

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
General Board Meeting
January 14, 2026
Virtual - MS Teams
Meeting 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. Trail Maintenance/Safety
7. Trail Amenities/Convenience
8. Trail Improvements/Beauty
9. FLMSP Volunteer Events
10. FLMSP Trail Mail
11. FLMSP Outreach
12. FLMSP Future Board Meetings

Call to Order: Becky Retzer

Introduction of Board:

Becky Retzer	President
Dick Feldmann	Vice President
Bill Brown	Treasurer
John Telintelo	Secretary
Rick Forrester	Member at Large
Bruce Cortright	Member at Large
Kris Allenson	Member at Large

Introduction of ODNR, Members, and Guests:

Tiffany DeChant-Hunt	ODNR
Casey Marcum	ODNR
Margee Kirkpatrick	FLMSP Trail Mail
Diane Wright	FLMSP Trail Mail
Ron Gorley	FLMSP Memorial Program

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: John Telintelo

- Nov 12, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes distributed Nov 18, 2025, by John Telintelo.
MOTION: John made a motion to approve the November Board Meeting minutes.
Dick seconded. Motion Approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bill Brown

- **Email Motion Votes:**
 - **11/16/2025 Motion by Bill to approve up to \$9,000 for the purchase of a 2018 Vermeer BC 700 Brush Chipper. Approved**
 - **12/05/2025 Motion by Rick to purchase a new MS250 chainsaw for up to \$475. Approved**
 - **01/07/2026 Motion by Bruce to approve Shawnee Tree's \$800 quote to remove a dangerous overhanging tree. Approved**

- Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet were emailed by Bill Brown to Board members on 11/10/2025. Bill recommended leaving the total unrestricted amount of 145k where it is.
- Discuss Insurance payments for 2026: West Bend (\$2,472) & Philadelphia Ins. Company (\$300).
- Bill made a motion to approve these insurance payments. Bruce seconded. Motion Approved.
- Bill will ask Fritz to look over policies and review changes.
- Dec. 2025 donations: \$42,000!!
- Discuss 2025 Tax Filing requirements. Bill will discuss it with Becky.
- Becky was successful in reaching Dave Fermann. He stated that we do not need to worry about the penalty letters and that he will handle them.
- \$10,000 Donation from Dr. and Mrs. Robert Reed in honor of Bill Schwinn. Bill only did the article. Bruce to confirm whether they want the donation to remain anonymous.
- 10,000 Donation noted below at 'Ad at Welcome Station' was from the Applebaums for a Welcome Station with kiosk and bench (and possible repair station) at Fort Ancient.

PROFIT & LOSS	Jan-Dec 2025	Jan-Dec 2024
Revenue	\$152,730	\$127,406
Interest Rev.	\$3,296	\$6,009
Expenses	-\$239,556	-\$65,518
Total	-\$83,530	\$67,897

CASH ON HAND	Dec. 31, 2025	Nov. 30, 2025	Delta
Total Cash	\$174,101	\$137,684	\$36,417
Operating Account	\$63,137	\$26,720	\$36,417
Huntington Savings	\$110,964	\$110,964	\$0
Cert. of Deposit	\$0	\$0	\$0
Restricted	\$28,529	\$18,529	\$10,000
Benches	\$1,404	\$1,404	\$0
Pavement Fund	\$6,020	\$6,020	\$0
Grandin Rest & Info Station	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Oregonia Garden	\$1,105	\$1,105	\$0
Ad at Welcome Station	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Unrestricted	\$145,572	\$119,155	\$26,417

ODNR REPORT: Tiffany DeChant-Hunt, Casey Marcum

- Tiffany – Currently nothing to report.
- Casey – Pushing over dead trees this past week that are within reach of the trail.

FLMSP ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS: Becky Retzer

Record Retention Policy

- Policy sent out via email for final review. John and Dick had suggested that a previous format for the listing of each item was perhaps clearer than a table format. Becky will make final revisions and put it on the shared drive.

Photo Retention Policy

- Kris will work on the Photo Retention policy at the beginning of 2026.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE/SAFETY

Focuses on preserving the trail's condition, preventing further deterioration, and emphasizing safety. Review of trail slips; bridge repairs or replacement; bump grinding, root cutting, crack filling; drainage swales and culverts; clearing intersection sight lines; equipment purchases, equipment security, and equipment storage caches.

Major Pavement Replacement Project between South Lebanon and Morrow

- **Project completion tentatively scheduled for the end of May 2026. S. Lebanon is bidding out the municipal wastewater upgrade, which will include repaving 0.9 miles of the trail.**

MM 4.5 - Trail Slip at Glady Run

- **No Change.**

MM 6.1 - Bridge in Spring Valley at Bellbrook Ave

- **Bridge is being evaluated by Engineering.**

MM 13 - Trail Undercut at Middletown Road area

- **No Change.**

MM 18.7 – Culvert before Horse Farm

- **No Change.**

MM 19.6 – Oregonia

- **Dick requested that at the Little River Café, a fence or rail be installed so motorcycles can't get through.**

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

- **Project completion tentatively scheduled for the end of May 2026. There is no available detour route in this area so that the trail will be closed.**

MM 33 – Bridge Repair/Replacement at South Lebanon

- **No Change.**

MM 40 - Gravel Fill North of Loveland

- **Casey Marcum requested FLMSP purchase gravel for some fill. Dick will purchase 6 cubic yards of gravel for approx. \$300 from Roxanna Mulch and Topsoil, and have it delivered for Casey's use.**

MM 44 – Culvert Partially Collapsed

- **No Change.**

MM 47.7 – Miamiville Bridge

- **Bridge is now being evaluated in Engineering.**

MM 50 - Trail Slip at Glendale-Milford Rd

- **No Change.**

Foster Large Equipment Storage Facility, Rick Forrester

- **ODNR agrees with the Foster location. Next step is to finalize the structure, design, and cost. Dick will put together a formal proposal with engineer-stamped drawings, a site plan for Tiffany and the State.**
- **Dick noted that storing the South Lebanon cache fence repair equipment will not be added to the tool barn requirements.**
- **A meeting to discuss plans is scheduled for Thursday morning, Jan 15, at Paxton's Grill in Loveland. Rick Forester will be in Michigan for two weeks after that.**

Air Tags for all Heavy Equipment, Bill Brown

- **Bill will explore the costs involved in buying and putting electronic air tags on all the heavy equipment and trailers as a security measure.**

TRAIL AMENITIES/CONVENIENCE

Focuses on directional aids, park signage, places to stop, rest and recharge, information kiosks, restrooms, memorial benches, tables, bike stands and pumps, and rain shelters.

Information Kiosks, Becky Retzer, Dick Feldmann

- **Dick renovated the Loveland kiosk. Changed the locks from key locks to combination locks and replaced the broken plexiglass. .**
- **Dick will replace the one broken plexiglass pane at Spring Valley.**
- **Dick will change the locks at Milford Park signage.**

Park Signage, Dick Feldmann

- **New sign trees 15/17 done: Wilmington Rd. & S. Lebanon will be completed after construction. This will likely be next year. Other signage is all maintenance.**
- **Branch Hill / Bridge Street Sign needs to be straightened up. John is sending Bruce photos, and the Far South Crew is to repair.**

Memorial Program, Ron Gorley.

- **Current policy for Benches only. Working on other options, i.e., Birdhouses, Sculptures, Peace Poles, and Picnic Tables for new shelter and elsewhere. The new policy needs to list the item's life and release from liability for FLMSF when the life expectancy has been met.**
- **Benches remain as is supplied by RJ Thomas. Metal Picnic Tables will be supplied by Barco.**
- **Tiffany suggested expanding the memorial program and picnic tables at river access points.**
- **Tiffany suggested that two future memorial benches be installed near the bicycle tie-up area near the Trail Yard Restaurant in Miamiville. Casey and Ron are to meet there and discuss the exact locations.**
- **Casey will check with one of the ODNr naturalists for advice on the best locations for birdhouses along the trail. Install on poles. Owl boxes are up high on mature trees.**
- **Bench was removed during construction at Grandin Road Interchange, It's currently stored at Ceaser Creek and will be reinstalled this spring.**
- **Ft Ancient Visitor Center will need a bench installed in the summer of 2026.**

Miamiville Trailhead Memorial Improvements, Ron Gorley, Bruce Cortright

- **Three new steel picnic tables have been installed.**
- **Memorial Bench in honor of Bill Schwinn has been installed.**



TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS/BEAUTY

Enhances the trail beyond its current state with substantial changes, increasing its value, beauty, and overall image by creating pollinator gardens, raingardens, tree plantings, river vistas, riverbank restorations, railroad memorabilia elements, historical plaques, and developing strong Trail Towns, districts and landmarks.

MM 19.9 – Oregonia Educational Garden, Becky Retzer

- **Kris will help Becky coordinate a Spring cleanup, weed treatment and mulch one day event.**

MM 28.5 – Morrow, Becky Retzer

- **The Morrow Brewery now has food truck(s) in back of building.**
- **Rock-mounted Historical Plaque for the Morrow Bridge will be installed later this year.**
- **Dogwoods need to be removed.**

MM 49 – Camp Dennison Historical Marker

- **Tiffany stated that a Historical Plaque would be installed in Camp Dennison at Cunningham Rd. on Tuesday, April 28th. It will be similar to the party that was at the Nature Center. It was noted that the Schoolhouse Restaurant has a parking lot that might be used for the attendees.**

FLMSP VOLUNTEER NEWS/EVENTS

Chainsaw Training, Rick Forrester

- **New North Volunteer Crew wants to get chainsaw training in next few weeks.**

Hot-Line, Ron Gorley

- **Ron and Dick will work on the system technology restraints and how to handle larger numbers of text recipients, say 20, on Hot-Line Calls, as different phones and different cell systems have limits.**

FLMSP TRAIL MAIL

- **Margie received good responses to the last Trailmail with year-end summaries regarding our different crews. If any teams need volunteers, please send Margie a brief blurb.**
- **The articles on the FLMSP web page look dated, particularly with the Repaving Campaign closed last spring and older trail conditions/closings. (Is this something we need to try to recruit a volunteer to keep updated?)**
- **It was recommended that TrailMail and the webpage both mention that donations can be made through Kroger by naming FLMSP as an organization through Kroger's Community Rewards program.**
- **Diane Wright plans on being more involved with TrailMail and is going to submit an article regarding Morrow being named a Buckeye Trail Town. This is the fourth LMSF Trail Town (Loveland, Milford, and Spring Valley). To be a Trail Town, the town must agree to provide several amenities for hikers (and others who use the trail), including camping, supplies, signage, and broad support. There will be a ceremony sometime this summer to celebrate Morrow; FLMSP members will be invited.**
- **Diane also submitted that the Buckeye Trail website has been updated, and hopes FLMSP members take a look: <https://www.buckeyetrail.org/>**

FLMSP OUTREACH

- **June 6 will be the Biggest Day Hike for the Buckeye Trail, where we try to have all sections covered (hiking or biking!)**
- **September 10-13 will be the 2026 Buckeye TrailFest, and it will happen concurrently with the North Country Trail Trailfest, at Salt Fork State Park - it should be an amazing event. If anyone is considering attending, they can make lodge reservations now by calling the Salt Fork Lodge and asking for the Trailfest rate: [\(800\) 282-7275](tel:8002827275)**
- **Becky is meeting with Matt Latham, Warren County Park District on Wednesday, January 28th.**
- **Donald Outtersen is coordinating a meeting with Ralph Brueggermann and Scott Holland of the Wasson Way Bike Trail in Cincinnati. They want to learn how to improve their bike trail and upgrade to FLMSP standards. Becky will go.**
- **Ron will be attending the January 30 Tri State Trails Regional Committee virtual meeting, reporting on this spring's repaving project. Ron will also report on any other major 2026 projects that impact the trail. Ron asked Tiffany to let him know which projects he can discuss.**

FLMSP FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

- **WED, February 11th, 2026, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, Virtual on Teams.**
- **MOTION: Becky made a motion to adjourn. John seconded. MOTION APPROVED.**