

President John Ciesla brought the meeting to order at 6:39 PM and did the invocation. Those in attendance were: John Ciesla, Sally Egan, Al Cox, Mike Murphy, Lisa deGruyter, Robert Helfer, Martin Christ. Al Cox moved and Mike Murphy seconded that the Sept. minutes be approved as presented. Motion passed. John also presented the treasurer's report: General account - \$11,296.97; Water Trail account - \$8,971.19; OSM account - \$2,129.25; Site 9 Project - \$82,584.37.

**WVDNR Trout Stocking Opportunity** – Dates are not known. White Day and Paw Paw Creek are two places in Marion County that will be stocked. Also, Deegan Lake in Bridgeport. \$10 - \$12 per hour for every volunteer hour, up to 6 hours per day.

**Vision Statement** – Martin Christ did a nice job gathering members' thoughts at the last meeting. The establishment of river towns was discussed. John will circulate our general mission statement for review and Martin has other statements that may be helpful.

**Status of Hartland Dam** – American Rivers made a proposal in June for a drop-down system with a cost of \$4.7 million dollars with a local cost of \$1 million. It would have a boat and fish passage, a bridge for pedestrians, observation decks. Presently, there are no plans to take the dam out. The Clarksburg Water Board treats 7½ million gallons a day of water from the dam.

**WVDNR Update** – Both boat and tow barge electrofishing were completed. Do not have final results yet, but what was seen was incredibly encouraging. Many suckers, darters, minnows, smallmouth bass, channel catfish, flathead catfish and a few musky. A concrete ramp was poured at Good Hope. Rip rap will be placed on bank. John met with DOH regarding Highland Road which is scheduled to be completed in Fall 2020 or Spring 2021. The road will be slightly relocated.

**Dominion Energy Services, Inc.** – A \$1,000 check was received from them for our 2019 Float the Fork.

**Shinnston Boat Access Site Development** – On Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, Guardian members and Shinnston city officials met at the river bank to discuss a boat launch and restrooms. Shinnston has a \$4,000 grant to improve the river bank. Property boundaries need to be determined.

**Clean-up behind Wendy's** - Interested people should meet on Friday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> at Wendy's in Clarksburg at 10:30 AM for rail trail clean-up along the river.

**AGO** – The Guardians received a \$9,000 grant to monitor Lambert's Run. It can be spent not only on water quality, but also water trails, access points at Shinnston, Limestone Junction and signage. Lisa deGruyter recommended an access point where Elk Creek enters the West Fork.

**Safety Vests** - John ordered 35 Guardians of the West Fork safety vests for our volunteer efforts.

**2020 Float the Fork** – The next meeting will be held Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 PM at the W. Milford Community Bldg.

The next meeting will be held on November 20, 2019 at the Clarksburg Water Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Egan, Recording Secretary