

Friends of Lower Muskingum River Monthly News Roundup November 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, Katy Lustofin, Elin Jones, John Lee, Quincy Robe, Dave Blount and Doug Albaugh; and watershed coordinator Jesse Daubert and Young Leaders student Luke Badaczewski.

Membership Report: Quincy mailed 44 renewal notices yesterday. Luke is making plans to do an FLMR membership drive on the Marietta College campus.

Watershed Coordinator Report:

Jesse reported receiving \$27.34 from "Goodsearch," the search engine that pays FLMR one cent per search. Anyone who would like to use Goodsearch and make money for FLMR should call Jesse.

Jesse gave a presentation about FLMR at Ohio Minelands Partnership fall conference, Oct. 15. He also presented a program at Water Management Association of Ohio, on Nov. 13-14. FLMR will now be contributing data to the website watersheddata.com which receives and displays data from all watershed organizations.

FLMR is still on track with Office of Surface Mining/VISTA for a VISTA to begin in February. This will be supported by an anonymous donor, as reported in the September minutes, plus our remaining Duke Energy grant funds. The VISTA will be based in Morgan County. We need to look for interested persons, young or old, and for low-cost housing in Morgan County. Our watershed coordinator position is currently supported by a grant, channeled through ODNR, which ends in February 2015. We need to plan accordingly. We now have 373 Facebook fans, and increase of 18 from last month.

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Projects:

Luke Chute/Cabin Run – On October 24, Tom Evans of URS Corp. convened a meeting at Luke Chute to discuss possible funding for a riverbank stabilization project to control the rapid shoreline erosion at our Conservation Area and on Doug's property (protected by FLMR conservation easement). There were representatives from ODNR Muskingum River Parkway, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, and URS Corp. Tom will follow up on several ideas.

Old Business:

MWCD – Marilyn attended a Development Advisory Committee meeting recently. She renewed a plea that some of the "windfall" money from water agreements with oil companies be used for conservation projects.

Marcum Conservation Easement – Marilyn checked on the property on November 19. There were fresh tire tracks in the driveway, but no other evidence of any activity.

EOY appeal – Marilyn will send out a fundraising letter.

New Business:

Sisters of St. Joseph – we have one last 6 month extension of the grant for water testing at deep shale well sites. The 2 wells in our watershed are in areas with public water supplies, so Marilyn suggested that we use the money for surface water testing. The Health Dept. will take the samples.

Next Gen Young Leaders – Marilyn will notify Heather at Marietta College that we would like to have another student when Luke's term ends.

Bears in the Walnut Hills tract – Marilyn learned recently that a trail cam got pictures of a mother black bear with cubs on this tract, which lies within the city of Marietta!

GIS Maps of our conservation easement properties – Marilyn reported that Richard Lutz is preparing maps of CE properties.

FLMR Quilt – Quincy showed us the quilt that his wife, Charlotte, has made and donated to FLMR to be raffled off. It is a very attractive quilt that includes subtle depiction of the course of the Muskingum River and the locks and dams. Plans for the raffle remain to be solidified, but suggestions from the board included holding the raffle drawing at the Raft Regatta, finding a place to display the quilt, making a photo display, getting tickets designed and printed, selling tickets for \$5 each or 6 for \$25, and setting a minimum total amount of proceeds.

Election of Board Members – the election was carried out by email sent to all FLMR members. Twenty-six members voted, and unanimously elected (or re-elected) the following to a three year term, from October 2013 to October 2016: Rick Mayle, John Lee, Doug Albaugh, Susan Corcoran, Quincy Robe, and Kristyn Robinson. (The following board members are serving continuing terms: Marilyn Ortt, Elin Jones, Katy Lustofin, and Dave Blount.)

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Albaugh, Secretary