

Friends of Lower Muskingum River Monthly News Roundup June 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.

Note: If you did not receive last month's "Monthly News," go to the website, www.muskingumriver.org

The meeting was called to order by vice president Katy Lustofin.

In attendance were board members Katy Lustofin, Kristyn Robinson, Elin Jones, John Lee, Jesse Daubert, Dave Blount and Doug Albaugh, and VISTA Kenner Sims.

Membership Report: Quincy has so far gotten a 70% return on second quarter renewal notices.

VISTA Report:

Kenner has been getting acquainted with the area. He visited the Mans Fork of Meigs Creek, and has introduced himself and FLMR at many of the county, state and local offices in McConnellsville. He is planning to do River Sweep, at least at McConnellsville, and has contacted the Morgan County Herald and Marietta Times about promoting it. Kenner is working on a newsletter, to come out in July, which will be dedicated to Marilyn. He will attend a grant writing workshop in Columbus on June 25.

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Projects:

Dana Island – at least 5 board members have visited the property recently. The walking trail is in good shape and the pond has about 6 inches of water and lots of tadpoles and aquatic insects.

Marcum Conservation Easement: Dave, Katy, Kristyn and John have visited the area recently but were not able to locate the property boundaries with the maps they had. Dave, and probably others, will continue to work on it, and Jesse will try to provide larger maps.

Fairfield Tract: the same people who went to the Marcum property also checked on the Fairfield Tract and found it in good condition – beautiful, and no evidence of human activity.

March Run mitigation property: Jesse reported that this project is proceeding and looks like a "go."

Old Business:

Rain barrels – Elin has an order for one.

Quilt raffle – tickets will be sold at the Artist Walk in Marietta on June 13, 6-8 p.m.

New Business:

Memorial to Marilyn Ort – Assuming that we do obtain the March Run mitigation property, Jesse suggested that we dedicate this property as a memorial to Marilyn, and name it for her. The board approved unanimously. Also, Jesse moved and Kristyn seconded that we create a memorial fund in honor of Marilyn. Motion carried unanimously. We already have received a

number of donations in her memory. Money from the memorial fund could pay for a sign at the March Run property, developing walking trails, etc., as well as helping to obtain additional properties.

Clean Ohio – Jesse noted that we have missed the current application cycle, but there may be another application period in the fall. He asked Kenner, and all of us, to be watching for available properties that we might try to purchase.

Muskingum River Advocacy Council (MRAC) – Elin and Katy attended a recent meeting. MRAC has applied for non-profit status and is still waiting for approval. They are looking for board members. They want 3 from each county on the Muskingum River, and now have only one for Washington County. Katy and Elin recommend that we really should have someone on their board. Discussion at the recent meeting concerned removal of snags from the river channel – they have applied for a grant to fund this, but it won't happen this year. The next meeting is September 8, 1:00 p.m., Coshocton County Services Building, in Coshocton.

MWCD Advisory Council – Jesse noted that we need to have someone to replace Marilyn on the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District Advisory Council. Kristyn agreed to do this.

New FLMR officers – the board elected Katy as president to finish out Marilyn's term, and Kristyn to replace Katy as vice president. We agreed that it is not necessary to find another board member immediately. We would like to find someone from Morgan County, if possible.

Marilyn's files, equipment, etc. – Katy and Jesse will pick up things from Marilyn's home and take them to the FLMR office.

FLMR membership spreadsheet – on Katy's suggestion, Doug will distribute the spreadsheet to all board members and to Kenner.

Future Dates:

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

6th Annual Mighty Muskingum River Raft Regatta – August 10.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Albaugh, Secretary