

Friends of Lower Muskingum River Monthly News Roundup August 20, 2013

The following is a slightly shortened version of this month's board meeting minutes, provided to the FLMR membership to keep you up to date with what is going on in FLMR.

In attendance were board members Marilyn Ortt, Susan Corcoran, Katy Lustofin, Elin Jones, John Lee, Dave Blount and Doug Albaugh; and watershed coordinator Jesse Daubert.

Watershed Coordinator Report:

Jesse reported that the Raft Regatta was a success. There were 29 rafts entered in the race, which was 8 more than last year. Net profit was over \$1,400 (some tee shirt sales not recorded yet). Jesse distributed the detailed budget for the Regatta. Steve did a great job of promotion, and will get a \$50 bonus for his efforts.

Steve represented FLMR at the Inland Waterways Festival, at the Ohio Riverboat Museum, on August 3.

The Barengo Insurance policy (now with Peoples Insurance), which includes liability coverage for the regatta, will expire on September 13.

As a result of FLMR's *E. coli* sampling on Goose Run, the Marietta city sanitarians have sent letters to homeowners announcing that they will be inspecting septic systems.

Jesse needs articles and ideas for the next newsletter, which he plans to get out soon.

Jesse also requests ideas for a "Fall Paddle" (kayaks and canoes) on the Muskingum that he hopes to schedule soon. He will arrange shuttle service from Marietta to a launch site.

So far there is no funding source for another VISTA. No word from ACCT. We need alternative sources and funding. Jesse will try to get another intern from Marietta College.

Jesse will attend the Ohio Watershed Leaders Conference, at Lake Hope, on Sept. 5-6.

FLMR now has 331 Facebook fans, which is an increase of 28 from last month.

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Projects:

Luke Chute/Cabin Run – Dave has made progress toward getting the bridges back in place. He would like to schedule a work date for a volunteer crew to help carry the bridges back to their original positions, and to help pile rocks at the bridge abutments. He will announce a date soon.

Dana Island – John and Marilyn cut and poisoned tree of heaven, all of which were small enough to cut with loppers. They need a chain saw crew (Jesse) to cut bush honeysuckle.

Devol Run – John put up a sign that Marilyn had made: "Please don't drive into the water because of damage to mussels." The Wildlife Officer told Marilyn he will try to get a gate installed to prevent access.

Old Business:

Bag Report – Elin brought in some more money and is making more bags.

Wilson Sanctuary oil income – Marilyn reported receiving our annual payment for oil, which was \$422 this time. We get a monthly check (thirty-some dollars) for gas.

New Business:

Raft storage – Elin moved and John seconded that we give a free membership to the Reeses for storing our rafts.

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund – District 18 (that's us) is receiving funding and will be accepting applications for grants to purchase land. Marilyn contacted the director of the Fund and got confirmation that horizontal drilling is not permitted under land purchased with Clean Ohio funds.

Murmuration – Marilyn asked Dave about scheduling a date to invite the public to view the “Bird Show” at Luke Chute, in addition to the MNHS date (see below).

Future Dates:

Thursday September 12 – the Marietta Natural History Society will go to the Luke Chute Conservation Area to view the murmuration (“bird show”). They will meet at Warren's IGA at 6:30 p.m. to carpool.

Monday September 16, 5:30 p.m. – Electrofishing demonstration by Ohio EPA at the Ohio River Levee.

FLMR Potluck Picnic – Thursday September 26 at 6:00 p.m., Luke Chute Conservation Area. Bring your own table service and beverage and a dish to share.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Albaugh, Secretary