

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
General Board Meeting 6/12/2024
MS Teams
Meeting Agenda & Presentation_****minutes**

Minutes

Motions

Actions

AGENDA / STRATEGIC PLAN.

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Treasurer's Report
4. ODNR Report
5. FLMSP Administrative Business
6. Beauty
7. Volunteer Management
8. Amenities/Convenience
9. Outreach
10. Trail Condition & Drainage
11. Safety
12. Future General Board Meetings

Call to Order: Dick Feldmann

Introduction of Board:

Dick Feldmann	President
Ron Gorley	Vice President
Becky Retzer	Treasurer
Bill Brown	Secretary
Larry Bloomfield	Member at Large
Rick Forrester	Member at Large
John Telintelo	Member at Large
Bruce Cortwright	Member at Large

Introduction of Members and Guests:

Casey Marcum	ODNR
Tiffany DeChant-Hunt	ODNR

Approval of Minutes: Bill Brown

- May Board Meeting, distributed June 8th.

MOTION: Bill made a motion to approve May Board Meeting Minutes

Dick Seconded

Minutes approved

Treasurer's Report: Becky Retzer

FLMSP CASH ON HAND	04/30/24	05/31/24	
Unrestricted	173,997	173,053	-944
Restricted	22,000	20,051	-1,949
Memorial Benches	2,000	51	-1,949
Pavement Fund	10,000	10,000	0
Grandin Rest & Info Station	10,000	10,000	0
Reserved	259	259	0
Pollinator Garden	259	259	0
Savings Account	42,575	42,582	7
CD(s)	133,267	133,603	336
Receivables	0	65	65
Total	196,256	196,363	-2,893

P&L Comparison	YTD 5/2023	YTD 5/2024
Revenue	40,347	21,871
Expenses	27,756	30,892
Net Operating Revenue	22,591	-9,021

Treasurer Narrative, Becky Retzer

- Financials emailed to Board on 06/11/2024
- Fermann & Co is working on our tax filing. Should be completed end of July.
- Benevity Renewal due July
- **ACTION: Dick: A couple accounts without numbers on them. Becky will check on those.**

ODNR, Casey Marcum, Tiffany DeChant-Hunt

Staffing

- Casey
- Greg

O'Bannon bridge (Loveland MM 41.5)

- New bridge is open as of May 3.
- Opening ceremony May 22nd. Very Successful with good turnout by trail use community. Director Mertz, Mayor Bailey, Representative Schmidt, Assistant Chief of Parks and Watercraft Jon Dobney (1st LMSP Park Manager).

Todd Fork bridge (Morrow MM 28.2)

- Bridge maintenance and painting.
- Trail reopened. Bridge looks great. New blacktop from Mill St. to Front St. Still some finish up tasks scheduled.
- **Project done. Contractor needs to fix some things.**
- **Contractor did not pave the bridge as contract required. Not sure how that will be resolved.**

Caesar Creek / Middletown Rd. bridge (Oregonia MM 16.5)

- **Work started June 3rd.**
- **Need tricks crew to help on Thu. to remove boards. Have the crew bring buckets, and hammers to remove nails.**
- **Meeting at Middletown Road.**
- **Steel plates will be loaded into a dump truck to take to Caesars Creek. That will complete that project.**

Trail slip at I-71 Jeremiah Morrow Bridge (MM 22.1)

- No change.
- Park staff and ODNR Engineers continuing discussions a long-term solution to correct the issue.
- Very likely trail will have to close during construction. Trying to resolve a requirement for a detour during the work where no appropriate detour is available.
- **Core samples were taken for evaluation. New culvert will be installed here at the start of winter. If there are other culverts needed, Casey may be able to request they do them also.**
- **Casey asked if "yield to maint. workers" can be added to new rules signs.**
- **Dick will add it to the signs being made and Ask Tiffany to OK the addition.**
- **Casey on vacation next week. Grass has not grown much since last mowing. Greg will start mowing again next week. Tiffany is looking to hire another mower for the summer.**

Trail slip at Glendale-Milford Rd (MM 50)

- Investigating taking on leveling the blacktop as a joint park staff and FLMSP volunteer project.

Trail slip at Gladys Run (MM 4.5)

- Slip is within 2 inches of pavement.
- Gladys Run is covered by scenic rivers restrictions.

FLMSP ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Community Communications Manager, Dick Feldmann

- Janet Slater e-mailed her intent to step down as Trail Mail and communications manager in the next year or so. She wants to start working with a replacement.
- We need to start looking for that replacement.

- Please put the word out to your volunteers for a Trail Mail publisher.
- We'll start with word of mouth but will probably also publish official announcements by Trail Mail and through our Volunteer database.
- **Becky says we should be able to search in Volgistics for volunteers who have expressed interest in communications.**

FLMSP Board Succession

- Ron Gorley has expressed a desire to step down as Vice President in 2025
- In 2025 we would like to rotate and board and officer management.
- Please keep an eye out for volunteers who are good candidates for the board.

Purchase of Mini-Excavator, Bruce Cortright

- Chinese made excavators are available for \$6,800 from Indiana Company.
- 2nd option: adding an excavator to back of existing Kubota tractor?
- Shipping charges?
- Trailer?
- **Bruce found a supplier who had one and will have more in July. Bruce and Rick could drive over to look at it. Bruce suggested a used trailer. Mike Dresch is suggesting a dual axle trailer. That might not be necessary. Excavator is probably 2,200# and could be pulled by a ½ ton pickup.**
- **Ron asked what would be required to trailer our Kubota tractor. Should we get a trailer that can tow both? Bruce said it cannot be towed by a 1/2 ton pickup.**
- **Casey says trailer gates are heavy and a tilt option should be considered.**
- **Casey says Facebook Marketplace is a good place to look. Bruce suggested eBay.**
- **They're selling them for \$8,200.**
- **Bruce will take pictures and report back in July.**
- **Adding an excavator to the Kubota would create the problem of not being able to transport it along the trail since the tractor is much heavier.**
- **2,623 # - Kubota tractor weight.**
- **Casey suggested looking at a Dingo, or mini skid, that has the ability to add several different attachments.**

BEAUTY

Pollinator Gardens, Becky Retzer, Rick Forrester

- MM 19.9 Oregonia Pollinator Prairie
- MM 39.1 under power lines doing well
- New area at MM 38.5.
- **Garden at Morrow restrooms is looking good. Some rocks may be necessary to prevent the garden getting mowed.**
- **Becky asked Casey to take down the wildflower sign at Little River Cafe in Oregonia**

S Lebanon Rain Garden, Becky Retzer,

- No Change. Work will start in late August and plants will go in in the fall.

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

Proposed 2024 Volunteer Events, Dick Feldmann

- Volunteer Cookout occurred June 1st at Phegley Park, Morrow
 - About 25 volunteers came.
 - Thanks to Pat Klein – organizer, Rich Hartsig – grill master, Jim Schneider – greeter; Don Hahn – Corn Hole, and Jerry York – presentation on 20 Mile House history organization.
- Fall Picnic at Morgan Campgrounds for October.
 - Confirmed with the Morgans
 - Meeting with 2 volunteers to help recruit gift cards and gifts.
 - **Becky talked to Lori and we can do Oct. 6th or 13th.**
 - **Let's plan on Oct. 6th at 1:00-3:00.**
 - **Becky is pursuing gifts and donations.**
 - **Typically held in the afternoon.**
- Winter Volunteer gift
 - LaRosa's gift certificates worked well last year.

Volunteer Hours

- Are being recorded!
- 2023 – 4,033 hours recorded
- To date in 2024 – 1,103 hours
- **Ron says we are historically closer to 5,000 hrs. Becky says a few people are still loading hours to the website.**
- **Dick will ask Janet to put something on the website directing people to log hours in Vicnet.**

AMENITIES/CONVENIENCE

Information Kiosks

- The history and amenity signs on plastic are not handling solar energy well. Becoming brittle.
- Tiffany has asked that we reprint the signs on metal.
- Going out to our usual print shops for quotes for printing on metal.

Corwin Parking, Dick Feldmann

- Steve Williamson of Red Barn in Corwin has our approval to purchase the material and increase the bike user parking in Corwin.
- **Casey says he is motivated to do the project and predicts he will come through and start it soon.**

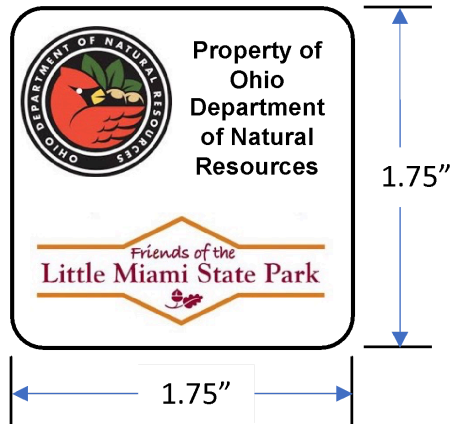
Park Entry Signs, Dick Feldmann

- Proposing new signage at all entry points. Trail has
 - 33 Major Intersections – Require full sign tree in each direction.
 - 11 Minor Intersections – Requires just the Park sign in each direction
 - 2 Terminations – Already has a large park sign but needs the trail and rules signs only in one direction.

- Signs needed
 - o 90 New LMSP park signs
 - o 80 Route signs
 - o 28 Street signs to replace missing street signs
 - o 80 New Rules Signs
- Phase 1. Replace State Park signs
 - o 90 signs have been received from A&A Safety and have started going up.
- Phase 2. Route signs and street signs
 - o Partial order of Route Signs received and supplied to Mid-South crew for installation.
 - o Remainder were finished Monday and I'll pick up by end of week.
- Phase 3. New rule signs finalized with Tiffany



- Security Label to be added to back of signs. 500 received from FastSigns.



King Ave/Grandin Rd/Peters Cartridge factory (MM 35.3)

- Rick Canavan, project manager.
- Projects on hold by ODNR.
 - o Permission given to replace the sign tree.
- Future Amenities
 - o Sign Tree
 - o Information Kiosk
 - o Picnic Shelter
 - o Benches
 - o Memorial to Steve

OUTREACH

Other Outreach, Dick Feldmann

- Fox19 report on rail that mid-south crew dug out of the ground.
<https://www.fox19.com/2024/05/16/nearly-200-year-old-piece-ohios-transportation-history-uncove-red-state-park/>
- Request from park management, If you have opportunity to talk to the press, be sure to mention that we work closely with park staff on maintaining the park.
- Little Miami River Festival, June 29, 2024 Noon-4pm Bellbrook. Dick will support.
- Greene County Cycling Classic August 22-24, 2024.

TRAIL CONDITION & DRAINAGE

Trees at Camp Dennison, Bruce Cortright

- Upright but leaning badly.
- Casey wants to put this off till after bats leave.
- Requesting professional removal



Tornado Damage

- May 8th Tornado hit 2.5 miles between Strout Rd. and Mill St. Continuous downed trees.
- Trail opened after 2 days' work by state crews and volunteers.
- Fence damage fixed.
- **Rick will be working on clearing the berm of the trail on Thu.**



Funding for pavement replacement, Ron Gorley

- Project funding request for \$296,500 was submitted to Warren County Chamber Alliance who submitted to Ohio legislature as 2nd priority on their list.
- Senate Bill 288 Introduced Monday. It does not appear that our request made it into either the house or the senate capital budget.
 - <https://ohiosenate.gov/news/on-the-record/senate-invests-350-million-into-first-phase-of-capital-budget-project#:~:text=Each%20chamber%20worked%20on%20%24350,said%20Senate%20President%20Matt%20Huffman>.
 - **Dick asked Ron to reach out to Warren County Chamber Alliance to see what they know about this bill.**

Todd Fork bridge (Morrow MM 28.2)

- See above

Route 42 Bridge over trail at Spring Valley (MM 7.0)

- Bridge Replacement began 15 February.
- Managed by ODOT District 8.
- <https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/projects/projects/102746>
- “The interim completion for the project is November 2024, and the final completion is June 2025.”

Route 73 Bridge over trail at Corwin (MM 14.5)

- Bridge Replacement began 4 March.
- Managed by ODOT District 8.
- <https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/about-us/news/district-8/warren+county+bridge+rehab+project+set+to+begin+on+s.r.+73+02+14+24>
- “The Little Miami Scenic Trail, however, will remain open to bicyclists and pedestrians.”
- “The project is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2024.”

O'Bannon Creek bridge (Loveland MM 41.5)

- See above.

Caesar Creek bridge at Middletown Rd. (Oregonia MM 16.5)

- See above.

Trail slip at I-71 Jeremiah Morrow Bridge (MM 22.1)

- See above.

Trail slip at Glendale-Milford Rd (MM 50)

- See above.

Trail slip at Glady Run (MM 4.5)

- See above.

Future, Dick Feldmann

- Foster Old 3C Highway.
- Sewer Project, South Lebanon

NOTE: I was kicked off the meeting during this discussion of donated property that Mike passed on while he was park manager due to donor restrictions. I didn't get the whole conversation.

Dick and Becky said not to move \$50,000 to CD as earlier discussed.

SAFETY

FUTURE GENERAL BOARD MEETINGS

July General Board Meeting, Wednesday, July 10th on MS Teams.

- Dick and Ron will be out of state.
- Becky will run the meeting.

MOTION: Dick made a motion to adjourn

Rick Seconded

Minutes approved