

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
General Board Meeting 1/8/2025
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. 2024 Closeout
6. 2025 Projects
7. FLMSP Administrative Business
8. Beauty
9. Volunteer Management
10. Amenities/Convenience
11. Trail Condition & Drainage
12. Outreach
13. Safety
14. 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
Rick Forrester	Member at Large
John Telintelo	Member at Large
Bruce Cortright	Member at Large

Introduction of Members and Guests:

Casey Marcum	ODNR
Tiffany DeChant-Hunt	ODNR
Margee Kirkpatrick	
Diane Wright	

Approval of Minutes: Bill Brown

- November Board Meeting, distributed December 14, 2024.

MOTION: Bill made a motion to approve Nov. meeting minutes

Becky seconded

Motion Approved

Treasurer's Report: Becky Retzer - INTERIM

FLMSP CASH ON HAND	10/30/24	12/31/24	
Unrestricted	120,179	127,224	7,045
Restricted	116,415	129,435	13,020
Memorial Benches	0	1,635	1,635
Pavement Fund*	106,415	107,800	1,385
Grandin Rest & Info Station	10,000	10,000	0
Oregonia Educational Garden		10,000	10,000
Savings Account	42,619	42,631	12
CD(s)	161,132	163,028	
Receivables	0	2,628	2,628
Total	236,594	259,287	22,693

P&L Comparison	YTD 12/23	YTD 12/24
Revenue	118,697	134,734
Expenses	70,318	77,832
Net Operating Revenue	49,049	56,902

Treasurer Narrative, Becky Retzer

- Financials emailed 01/07/2024 – Interim (still need to review and get J/E from Accountant)
- IRS 2025 Mileage Rate \$.70

Mileage Rates for 2025:	
\$0.70/mile	Max. rate for driving personal vehicle along or between points on trail.
\$0.80/mile	Max. rate for driving personal vehicle while pulling or hauling material or equipment on the trail (to include hauling equipment to/from the equipment storage facility) for purpose of maintaining the trail.

MOTION: Becky made a motion to approve changing mileage reimbursement to .70 driving on trail and .80 pulling equipment on the trail.

Ron seconded

Motion approved

- Need to order more maps for Kiosks. Quote is .4488 each for 2,500 = \$1,122.04 or .2727 each for 5,000 = \$1,363.70

Casey asked the address on the back of the maps to be Caesar Creek instead of the current Cowan lake address.

Dick asked to add FLMSP logo.

MOTION: Becky made a motion to purchase 5,000 maps up to \$1,500.00

Ron seconded

Motion approved

- Public Storage originally 149 now 195.00/month
- CD Renewal Dates: LCNB 04/03/25 4.40%
Huntington 10/13/24 \$31,768.90 (not renewed)
We will cash this in soon so it does not need to be renewed.
Huntington 2 01/29/25 4.88%

ODNR, Casey Marcum, Tiffany DeChant-Hunt

Staffing

- Casey Marcum, Maintenance Lead
- **Bridges at 42 will be asked to be repaved since they damaged the trail.**
- **Casey says they will get \$200K.**
- **Casey asked if anyone knows if there are any trails under bridges that need repair.**
- **Casey will be taking out a lot of trees after the snow melts and will be asking for FLMSP assistance.**
- **Tiffany asked Casey about having a fire wood collection. The parks occasionally collect wood for people to pick up firewood. The Monkey Bar parking lot is a possible site. Casey has trouble disposing of wood on the north end and this would help. It will be important to communicate the one time aspect and that people are allowed to drive on the trail.**
- **Casey was provided a new mower. Cub Cadet Zero Turn 60" mower. Can FLMSP pay to put "twheels" (Solid) to replace the existing pneumatic wheels? - \$1,400. The new chute we purchased recently is compatible with the new mower**
- **She will have three mowers next year. The oldest mower was the one replaced.**

First Annual Volunteer Celebration

- February 9th 2025, 1pm-3pm
- Caesar Creek Army Corps Education Room
- **Bill, Rick, Bruce, Becky, Dick, Ron (probable) will attend. Margee (maybe)**

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

- No change.
- **Three different repair approaches were suggested by engineering with the price of each. Most expensive used pilings, one used concrete baskets with rip rap and one was concrete blocks.**
- **Got inspection back on Miamiville Bridge. Need to pull out nails sticking out per bridge audit.**

Trail slip at Glady Run (MM 4.5)

- No change.

Trail slip at Glendale-Milford Rd (MM 50)

- No change.

2024 Closeout Highlights

Financials

- Transitioned Chart of Accounts to clearer presentation
- 2024 closeout in-progress. So, following is not final.
- Income **\$134,738**
 - o General Income \$75,688
 - o Pavement Project \$59,050
 - o **\$2,500 from CCC included to make it coincide with \$57,000 in the finance report.**
- Expenses **\$77,832**
 - o General Expenses \$38,304
 - o S. Lebanon Rain Garden \$5,447 (to be refunded from grant)
 - o Park Signs \$15,271
 - o Excavator \$18,810

Trail Mail management

- Janet successfully transitioned the Trail Mail newsletter and other duties
- Thanks to Margee and Diane for taking this on!
- **Diane thanked Margee for all her work.**

Park Entry Signs, Dick Feldmann

- Proposing new signage at all entry points. Trail has
 - o 45 Intersections
 - o 2 Park Boundaries
- Status
 - o Someone hit and destroyed sign tree at MM 42.9 Lower River Rd.
 - o 67 of 92 sign trees complete.
 - o 9 out of 17 new or replacement sign posts installed.
 - o Order for additional signs to complete class B intersections received.



D'Arcy Havill Property in Camp Dennison, Dick F

- D'Arcy contacted Dick 12/2/2024 about land transfer
- Dick contacted Kimberly Hazley, Project Manager, ODNR Office of Real Estate & Land Management and is staying in touch with her through this process.
- Received proposed deed restrictions D'Arcy's lawyer put together 12/5/2024. Restrictions are quite extensive and include the no structure restriction. Kimberly and I agreed that the restrictions are overly extensive and need to be negotiated down. Kimberly is working this with A'Arcy.
- Phone call with D'Arcy on 12/5/2024.
 - He told me that the tax advantage he is looking for was against other property he sold this year, hence his desire to make the donation this year. And that if it doesn't happen in December, it may be a couple years before he sells the next piece of property and will want to donation the section to the park.
 - I told Mr. Havill that I just didn't think we could close on the property transfer here in December.

Becky said we need to make it clear to Mr. Darcy or Kimberly that we do not want to have the property in our ownership for any period of time to prevent us from paying taxes. Casey said ODNR 's position is that they do not want any restrictions on the land.

Major Equipment purchases, Rick Forrester

- Excavator and trailer

S Lebanon Rain Garden, Becky Retzer,

- **Working on invoice to Warren County.** Total is under \$6,000
- Need to make small culvert, something our volunteers can do.
- Need to design poster for the S. Lebanon Kiosk.
- Warren County will provide the below signage to put at the rain garden:

Water coming down from the stop sign and we want to divert the water into the garden and prevent the current erosion. A swale will be put in using the new excavator.



WELCOME TO

FRIENDS OF THE LITTLE MIAMI STATE PARK

RAIN GARDEN

This rain garden is part of Operation Rain Garden.

What is a rain garden?
 A planted, depressed area that collects rainwater runoff from hard, impervious surfaces, like driveways and parking lots, and allows water to absorb back in the ground. Absorption takes 24-48 hours, so there is no long term standing water.

Benefits:

- Native plants act like a sponge by soaking up the water and removing pollutants from the runoff before the water enters local streams
- Provide habitat for wildlife, including vital pollinators like butterflies and bees
- Recharge groundwater which fills aquifers used for drinking water
- Reduce flooding and erosion by slowing down stormwater runoff

RAIN GARDEN
SOIL

CLEAN WATER

POLLUTED WATER

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

2025 Projects and Goals

Board Succession, Dick Feldmann

- By Annual Membership meeting in May

Buckeye Trail National Scenic Trail, Diane Wright

- **Congress has authorized study to see if buckeye trail should be a national scenic trail.**
- **Jan 16 4-7pm meeting in Cincinnati to share comments near UC.**
- **Buckeye Trail NPS info:**

<https://home.nps.gov/locations/midwest/national-park-service-announces-public-comment-period-and-public-meetings-regarding-buckeye-national-scenic-trail-feasibility-study.htm>

- **They will have way to share comments online**
- **virtual meeting online coming for comments**
- **Will the designation affect what can be done on the trail (including the LMSP) - (Ron) Diane will look into it.**
- **MArgie and Diane will draft something to ask FLMSF members for their comments if they want to send them.**
- **National Recreation trail does not come with funding and National Scenic TRail designation does come with funding from NPS. LMSP trail has both designations.**
- **This designation wouldn't happen for a couple years.**

Pavement fund raising, Ron Gorley

- Covered in next section

New Gardens, Becky **Retzer**, Rick Forrester

- \$10,000 from Applebaums in 2024

Grandin Road, Dick Feldmann

- \$10,000 from Applebaums in 2022
- **Would like to add an information kiosk, signage and a shelter at this location.**
- **Roy Henson's status report on the Grandin Road land transfer sent to Dick:**

"I got your voicemail from a couple of days ago, sorry just now getting back to you. It has been a very very slow process. ODNR and Warren County are now on the same page with properties to be transferred, however National Parks Services must approve the land conversion. ODNR passed along the conversion package to them for review a couple of months ago and I have not heard anything yet with their review. I believe ODNR has a follow up meeting with them later this month. Once NPS approves, ODNR will need to draft the conversion agreement, WC will need to review and it will then be executed. Then deeds will need to be drafted and reviewed and then the properties can finally be transferred. Sorry this is a much longer process than I originally thought. Feel free to reach out to me any time and I can try to give you a status update."

Thanks,

Roy G. Henson, P.E., P.S.

Chief Deputy Engineer

Warren County Engineer's Office

FLMSP Large Equipment Storage Facility, Rick Forrester

- Need a storage shed at Fosters on ODNR property.
- Rick created a project request form with all the details.
- Rick's estimate is \$11,000 for a prefabricated barn.
- 12' x 24' chosen to house the mini excavator, blower and asphalt grinder.
- Room next to the barn for the excavator trailer.
- Concrete ramp required for access.
- Current equipment in the Fosters and S. Lebanon cache would be housed here.
- Packed dirt foundation.
- 8' x 8' door size.
- Might need more than 12' depth. Maybe 14' - 16'.
- Barn has metal siding and 4'x4' supports.
- A carport could be added to the side to cover the trailer.
- Trailer theft is a concern if left outside. Need a trailer lock and chain it to a tree.
- Barn dimensions could be increased to house trailer.

Kiosk display panel upgrade, Becky Slater

- Develop new maps
- Mount permanent signs on metal backing
- Cork board is good in summer, but not winter. They will be replaced with metal backing.

Paint Corwin Restrooms, Dick Feldmann

- North crew will work on this in 2025 Spring

Mile 39 Prairie Shelter Needs Roof Repair, Rick

FLMSP ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Insurance

- 2025-2026 Blanket Accident policy
 - o Blanket Accident Insurance \$300
- 2025-2026 Commercial Policy
 - o Commercial General Liability Coverage \$400
 - o Commercial Auto Coverage \$488
 - o Commercial Inland Marine Coverage \$778
 - o Commercial Liability Umbrella Coverage \$750

Becky will send policy to anyone who wants to look into the coverage.

MOTION: Dick made a motion to approve payment of the above listed insurance.

Becky seconded

Motion approved

Funding for pavement replacement, Ron Gorley

- Repave between South Lebanon and Morrow.
- Ohio capital budget \$200,000
- FLMSP has committed \$50,000

- Major campaign 2024 ~\$56,000.
- Dick submitted a grant request to Cincinnati Cycle Club for \$5,000.
 - o 12/11/2024 Received notice that CCC has approved a grant of \$2,500.
- Major campaign goal for 2025: ~\$45,000.
 - o Warren County Foundation impact grant: \$10,000.
 - o They usually announce winners by the end of Dec. Ron will call tomorrow to see if we won or lost the grant and notify board members.
 - o Becky has a volunteer working on a spreadsheet with approximately 50 large organizations/donors to include with our communication.
 - o Will research Grant Station for possible donors.
- ODNR researching using the pavement project funds as a basis for a matching grant.
 - o The matching grant funds would be used for the park infrastructure, but probably other issues such as pavement slips or bridge replacement rather than repaving.
- ODNR may use an existing paving contract through ODOT.
- ODNR requested a transfer of funds to their accounting in March.
- South Lebanon is expected to bid out their municipal wastewater upgrade project (including repaving 0.9 miles of the trail) in Spring 2025 and repave later in the year. They will be able to mark the segments of the trail they will be repaving if we need that prior to their work.
- Jan. 24th regional committee meeting. Ron will give an update on the repaving project. Ron asked if Casey had any idea on the timing of ODNR getting bids and proceeding with the project. Casey does not know yet.
- Need a communication plan in place to go to our members to close the final funding gap with our next funding campaign.
- Tiffany would like to meet with Dick and Ron when she gets back from vacation.

BEAUTY

Pollinator Gardens, Becky Retzer, Rick Forrester

- Suellen Applebaum, Appletree Pet Clinic, donated \$10,000 in December. We suggested and Suellen approved putting the donation to a new garden.
- MM 19.9 **Oregonia Educational Garden**
 - o Working with Christopher on his Eagle Scout Project. Christopher will be presenting a drawing with detail on pathways & garden areas. Working on finalizing plans with Bill Newton. FLMSP/ODNR will need to spray area once he marks off location.
- MM 39.1 under power lines doing well.
- New area at MM 38.5.

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

2024 Volunteer Events, Dick Feldmann

- Winter Volunteer gift
 - o 75 LaRosa gift certificates for 1 2-topping pizza for \$11 per certificate sent out with thank you note to active volunteers mid-December 2024.

AMENITIES/CONVENIENCE

Information Kiosks, Becky Retzer

- John has received the work from the mapographer and is working on adding amenities at each trailhead as well as logos. Each trailhead will have an enlargement of the area to easily read streets. We need to provide link to our website where we want the qr code to land.
- Motion to budget and spend up to \$5,000 for park maps.
- **Motion handled earlier in the meeting during Treasurer's Report.**

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.
- Work hasn't started.

Spring Valley

- Bike Pump broke again. Will need to order new hose and valve connection.

TRAIL CONDITION & DRAINAGE

Blower Teams, Dick Feldmann

- South blower down.
- Blowing crews kept up with conditions.

Route 73 Bridge over trail at Corwin (MM 14.5)

- Bike trail open.
- Road: New west bound lane open. East bound lane closed and gone.
- 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>

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

- Near completion
- Trail is open.
- Road: New north and south bound lane open.
- Managed by ODOT District 8.
- <https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/projects/projects/102746>

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 Gladys Run (MM 4.5)

- See above.

Middletown Road area, Rick Forrester

- Part of the trail (north of the intersection about 50 feet) is being undercut by either a collapsed drainage pipe or by groundhogs.

OUTREACH

Cincinnati Cycling Club Annual Banquet, Dick Feldmann

- February 2, 2024, Barrel Room at MadTree in Oakley. Ron and/or Dick will support.

SAFETY

FUTURE GENERAL BOARD MEETINGS

February General Board Meeting, Wednesday, February 12th on MS Teams.

March General Board Meeting, Wednesday, March 12th in person. Possibly at Caesar Creek?

Casey will reserve the room. Since food will be served, the meeting should be at 5:00 PM.

Annual Membership Meeting, Propose May 4th, details TBD

MOTION: Dick made a motion to adjourn

Ron seconded.

Meeting adjourned