

Friends of Potato Creek State Park Meeting Minutes  
4/17/07      Location: PCSP Nature Center      7:00 PM

Attendees:

Jim Webb  
Brian and Anna Krueger and Family  
Gene and Linda Matzat  
Kathy Serrat  
Ralph Champion  
Daniel McConnell  
Chrissy Borkowski  
David Hawn  
Brook Rieman

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Brian welcomed all new members.

Linda introduced the Education Coordinator for the St. Joe County Soil and Water Conservation District. His name is Rick Glassman. Linda pointed out the Sunday is Earth Day.

Rick first spoke about some good things we have done:

- Bluebird population is increasing.
- The burned areas in the Park were unheard of 20 years ago but are providing some very good habitat now; Rick reiterated that fire can be very good.
- Cutting trees can also be positive for certain species.
- Turkey have been reintroduced into the area, they used to be extinct.
- White tail deer were also near extinction, now they are overpopulated.
- Lake Erie was considered dead in the 1970's.
- The St. Joe river is also becoming cleaner. Mayflies are living in the St. Joe river and they require a very clean water habitat.
- The Canada goose was also extinct.

Rick explained that there is a new position called the MS-4 Coordinator, this person is responsible to oversee any land of 1 acre or more that has a disturbance to be sure they have an erosion control system. Cities also need to have a plan now to keep sewer water out of the water supply. This commonly happens when there are severe rains and the waste treatment plant cannot handle the volume of water. This person also oversees these plans. This position does a lot of public education also.

Global warming: Does it exist? Not as it is defined in the media. Global warming is a natural process. Pollution is not. Pollution is bad and we should stop it, but is not causing global warming. The problem is loss of habitat. The polar ice cap in Arctica is melting but Antarctica is not.

Here are some things we can do to improve water quality:

- Keep nitrogen out of the water system by not fertilizing your lawn. Nitrogen causes birth defects and problems in small children.
- When you change your oil, do not pour it down the drain.
- Wash the car on the lawn, the water gets filtered through the dirt.
- Make sure septic systems are pumped every 2-4 years.

We cannot relax, we all must work together to reduce pollution.

End of presentation, begin business meeting:

Kathy read the meeting minutes from the last meeting, there is a correction. There should be 4 voting members rather than 2 voting members and 2 non-voting members.

Our election results last month were as follows:

Ralph Campion-VP

John Richardson-Treasurer

Mark Daily-voting member

Jim Rahilly-voting member

Financial report

Expenses:

100.00 Donation to NIMBA for mountain bike path

100.00 Deposit for chicken dinner fundraiser

Deposits:

410.00

1499.37 is new balance

501c3 has been submitted to an attorney for review, we have not heard back. As soon as we get it reviewed, we will send it in.

Ralph donated 26.00 for the PO Box.

A thank you letter was received from NIMBA.

Ralph was concerned about participation at events. We had only 5 folks turn out for the garlic mustard pull. Linda suggested that we make one big work day, but that may be very hard to coordinate if we get a large turnout.

Ralph reported that the John Glen Society and FFA have been contacted to help with the Campground cleanup.

Those who work on Park activities will not be charged admission at the gate. These are for volunteer work activities, not participation in an event.

Jim suggested a telephone canvass before an event. Ralph, Kathy, Anna and Brook will split up the phone list and call folks to promote the Campground cleanup on 4/28 and Welcome Back Weekend on 5/5-5/6. The Campground cleanup home base is site #14, parking will be available for sites 15, 16, 17 and 13. Food will be donated by the Kruegers and Ralph will donate drinks.

Bill reported for the Chicken Fundraiser, it will be on 6/30, we will need 8-10 volunteers. The location is the Beach parking lot in the northwest corner. Tickets are printed and are available.

Brian shared with the group the National Public Lands Day is September 29<sup>th</sup> and if we wanted to do something, Tim asked for one coordinator.

John printed and folded 500 membership brochures. Bosch donated 1000 and John has a machine to tri-fold them, so he took them home.

Brook and Corey will be transferring to McCormicks Creek-Brian thanked them for their efforts. They will be greatly missed. The group wished them the best of luck.

Dave and Kay Laney will speak at the next meeting.

John said we should apply for another grant called the Indiana Lake Management Society. He will forward the application to Kathy and she will send off.

John checked on the taxes and we just need to file an annual report and that has been completed.

Kathy reported that all renewals have been sent out, there were 4 hand mailed-one was returned.

There was no Board Meeting tonight.

Please check out our website at [www.friendsofpotatocreek.org](http://www.friendsofpotatocreek.org)