

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
General Board Meeting
April 08, 2026
First Federal Bank
Meeting Minutes**

Minutes

Motions

Actions

AGENDA / STRATEGIC PLAN

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Administrative Business
5. Trail Maintenance/Safety
6. Trail Amenities/Convenience
7. Trail Improvements/Beauty
8. FLMSP Volunteer Events
9. FLMSP Trail Mail
10. FLMSP Outreach
11. 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 / Buckeye Trail
Ron Gorley	FLMSP Memorial Program

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: John Telintelo

- Mar 11, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes distributed on Mar 17, 2026, by John Telintelo.
MOTION: John moved to approve the March Board Meeting minutes.
Dick seconded. MOTION APPROVED.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bill Brown

Insurance Review Follow-Up

- **Dick stated that Birth Date is probably the only risk area and suggested it be removed from Volgistics.**
- **Dick and Becky will meet to review together what liability items we should remove from the database.**

Taxes and Donations

- CPA is filing 2024 taxes, and the invoice to Fermann Staun CPA has been paid. Will do an extension.
- 2025 Tax filing is being worked on. Due May 15, 2026.
- Total Cash on Hand: \$176,194
- Restricted Cash: \$28,529

Meier's Gift Cards

- Bill passed out the Gift Cards to the crew chiefs.

Chronolog Stations

- Bill will move one or two existing Chronolog Stations, one to Morrow Bridge and the other to either Grandin Road or to Don Hahn's bench vista of the river. Subscription was renewed in March.

PROFIT & LOSS	YTD Mar 2026	YTD Mar 2025
Revenue	\$13,692	\$59,506
Interest Rev.	\$123	\$1,560
Expenses	-\$11,903	-\$19,806
Total	\$1,912	\$41,260

CASH ON HAND	Mar. 31, 2026	Feb. 28, 2026	Delta
Total Cash	\$176,194	\$174,765	\$1,429
Operating Account	\$64,991	\$63,643	\$1,348
Huntington Savings	\$111,203	\$111,122	\$81
Cert. of Deposit	\$0	\$0	\$0
Restricted	\$28,529	\$28,529	\$0
Benches	\$1,404	\$1,404	\$0
Pavement Fund	\$6,020	\$6,020	\$0
Spring Valley Wildlife Preserve	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Oregonia Garden	\$1,105	\$1,105	\$0
Grandin Welcome Station	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Unrestricted	\$147,665	\$146,236	\$1,429

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS: Becky Retzer

Annual Meeting

- Annual Meeting is SUNDAY, MAY 3rd from 4:30 to 6:30 at Waldschmidt House in Camp Dennison.
- Dick, Rick, and John agreed to be up for reelection.
- Becky has signed the contract. Becky will need a check for a \$500 donation made out to the Treasurer, Ohio Society DAR.
- Dick will pick up drinks. Becky needs a volunteer to get paper products.
- Margee and Becky will send out invitations to members via Constant Contact on Thursday, April 16, 2026. Reminder to be sent on Sunday, April 26, with deadline to register on Tuesday, April 28th.

Marketing

- Becky's adult granddaughter will set up an FLMSF Instagram account and post to it via postings from ODNR & FLMSF Facebook. Instagram offers higher visual engagement with a younger audience.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE/SAFETY

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

MM 19.6 - Oregonia

Dick and Casey agreed not to implement the suggested change. The Board will reconsider after we see how the sale of the Little River Café is completed. This issue was tabled.

MM 22.3 - Trail slip under I-71 Jeremiah Morrow Bridge

- The project is currently awarded. There is no available detour route in this area, so the trail will be closed. When ODNR knows of its closure, FLMSF can post it on social media, website, and in Trail Mail. Dick will post on the website that trail users shall contact the ODNR Park Office for trail closure info.

Major Pavement Replacement

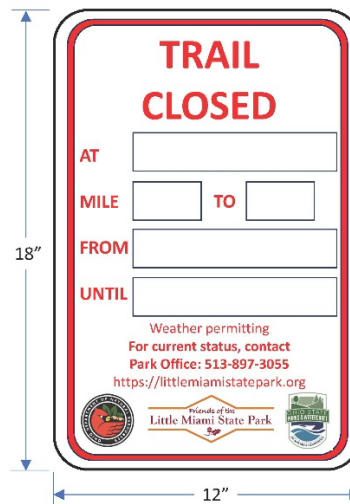
- The project is awarded. When ODNR knows of its closure, FLMSF can post it on social media, website, and in Trail Mail. Dick will post on the website that trail users shall contact the ODNR Park Office for trail closure information. We could do a ribbon-cutting when this project is completed.
- S. Lebanon had awarded the municipal sewer line extension. The trail was closed two weeks ago so the contractor could take down the trees before the bats moved in. The actual construction is tentatively planned for June 2026. The RFP indicated the project was to be completed by July 2027. The sewer line will run along the side of the trail south of S. Lebanon and straight down the center of the trail north of S. Lebanon, meaning the trail will be completely closed once they start digging.
- Warren County water field project immediately west of the Lebanon spur is on hold, waiting for parts. The project will continue at some point in the future.

Trail Closures

- Dick has designed a sign to be used and strategically placed at trail closures. The sign is designed so that it can allow future use at other locations.
- It was suggested that the signage should have a park office phone number to get current information.
- It was suggested that the word "mile" be spelled out instead of the abbreviation MM, and that the entire length of closure be specified (Mile to Mile).
- 12" x 18" approved with a hole at top and bottom. Color of lettering to be red. The background color is to be white. Quantity shall be 12.
- Original Design below:



*Post-Meeting Design below:



- Margee will NOT send out suggested detours, as some liability is involved for the FLMSF organization if recommendations are made. Trail users will be urged to use GPS to self-determine the route.
- Importance of keeping trail closures updated on our website, Facebook, and with partner organizations, and in urging users to contact the park office by phone number for current info.

Root cutting along trail blacktop project: Dick Feldmann

- Completed from Foster to Lebanon Spur
- Completed from Stubbs Mill to first culvert north. We still need roots dug of trail pavement.
- Still need to do 0.1 mile from culvert to new pavement.
- Need to cut roots from Stubbs Mill south to end of S. Lebanon sewer line. This section will be repaved by S. Lebanon contractor, but without a sewer line ditch, the roots won't get cut.
- Excavator needs oil added every time it is used.

MM 28 & 38 - Gravel Fill North of Loveland

- Casey Marcum had FLMSF purchase gravel for some fill. Casey indicated she has dropped off gravel in between Fosters and Loveland at the slumping area that Rick's crew worked on last year. Casey has halted this.

MM 42.5 & 41.5 Loveland District and Trailhead

- ODNR law enforcement approved the following to be painted on the pavement at each end of the busy Loveland District. North painting will be near Lyons Rd., and South painting will be near East Broadway.
Three yellow strips
"CAUTION - SLOW" (broken into two lines)
"High Pedestrian Area"
- Dick has completed the stencils, and painting will start this month. Rustoleum Traffic Paint dries in one hour.

ODNR has engaged an external engineering firm to evaluate and prioritize future major trail projects. Miscellaneous trail issues being assessed may include those listed below:

MM 4.5 - Trail Slip at Gladly Run

MM 6.1 - Bridge Repair in Spring Valley at Bellbrook Ave

MM 13 - Trail Undercut at Middletown Road area

MM 18.7 - Culvert before Horse Farm

MM 33 - Bridge Repair/Replacement at South Lebanon

MM 44 - Culvert Partially Collapsed

MM 47.7 - Bridge Repair at Miamiville

MM 49.5 - Trail Slip near Glendale-Milford Rd

MM 50.5 - Bridge Repair at Shawnee Run

Foster Large Equipment Storage Facility, Rick Forrester/Dick Feldmann

- Dick has reached out to the Monkey Bar surveyor to create site plan.
- Ohio Department of Commerce will be handling the permitting and inspections. They require a PE stamped set of plans for the building and a stamp site plan. (same requirements when we built the shelter in Corwin)
- Don Hahn is looking into requirements for asking for a variance on the 600 sq ft. limit on buildings in a flood plain. Has not gotten answer back on variance.

Air Tags for all Heavy Equipment, Bill Brown

- Bill will purchase and adhere electronic air tags on all the heavy equipment and three trailers as a security measure.

TRAIL AMENITIES/CONVENIENCE

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

Portable Restrooms: Dick Feldman

- **Scheduled seasonal changeover has been completed.**

Information Kiosks, Becky Retzer, Dick Feldmann

- **Dick will replace the one broken plexiglass pane at Spring Valley.**
- **Dick will change the locks at the Milford Park signage.**
- **Dick will work on the new kiosk at Grandin Trailhead**
- **Group Project – re-staining kiosks the same color for consistency.**
- **We need to order more maps; 5000 maps are now \$1650.00 for an average of @. 33 per map.**
MOTION: Becky moved to purchase 5,000 maps from Evolution Printing, spending up to \$1700.
Dick seconded. MOTION APPROVED.

Memorial Program, Ron Gorley.

- **Bird Boxes: Time to install is late February for both the bluebird and songbird options. Ron would like to purchase 2 Duncraft boxes, the Eco-Strong Protected Songbird House for \$79.95 and the Eco-Strong Bluebird House for \$89.95. Ron will then figure out pole, baffle and plaque details. Locations will be worked out with ODNR input. Goal is to know what exactly what to do by early Thanksgiving and make this a holiday gift option, publicized in Trail Mail. This could be an annual program and be renewed.**
MOTION: Ron moved to purchase 2 Eco-Strong boxes, spending up to \$300.
Dick seconded. MOTION APPROVED.
- **A request came in for a plaque in Loveland for a pet dog. Ron says it doesn't make sense to do this or to put down pavers. Tiffany noted that pavers are hard to maintain. Ron will notify the requester.**
- **Tiffany asked if benches are guaranteed for a specific number of years.**

TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS/BEAUTY

Focuses on enhancing the trail, its image, natural beauty, and historical connections. Review of 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.**
- **Christopher (Eagle Scout) shared with Becky that his project won the Eagle Scout Project of the Year. Becky will submit a short article with a photo to Trail Mail.**

MM 28.5 – Morrow, Becky Retzer

- **Earth Day Volunteer Event, Saturday, April 18th, 9:00 to noon to pick up little and prepare site for May Trailtown celebration**
 - **Fresh to Morrow is furnishing drinks and snacks**
 - **ODNR will provide trash bags and gloves**
 - **Becky will send out an invite for our volunteers to participate through Volgistics on Friday, April 10th.**
 - **Paint for RR signs in Morrow (Dick)**

MM 37.5 – Foster Train Memorabilia with Interpretative Panel, Rick Forester

- **Rick and ODNR are working on a future Train Memorabilia Area for Foster. Rick noted that four other people are involved in working on this.**
- **Becky suggested it be a future private donation or grant application.**
- **It was suggested that new tables, like at Miamiville be installed with some new trash cans.**
- **Tiffany suggested Neil, a historian at ODNR can do the research, write the story, and maintain a trail-wide consistency. Pannier Company makes display panels.**

MM 48.7 – Camp Dennison Historical Marker Dedication at Cunningham Rd., Tiffany DeChant-Hunt

- A Historical Plaque about Camp Dennison will be installed by ODNR near Cunningham Rd., with a dedication on Tuesday, April 28, at noon. This dedication is part of the America 250 Celebration.
- It was noted that the Schoolhouse Restaurant has a parking lot available for attendees. Tiffany suggested 35-50 people as a gauge for crowd size.
- FLMSF will have a table with handouts, history books, etc. ODNR will provide cookies.
- Casey has the plan and a work list for Bruce and the Far South Crew to get the place in shape for the dedication.

FLMSF VOLUNTEER NEWS/EVENTS

Change of North and Mid-South Designations: Dick Feldmann

- Changes to the extent of the four divisions for volunteers and work crews were discussed. Ideas were floated, but the issue will be discussed in a future meeting as Chainsaw Crews and VicNet volunteer categories will need to be adjusted if a three vs four sections of trail is decided on.

Trail Sentinels

- Don Outtersen has volunteered to revamp this program.
- Becky and Don will work on a new program SOP and present to the Board at the June meeting.

Hot-Line, Ron Gorley and Dick Feldmann

- 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. Dick's phone doesn't work with the system.

Volgistics

- Kris will begin processing all new FLMSF volunteer applications and ODNR forms.
- Dick and Don sent out a reminder of the need for volunteers to renew their ODNR volunteer forms on March 16th.

Buckeye Trail Town Festival in Morrow – Saturday, May 16th 9 am to 3 pm.

- Coordination for a Clean-Up Date between ODNR, Morrow, and FLMSF.
- Tiffany will attend and be a speaker, as will Becky. The formal presentation is at noon.
- Do we want to have a table? Yes – 2-hour shifts.

FLMSF TRAIL MAIL

- Becky will write an article for the next Trail Mail focusing on the positive aspects of all the trail closures.
- Margee noted the need for more articles.

FLMSF OUTREACH

- June 6 will be the Biggest Day Hike for the Buckeye Trail, where we try to have all sections covered (hiking or biking!)
- Erin – ODNR Naturalist will host a walk in Loveland on Saturday, June 6 in the afternoon.
- We will develop more plans over the next few months.
- September 10-13 will be the 2026 Buckeye TrailFest, and it will happen concurrently with the North Country Trail Trailfest, at Salt Fork State 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)

FLMSF FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

- SUNDAY, May 3, 2026, is the annual Meeting.
 - The next Board Meeting is JUNE 10 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, virtual on MS Teams.
- MOTION: John made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rick seconded. MOTION APPROVED.**