

Guardians of the West Fork Regular Meeting via Zoom December 16, 2020

President John Ciesla brought the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. Those in attendance were John Ciesla, Martin Christ, David Wellman, Randy Kesling and Sally Egan. The Natives Fly Fishing presentation by owner Beau Robinson will be rescheduled. John Ciesla motioned that the minutes for the June 17, 2020 Zoom meeting be approved. Randy Kesling seconded. Motion was approved.

Financial Report as of 11/30/20: Regular Account - \$8,350.23; Water Trail Account - \$9,523.01; Site 9 Maintenance Account - \$82,666.72; OSM Account - \$2,269.25. The Guardians received \$38 this quarter from Kroger's Community program.

N. 12th Street Clean-Up - Several Guardian members helped Clarksburg Community Action members clean up a site along a spring on Sat. Dec. 12th. Mike Murphy, Bill Murphy and his son, and Randy Kesling helped out. It was on a steep embankment.

Float the Fork – The old house that bordered the West Milford Park is being torn down which will provide the city with 2 more acres in that area. There are plans for a large pavilion and basketball court. The city is interested in getting a boat dock and have agreed to remove it for the winter months. Discussion on the Float the Fork event was tabled until the next meeting.

Lambert's Run Site 7 Update – Discussion was held regarding using \$9,000 in AGO money to hire the Bio-Most company to look over Site 7 and draw up specifications. That reputable company works with other watersheds. Re-digging wetlands or utilizing a procedure to oxidize iron are possibilities.

Access Sites – Dave Wellman stated that the Shinnston boat access site has been surveyed and sent to DOH. He is waiting on a response. Then, an agreement will be finalized and the work may be completed in 6 months. The Limestone Junction site has been deemed a safety concern by the DOH. An extra lane would have to be added on Rt. 19 to make it a safe, so it is a "no-go" at this time. The DNR Chief of Operations is committed to fully developing or upgrading 12 access sites on the West Fork River from Lewis County to Harrison County working upstream or downstream within a year. Portages around the Hartland Dam and the Weston Dam are also being considered. Dave will speak with Frank Jernacic regarding sites in the Spelter, Kincheloe, Hepzibah areas, and Rush Run (?) between Weston and Bendale. The Broad Run site between Good Hope and Jackson's Mill is not available. Dave is open for new ideas on access sites. There will be access sites within 2-3 miles of each other in some places. There is a bidding process for engineering designs and then a bidding process for contractors.

Membership – The idea to extend this year's membership through next year beginning July 1, 2021 will be considered by the board at a January meeting.

Watershed Plan for Lambert's Run (Sites 7,2,4,10,8,9) – Martin Christ stated that we need to do a self-evaluation. There is an outreach plan which John will send out for feedback. A proposal is also needed for Site 2. Martin stated that the Guardians need a procurement policy. Martin will send out a couple of models which include statements, such as, no conflict of interest, no accepting of gifts, no hiring of family members. The Watershed Improvement Branch okays the policy.

Next Meeting – January 20, 2021 (probably on Zoom)

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Egan, Recording Secretary