

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
General Board Meeting 7/12/2023
MS Teams Video Conference
Meeting Minutes**

Minutes

Motions

Actions

AGENDA / STRATEGIC PLAN.

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Treasurer's Report
4. ODNR Report
5. Presentation - Near-South Section Maintenance
6. Volunteer Management
7. Trail Condition & Drainage
8. Amenities/Convenience
9. Beauty
10. Outreach
11. Safety
12. FLMSP Administrative Business

Call to Order: Dick Feldmann

Introduction of Board:

Attendees:

Dick Feldmann	President
Ron Gorley	Vice President
Becky Retzer	Treasurer
Bill Brown	Secretary
Larry Bloomfield	Member at Large
Bruce Cortright	Member at Large
Fritz Buschmann	Member at Large

Rick Forrester	
Mike Norman	ODNR
Casey Marcum	ODNR

Introduction of Members and Guests:

- **Rick Forrester**, Mid-South Trail Maintenance Coordinator

Approval of Minutes: Bill Brown

- June Board Meeting, distributed June 19th.

MOTION: Bill made motion to approve June 19th minutes

Ron seconded

Motion Approved

Treasurer's Report, Becky Retzer

FLMSP CASH ON HAND	05/31/23	06/30/23	
Unrestricted	147,588	145,555	-2033
Restricted	16,785	16,357	-428
Morrow Rest & Info Station	6,785	6,357	-428
Grandin Rest & Info Station	10,000	10,000	0
Reserved	259	259	-
Pollinator Garden	259	259	-
Savings Account	72,521	72,521	
CD	50,329	50,657	328
Receivables	0		
Total	164,632	162,171	2,461

P&L Comparison	YTD 5/2022	YTD 6/2023
Revenue	25,513	43,142
Expenses	29,501	33,165
Net Operating Revenue	-4,089	9,976

Treasurer Narrative, Becky Retzer

- Financial Statements for June sent to board on July 11th. Existence
- Received 20,000 bequest from Steve Murphy estate
 - Discussion do we want to reserve any funds for a memorial project.
- Recommend opening another CD 30-50K
 - LCNB -15 month @ 4%
 - People First – 9 month @ 4.89%
 - Huntington – 7 month @ 4.75%
 - Becky to keep looking for 6-7 mth time frame CDs**
 - Ron: Can we do a motion for the amount and time frame and let Becky find the best one?**

MOTION: Ron made a motion to transfer \$30K from savings to CD to a bank and % to be determined by president and treasurer for a term of 6-9 months.

Becky seconded

Motion approved

- Opening Tax Exempt Status
 - Working on a policy so there is consistency and easy access for other volunteers who may want to use tax exempt status at particular vendor.

ODNR, Mike Norman, Casey Marcum

ODNR Budget

- What finally passed?

Loveland Stop Sign Request

- From Cory Wright, Loveland assistant manager
- Were you able to get clarification on what they're asking?

O'Bannon bridge

- Bridge has reached emergency state. Wood has rotted out. City of Loveland implemented emergency maintenance procedures to keep bridge open.

Trail slip at MM 50, Glendale-Milford Rd.

- No change

Trail slip at MM 22, I-71 Jeremiah Morrow Bridge

- No change
- Mike, ODNR Engineers and ODOT continuing discussions a long-term solution to correct the issue.
- **On July 25th Mellisa will be driving the trail. Trail looks great!**
- **Construction in Morrow at Cozaddale Road (MM30). Casey will notify us when they will be cutting into the trail to give us a heads up.**
- **Not a long trail closure. Job will not take long and should return to its original condition.**
- **Casey suggestion: Paint restroom at Corwin. FLMSP or hire someone to do it. It is on the FLMSP list of things to do, but it is not yet a high priority. Restroom closes around October. There should still be warm days after closure to paint the restrooms.**
- **Casey is spraying. She got from Hedges to Mathers Mill done. Let her know if we have any areas we want sprayed.**
- **Casey reconfirmed she will deliver fill dirt to Rick north of Morrow.**
- **No word yet on ODNR 2023 budget status.**
- **Loveland Stop Sign Request: They met with Corey, Asst. village official, and they requested suggestions for a busy crossing in Loveland. Casey and Mike suggest "flashing lights" and "crossing traffic does not stop" signs. Dick says we, "FLMSP", want bicyclists to stop, but many do not. Several things have been tried, but are often not effective.**
- **Bridge at Middletown Rd. near Caesars Creek has holes that have been repaired with cold patch in the past.**
- **Trail Slip at I-71: No news from ODNR.**
- **Trail Slip at MM50: Has ODNR engineering been called in on that? Casey will check. Casey will point the trail slips out to Melissa on the July 25th tour.**

FLMSP PRESENTATION

Near-South Section Maintenance, Rick Forrester

- Morrow to Loveland

- Strong Leadership
 - Rick Forrester – Trail Maintenance Coordinator
 - Linda Buschman – Blowing Crew Lead
- Active Volunteers
 - Meet and work trail every Wednesday morning.

- **MM28 to MM41**
- **Started painting mile markers. Started at Avoca Park.**
- **FLMSP does not paint the crossing “ladders”. The county does those.**
- **New kiosk has been built on Morrow. Will be painted Thu., July 13th.**
- **Tree water bladders will be refilled Thu.**
- **MM36.5 trail slip patching with asphalt completed.**
- **Prairie at MM39 was cleared of Johnson grass and rototilled. Seeded with wheat grass last winter. Grass mowed and prairie wildflowers have started to come up. Poison hemlock cut back to power lines to keep it out of the prairie.**
- **Bicyclists have created a path cutting around the closure at Kings Mills.**
- **Cartridge Brewing has installed signage and is not allowing access to the trail for vehicles.**
- **Private brochures can be removed when they are placed at trail kiosks.**
- **Dial #ODNR to dispatch a park ranger to address groups on the trail without permission.**
- **Red dots have shown up on the trail. Not sure what they are or who is doing it.**
- **16 people in this FLMSP volunteer group. They have ~6 out working each Thu.**

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

Proposed Future Volunteer Events, Linda Buschmann

- Fall Volunteer Recognition Picnic
 - September 10th
 - Morgan’s Riverside Campgrounds
 - Food to be donated by vendors
 - **Linda has 40 gifts donated. More coming in.**
 - **Trying to secure a food donator.**

ACTION: Linda to send list of donators to Becky.

- Budget, \$200 for paper products utensils, condiments, etc.
- Holiday Gift
 - Looking for a gift cert for a pie or equivalent food item
 - **No ideas offered yet. Suggestion: Gift card to restaurant on the trail.**
 - **Discussion: Gift card for pie or like. ~\$15 per volunteer.**
 - **Linda will check into something like this at Graeter’s and LaRosa’s.**

Volunteer Status, Dick Feldmann

- Active Volunteers: 116
- ODNR Volunteer Agreement forms
 - ODNR requested all volunteers complete the new (as of February 2022) Volunteer Agreement Forms.
 - Forms sent to active individual volunteers.

- 76 volunteers have completed the new forms.
- 34 are still pending.
- Next step is to send out a standard volunteer information packet.
 - ODNR Volunteer handbook
 - “FLMSP Rules and Requests”, to be written.

Kings HS Service Day, Becky Retzer

- Monday, September 9/11/2023
- Projects? How many seniors? How many Chaperones?
- FLMSP Lead?

TRAIL CONDITION & DRAINAGE

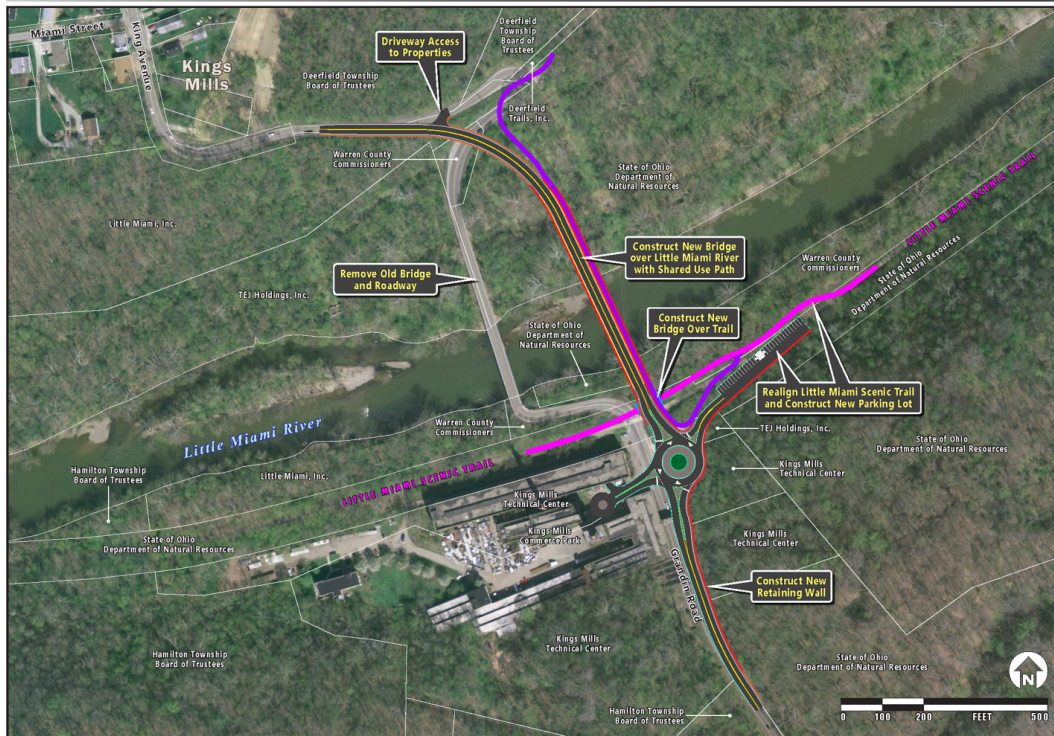
July 4th weekend storms, Ron Gorley

- Extensive tree fall's across trail.
- 15 calls and texts to the hotline
 - 12 calls reporting 7 trees down
 - 2 calls about Fosters restroom
 - 1 call concerning a trash issue.
- Hot Line crews very active.

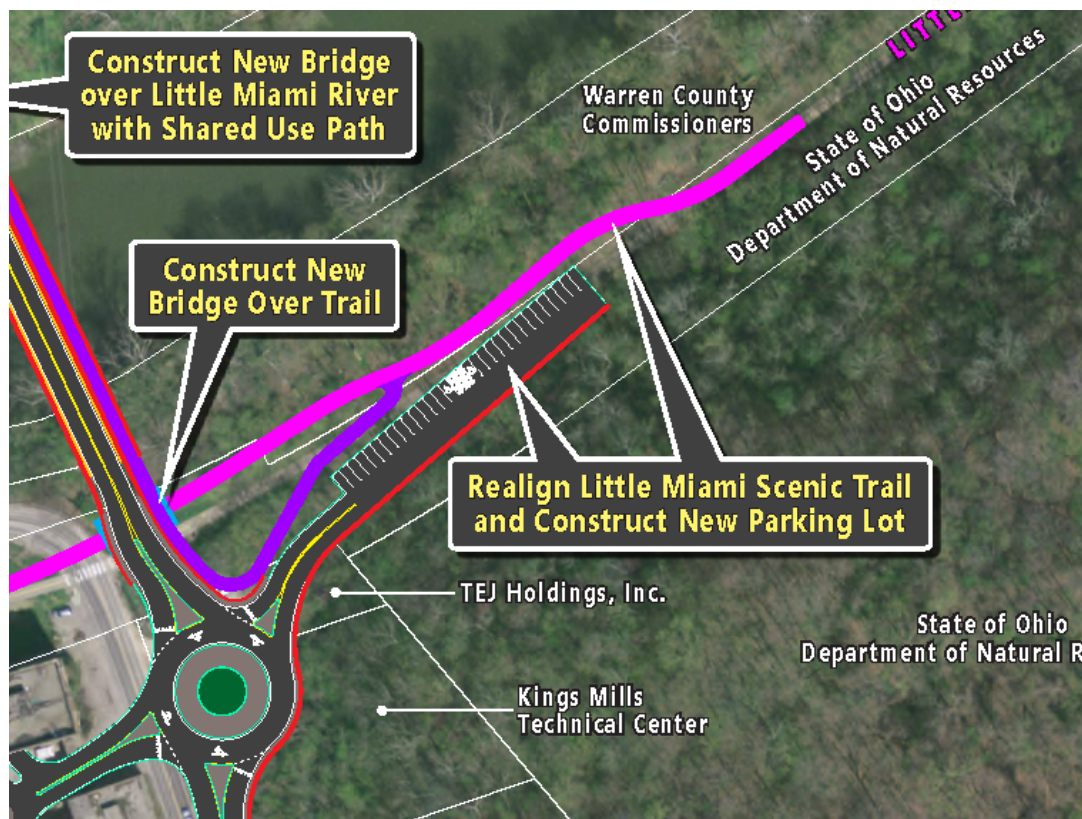
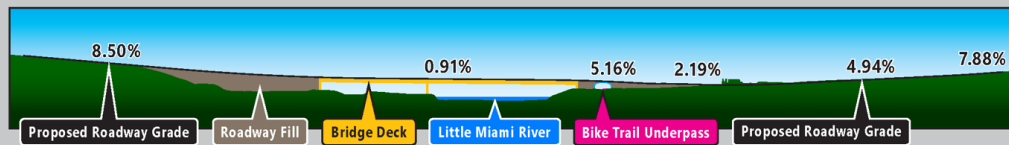
King Ave/Grandin Rd/Peters Cartridge factory

- Trail Closure at Peters Cartridge
- From Warren County website:
 - Warren County Engineer's Office Press Release May 26th.
 - Grandin Road will remain closed until June 16th weather permitting.
 - On June 16th, King Avenue will close for 6 months.
 - **Room is available for kiosk and shelter memorial for Steve Murphy.**
 - **Any plans for a portalet there? May not need one due to proximity to other portalets.**

King Avenue Bridge Replacement Project



ROADWAY PROFILE AT NEW BRIDGE CROSSING (VIEW WEST TO EAST)



Bridge at Caesar's Creek MM16.5

- Starting to break through again.

AMENITIES/CONVENIENCE

Morrow, Dick Feldmann, Becky Retzer

- **Casey asked if she could take down the bench at Little River Cafe. Ron says it's the worst bench on the trail and agreed Casey should take it down.**
- Rest and information station going into Phegley Park in 2023 paid for by Appletree Pet Clinic.
- Status – kiosk & bench
 - Bench installed.
 - The kiosk structure is built. Next steps: 1. Stain the structure, 2. Fabricate and install display case doors, 3. Fabricate and install corkboard, 4. Populate with information.
- Restrooms closed for maintenance over July 4th weekend. Looks like sewer line from street replaced.
- Pollinator garden has been planted.
 - !! Unfortunately, it was 80% dug up for the sewer line replacement.
 - On the upside, they put a water faucet on the back side of the restroom so that we can water plants.
 - We're investigating acquiring more plants and replanting.
- Trees
 - Tree Watering Rings for the larger trees in use.
 - Trees getting more rainfall in June.
 - Looks like we'll lose a few trees, but most of the trees are coming back.
 - Have budget to purchase more trees to be planted in the Fall if Morrow waters what is currently planted.



Kiosks, Becky Retzer

- All but Loveland have updated QR codes requested by ODNR to be included. QR code directs user to Little Miami State Park with an option to open map. There is a FLMSPP link.
- Need to re-stain many of our kiosks.
 - Valspar solid exterior stain and sealer, color: PineBark

Portable Restrooms, Dick Feldmann

- Rumpke charging us \$500 for destroyed restroom, Spring Valley ACTS agreed to split the cost with us.

BEAUTY

Pollinator Gardens, Becky Retzer, Rick Forrester

- MM 19.9 Oregonia Pollinator Prairie
- MM 39 under power lines was seeded March 2nd

Park Entry Signs, Dick Feldmann

- No change
- Proposing new signage at all entry points.
- Currently surveying every intersection (46 intersections, two set of entry signs at each intersection) and creating a pictorial inventory of the signs at the intersections. Have completed capturing pictures of every intersection.

OUTREACH

Funding from Legislature, Ron Gorley

- For pavement replacement
- **Ron will bring the proposal to the FLMSP Board when it is ready.**

Spring Valley Proclaimed a Trail Town, Dick Feldmann

- Buckeye Trail Association
- June 17th, Spring Valley
- Dick Feldmann spoke about the trails that pass through Spring Valley

SAFETY

Intersections

- Start keeping an eye on brush growth extending into trail area, whacking mowing crews, and blocking site lines at intersections.

FLMSP ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

FUTURE GENERAL BOARD MEETINGS

August General Board Meeting will be Wednesday August 9th, 7:00-8:30 PM on MS Teams.
September Board Meeting will be Wednesday September 13th in person.

- **Bruce: Bump grinding complete up to Loveland.**
- **Ron asked that bump grinding not be performed between Grandin and Morrow at this time. He is working with the state to obtain funding for repaving and wants any interested parties to see the current condition of the asphalt.**
- **Rick needs magnetic FLMSP signs. Dick will drop them off.**
- **Ron is short one sign.**
- **Casey says to make sure we use the new logo when we buy new signs.**
- **New logo is available on the website for future use.**
- **Bruce: Can Casey find a status on the lot near Camp Denison offered for donation to the state? Melissa should be able to fill Casey in.**

MOTION: Dick made a motion to adjourn.

Becky seconded

Meeting adjourned

Addendum:

Three motions were made by Dick Feldmann and approved by board members via email on 7/25/23:

- 1. Motion to approve up to \$450 to purchase the replacement plants for Morrow. (Motion made and approved via email)**
- 2. Motion to approve up to \$3,000 for the purchase of two memorial benches. (Motion made and approved via email.)**
- 3. Motion to accept the receipt of two restricted donations for \$2,000 each for memorial benches. (Motion made and approved via email.)**