

Friends of Lower Muskingum River Monthly News Roundup February 11, 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.

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

Membership Report: Quincy has now received a 91% return on the fourth quarter 2013 renewal notice mailing. This is excellent, but we also need some NEW members.

Watershed Coordinator Report:

Jesse met with Tony Long, the new local rep for PDC Energy, on December 17.

On January 23, Jesse presented the Watershed Action Plan at Marietta College. This presentation was for the public, and 26 people attended. The Plan is now ready for implementation. Jesse noted that there is now money available for livestock exclusion from streams, anywhere in our watershed. Anyone interested should contact Jesse.

Jim Konkoly has been selected as our new VISTA, and will start work on March 3, based in Morgan County. He will attend pre-service training February 25-28. The cost to FLMR for the VISTA position is now \$7,000 per year, plus reimbursement for mileage on the job. Eddy Biehl, Washington Water Solutions, has provided \$6,000 funding for our new VISTA. An additional \$2,000 from the Duke Energy grant will cover the other \$1,000, plus \$1,000 for mileage and equipment. The final disbursement of Norcross Wildlife Foundation grant funds will be used to purchase a laptop computer for the VISTA and equipment for the Stream Team.

The website has been improved, including addition of a Quilt Raffle ticket page (can pay by PayPal).

The Bluegrass Pipeline, a natural gas pipeline from Louisiana to the east coast, will pass through Muskingum and Noble Counties. Bluegrass is offering community grants for such things as monitoring and training. Jen Bowman is working on a proposal, and will work with FLMR.

We now have 390 Facebook fans.

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Projects:

Luke Chute/Cabin Run – Bald Eagles, 2 adults and 4 subadults, have been hanging out at Luke Chute most of the time for over a month.

Wilson Wildlife Sanctuary – Marilyn reported that we received a total of \$815.78 for oil/gas in 2013.

Muskingum River Advocacy Council Meeting – Marilyn attended a recent meeting. A list of locations of snags in the Muskingum have been identified by pool and removal will be carried

out in 2014 with funding from MWCD. The Council is getting 501(c)(3) status. The next meeting is 1:00 p.m., March 10, at Zanesville yacht club.

Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District DAC meeting – Marilyn attended last week. The MWCD is now developing a schedule for dredging in their reservoirs.

Old Business:

Carryall Bags – Elin has received some orders and needs to make more bags.

Quilt Raffle – tickets are now on sale. Contact Jesse. (see website for view of the Luke Chute quilt made by Charlotte Robe)

New Business:

Terrafirma land trust legal defense insurance – Marilyn recently participated in a risk management workshop by telephone conference.

Future Dates:

February 27, 7:00 p.m., Room 150 Selby Hall, Marietta College – Kelly Capuzzi, Ohio EPA, will give results of the TMDL testing of the Lower Muskingum River. [TMDL is total maximum daily load, which is a measure of biological health]

March 27, 7:00 p.m., Room 150 Selby Hall, Marietta College – Jesse will give Stream Team testing results and how they will be used.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Albaugh, Secretary