

## **Friends of Lower Muskingum River Monthly News Roundup April 22, 2014**

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.

The meeting was called to order by vice president Katy Lustofin (Marilyn is ill and in the hospital).

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

**Membership Report:** Quincy has now received dues payment for 17 of the 20 notices he sent out for first quarter.

**Watershed Coordinator Report:**

Jesse was contacted to see if we would be interested in a conservation easement on 240 acres in Monroe County. The board decided this would be too far away for adequate monitoring.

Jesse is showing the photos that Tim Hoeflich donated to us at the Adelphia Artist Show, April 21-23, as well as FLMR materials.

Art work and promotional materials for the Raft Regatta are again being done by Just A Jar, and the brochures will be ready soon. Jesse has sent out 110 letters to potential sponsors.

We need a Stream Team volunteer in Morgan County since Rick Mayle, with regret, will no longer have time for either the Stream Team or board meetings (due to work hours and caring for grandchildren).

The mitigation project involving Larry Lang and the property near Devola is moving along – still waiting for approval from the US Army Corps of Engineers.

A new VISTA has been hired. He is Kenner Sims of Amesville, who has a background in fisheries sciences as well as other experience. His orientation will be May 19-20. He will work out of the office in the Riecker Building in McConnelsville.

Jesse is applying to get an ACCT Summer Associate, who would mostly to help with the Regatta. It would cost FLMR \$250 and would be for 10 weeks starting mid-June.

There is very little funding available for watershed coordinator positions (other watershed organizations are facing the same problem). Jesse is still trying to find funding for another coordinator for a three-year period. He will begin graduate work at Ohio University this August if nothing else happens (like an attractive job offer). It is possible that we may be left with only a VISTA and no watershed coordinator.

We now have 405 Facebook fans, up 9 from last month.

**Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Projects:**

Luke Chute/Cabin Run – Dave has already begun mowing the trails. Doug will send a request to Susan for a \$250 payment to Dave to help defray his mowing expenses in 2013.

Devol Run – John reported that the conservation easement properties are okay – no apparent problems.

Dana Island – Jesse had another visit from the company that wanted to do seismic monitoring. He learned that there will be deep shale wells drilled on all the properties neighboring our Dana Island property, for a total of 6 wells.

**Marcum Conservation Easement:** Doug mentioned that we need to keep a close watch on the property, since we don't know the intentions of the company that bought the land. Kristyn said she drives near there and can help keep watch. Dave and John will see about obtaining a plat map so they can check the property boundaries in detail.

**Old Business:**

Carryall Bags – Elin is making bags to take to an art show in Parkersburg.

Quilt Raffle – tickets are selling well. Tickets will be sold at the Artist Walk on May 9. Elin, Katy and Susan will figure out which of them will do it.

Rain Barrels – Jesse has 8 barrels on hand, and suggested scheduling a workshop (with registration fee) on rain barrel construction. Participants would get to keep the rain barrel they make.

**New Business:**

Conservation Easements – in response to some discussion about conservation easements, Doug recommended the Land Trust Alliance website, and the Conservation Easement Handbook (available from LTA). Jesse suggested that FLMR should have a copy of the Handbook, and the board approved the purchase.

FLMR Membership List – due to compatibility problems with new computers, we will no longer use the ODB database program. We have changed to a spreadsheet format.

**Future Dates:**

Next FLMR board meeting – May 20.

Potluck Picnic – the first of the season! Thursday May 22, 6:00 p.m., Luke Chute Conservation Area. Bring your own table service and beverage and a dish to share.

River Sweep – June 21

6<sup>th</sup> Annual Mighty Muskingum River Raft Regatta – August 10.

Respectfully submitted,  
Doug Albaugh, Secretary