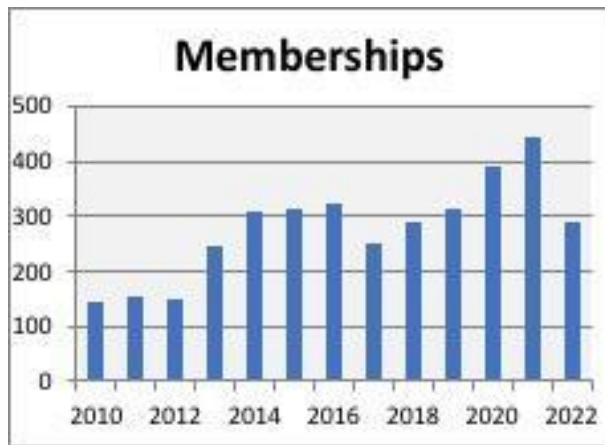
- Financial Statements sent to board on August 8th.
One correction was made moving “Sales” of \$96 to Pipe Safes.
- The financial statements reflect expensing the in-kind donations from June.

Metrics: Dick Feldmann

- Not updated this month

	5/11/2022	7/12/2022	+/-
E-mail:	2,487	2,497	+10
Memberships:	197	287	+90
Volunteer Hours:	954	1,463	+509
Facebook “Followers”:	2,255	2,295	+40
Facebook “Likes”	2,044	2,083	+39
Twitter “Followers”:	62	62	





STRATEGIC PLAN.

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

FLMSP ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS, Dick Feldmann

- BYLAWS. Approved Bylaws were completed posted to the FLMSP web site and FLMSP shared drive. **Now good for next 5 years**
- ODNR Cooperative Agreement
 - ODNR Cooperative Agreement was submitted to Kyle Ranck, ODNR.
 - **Kyle does not yet have a signed copy. Will check into getting it signed.**

ODNR, Kyle Ranck

- Staffing:
 - Randy's last day was 4/7
 - Currently 2 seasonal staff: Carol and Steve
 - **Randy was a TPD (temporary) employee. New position posted as full time position. Should be filled in the next 2 weeks. Someone in mind for it. Never had a full time employee for LMSP. This will be great for LMSP.**
 - **Carol and Cheynne (sp) assigned to LMSP mowing and projects.**
- Projects:
 - King Ave/Grandin Rd/Peters Cartridge factory.
 - Trail Closure
 - 05/09/2022 thru 12/01/2022

- Closure will be at Peters Cartridge
- Work began Monday May 9--- on schedule.
- O'Bannon bridge
 - Design at 50%, timeline still being determined
 - Design at 90%, Don't need Scenic Rivers Review and Approval. No start date yet.
 - Design will minimize what part of the structure is actually in the creek.
 - Kyle thinks it will be steel construction. Bridge will be widened.

Another project

- Grant for \$400K. ODNR putting in \$600K .
- What project is this? Ask Bruce.
- Volunteer shirts
 - Available to all individuals signing 2-year agreement
 - Must order for specific person
 - Need to capture shirt size
- Morrow trees:
 - 15-20 landscape sized trees
 - Kyle says trees are being taken down at Morrow.
- Kyle - Bottle filling station at Corwin has been fixed this week.
- Kyle - Carol fixed trail sinkhole at Burlington today.
- Kyle - Project - Jeremiah Bridge "slip". ODNR took a look and will try to pass it off to ODOT. It Happened because of runoff from bridge. ODNR will take it on if ODOT does not accept it.

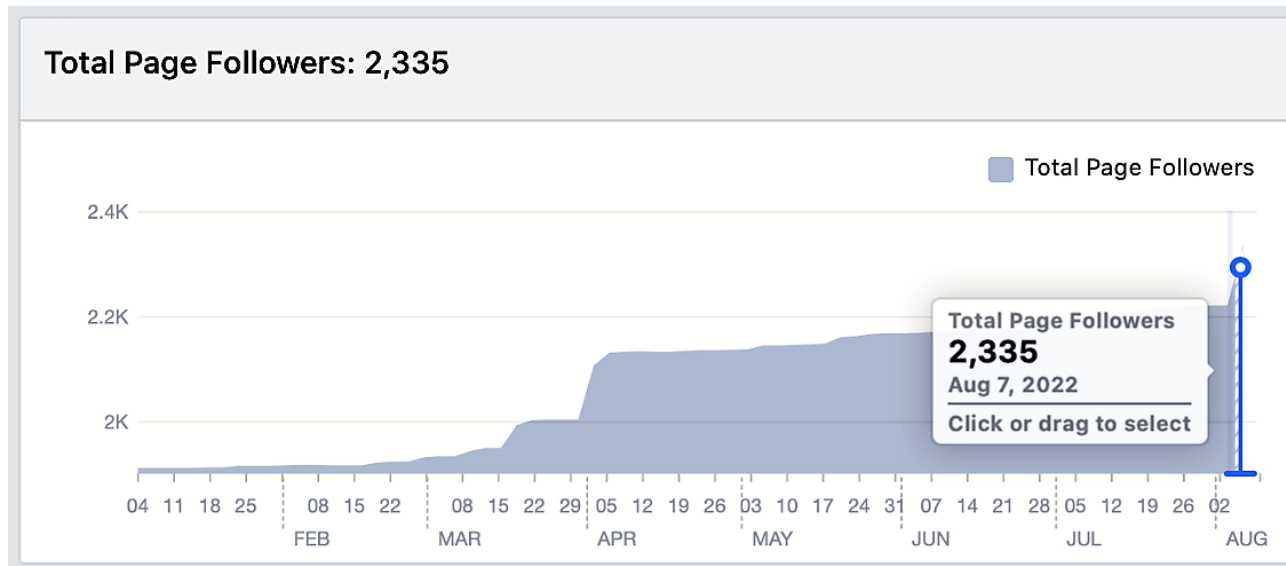
2 south end items:

- Bruce - Slip with the cones south of Issac Walton. Kyle will make a note to look into it.
- Bruce - Culvert plugged at ?. (What location is this culvert?)

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH, Janet Slater

- Web Page
- Trail Mail
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Website redesign is needed.
- A lot of FLMSD documents are posted on the website.
- Trailmail: Everyone should have received "ConstantContact" email to update their information.

- Welcome any Trail Mail contributions. Circulation is over 2,500, and it used to be under 1,000
- Open Rate is over 50%, used to be 15%
- FLMSP Facebook page has 2,335 followers.
- Twitter: Managed by Keith Haral (sp). Only 62 twitter followers. Posts if Janet asks. Trail closures, pictures, etc. Becky has sent pictures he posts. Board members encouraged to send material for him to post.
- Bruce: Mural in Milfod by the Train Station. Bruce will send Janet a picture.



VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

- **Volgistics**, Becky Retzer
 - “**NEW FLMSP volunteer coordination website**” announcement went out to 134 volunteers on July 23rd. ***The FLMSP volunteer coordination website (Vic-Net) is live.***
 - 40 volunteers have signed in via Vic-Net
 - Becky thinks this is a good response. (40 of 134)
 - Becky will talk to Bruce about South end volunteer signup.
 - **ODNR Volunteer agreement** reminders went out to 20 volunteers on August 3rd
 - 188 Volunteers:
 - 78 are current on ODNR Forms or are not required (Management)
 - 49 no ODNR form filed since 2017
 - 61 expired ODNR forms, no contact info
- **Volunteer Picnic**. Linda Buschmann.
 - **The Volunteer Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 28th, 2-5p.m at Alms Park.**
 - Invites went out to the Volunteers August 3rd.

- Food and drink: Linda Buschmann
- Door prizes.
- Fritz: Reporting for Linda. 40 responses so far. Becky and Dick say that is a good response.



- **Volunteer Recognition.**
 - Volunteer Magnetic signs for volunteers driving on the trail.
 - MOTION: Dick Feldman made a motion to purchase 24 more signs (6 per tool cache). Estimate \$15.00 per sign or \$360.
 - Seconded: Bruce.
 - Approved.
- **Warren County Juvenile Court.** Becky Retzer
 - 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.
 - Signs and benches at Milford trailhead need to be stained.
 - Bridge at Miamiville that was stained last year still looks great.
- **Trail Blowing**
 - Trail Blowing / Web page calendar currently not functioning. Dick Feldmann investigating.
 - Dick will try to resolve the problem.

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.
- FLMSF-owned TrailMaster counters are now retired and sitting in storage. FLMSF 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

- **SIGNAGE**, All signs installed
- Carol did the middle part of the trail. All signs installed.
- **HELMET GIVE AWAY**, Becky Retzer
- Team of 4-5 willing to work on helmet giveaway.
- Maybe this fall, definitely next spring.
- Potential to recruit 3 new volunteers from this team.
- Helmets left over from last year's event.



- Larry - Can it be in conjunction with Outdoor Umbrella weekend in Sept.? To be included in their announcement.
- This is an annual event so maybe next year if this year is too soon.
- Becky to follow up with Larry.

TRAIL CONDITION & DRAINAGE

- **"CAUTION AREAS"**, Dick Feldmann
 - Suggestion to add information block to FLMSF web site and periodically to TrailMail
 - List top five areas where trail conditions require caution.
 - King Ave/Grandin Rd/Peters Cartridge factory Trail Closure
 - MM 22 I-71 underpass trail slump due to creek incursion.
 - MM 16.5 Oregonia creek bridge failing.
 - Dick proposes top 5 caution sites.
 - Will ODNR be concerned about this? Highlighting things that need to be fixed that may not be responded to immediately may not be helpful.
 - Issue will be reconsidered in the future.
- **MONKEY BAR** ran cable between posts between trail in his parking
 - Dick contacted Kyle. This was part of the agreement between Monkey Bar and ODNR to resolve intrusion of parking into ODNR land. The intent of the cable is to keep parked vehicles from swinging their doors open into the bike lane and hitting trail users.
- **MM 22 I-71 underpass slump**
 - Safety fence sagging and gaps. ODNR reports staff will try to establish a better fence line. There is no currently identified funding for this project, although it is on our radar and list of priority projects.
 - Kyle, ODNR and ODOT are working on this per earlier meeting discussion.
- **MM 31.0 Dumped cinder blocks**

AMENITIES/CONVENIENCE

- **SPRING VALLEY**, Dick Feldmann
 - Information kiosk at Spring Valley is continuing to get damaged. Spring Valley ACTS is continuing to repair.
 - They are continuing to maintain ownership and repair it when damaged.
- **MORROW**, Dick Feldmann
 - Rest and information station going into Phegley Park in 2023 paid for by Appletree Pet Clinic.

- Demolition of existing 3-sided building at request of Morrow 80% complete
 - 4 loads to hard fill. 1 load left to take.
- 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.
- 6 panel info kiosk planned for that site.



- **CORWIN**, Dick Feldmann
 - Cork board in three display cases replaced in July.
 - Doors need replacing.
 - Information Kiosk needs fresh coat of stain. Using color: Pine Bark (not black)
 - Probably a month or two away to get this done.
- **PORTABLE RESTROOMS**, Dick Feldmann
 - Miamiville
 - Continued to get comments/complaints on the conditions of the restroom
 - In response, upgraded servicing of restroom to twice a week
 - Do we go back to once a week in November? Bruce suggests we cut back to once a week. Traffic declines at that time of year.

- Bruce asked the owner of Village Grocery to donate to help pay for the portable restroom. Looking for one donation. They said they would consider it.
- Would a visit from Dick help?
- Bruce will continue to investigate this.
- Next year do we approach the Market about splitting the cost? Does anyone know the owner?

● **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
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FUTURE GENERAL BOARD MEETINGS

- Virtual via Microsoft TEAMS
- Schedule 2 in person meetings: September and March
 - Wayne Township, Hamilton Township
 - Hamilton Township is charging \$70 for their meeting room.
 - Wayne Township hall is still available to us at no charge. (Gus Edwards)
- Bruce asked if anyone had an opinion on painting crossings after the \$5,000 quote was received?
- Dick suggested we continue to do it ourselves with paint and stencils.
- Bruce: Asked for opinions on Center Line painted on trail? At crossings or the entire trail?
- Bruce: Buy a grinder to grind down bumps. Becky says someone could look into requesting money via grant. Renting vs. purchasing grinder was discussed. Let's keep pursuing a grant over the winter.
- Shelter north of Milford is tilting. Can we fix it? Bruce and Bill will look into it. We will send a location and a picture.

The next General Board Meeting will be **Wednesday September 14th, 6:30–8:00 PM.**

MOTION: Dick moves adjourn

Becky seconded.

Approved.

