

Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council

Board of Trustees Meeting

September 7, 2024

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Armas Soorus at 10am.

1. Trustees Present: Armas Soorus, Dan Sernick, Joyce Durdel, Greg Johnson. Jim Squire, Joe Neuman, Amanda Lick, Blake Krueger, Wayne Anderson, and Glen Myers, Dale Downes
2. Meeting was called to order by Armas Soorus at 10:00 AM
3. A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Dan Sernick to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2024 LMWCC Board Meeting. Minutes of the August meeting were approved unanimously.
4. Treasurer's Report, presented by Treasurer Dan Sernick:
 - a. LMWCC has a balance, current as of August 31, 2024, of \$32,955.11 in its checking account at Lake Osceola State Bank.
 - b. Dan reported that he renewed LMWCC's 501(c)3 annual report with the State of Michigan
 - c. Dan detailed various investments held by LMWCC with Wells Fargo.
 - d. The 2025 budget continues to be a work in progress.
 - e. A motion was made by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Joyce Durdel to approve the financial report as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.
5. Items from the LMWCC Calendar: Armas reviewed the status for the following items:
 - a. Annual Meeting Follow-Up
 - i. Status of Annual Meeting Minutes – Armas to review before distributing for approval
 - ii. Membership List – Mel Jacobs is updating.
6. Project Management – Wayne provided a brief update on the projects in progress.
 - a. Wager – waiting on cost estimate from Sean Kanouse.
 - b. Klye Thomas – underway and may already be completed.
 - c. Tinker Bluff – scheduled for end of this week or next week.
 - d. Brickman – No immediate concern.
 - e. State Land Above M37 – Completed two weeks ago. Wayne will get before and after photos.
 - f. USFS Properties – Currently on hold until replacement of Fisheries Biologist by USFS.
 - g. Other – NCCISMA is working on an invasive plant study up river from M-37 to be completed within the next two months.
 - h. Other – There was discussion about the CRA road crossing projects over the Little Manistee River. Wayne will be LMWCC's liaison with CRA on these projects. Wayne will provide a list or projects to Nate within 2 weeks.

7. Website Development

There was a lengthy discussion of the LMWCC website. Amanda will be the project lead for redesigning the website. She will be assisted by Dale and Glen. They will be getting together by Zoom sometime during the next two weeks.

The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council and Tip of the Mitt websites were cited as effective websites. The website design team will also examine how social media can better coordinate with the website to keep our members and other interested persons better informed, coordinating with Joe Neuman.

Amanda is also working on the Contact Information worksheet.

8. Annual Meeting Discussion – There was some discussion regarding the possibility of changing the date of the annual meeting. Jim Squire is to follow up with Skinner Park regarding the availability of the park on weekends after the Fourth of July weekend in 2025. In general, everyone agrees that we need to improve attendance. There was also some discussion regarding the goal of the meeting. Is it to be a fundraiser or a friend-builder? Further discussion tabled until next meeting.

9. Trustee Positions: There are currently 19 LMWCC Trustees. It is desired that everyone is engaged to the extent they want to be engaged. Consideration of new Trustee roles and responsibilities will be discussed at a future meeting.

Glen and Dale have volunteered to work on Marketing together. There was also discussion regarding the need for a strategic plan for LMWCC. This plan would address the needs of the organization, specifically, how LMWCC can most effectively implement the watershed management plan.

Dale indicated he has experience with facilitating strategic planning worksessions. A motion was made by Amanda and seconded by Wayne, requesting that Dale provide the LMWCC Board a proposal for a strategic planning worksession. His proposal will be reviewed at the next meeting, with the desire to have the strategic planning worksession before the end of this year. The motion was approved unanimously.

10. Water Quality and Macro Studies – Joyce presented the results of the July 23, 2024 Water Quality study to the Board.

11. Monitoring Stations – Armas reported that the monitoring station at Bear Track was not functioning-the main board is dead. He has contacted Trout Unlimited to see if they have a spare that we can use.

12. Adjournment – a motion was made by Joyce and seconded by Dale that the meeting be adjourned at 12:07pm. The motion was approved unanimously. The next meeting will be held October 5, 2024.