

FRIENDS OF THE JORDAN RIVER NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 28, 2006

Present: President Bob MacCord, Vice President Dale Ackler, Treasurer Peg Myers, Member Dan Myers, Rick Westerhof, Tim Smigielski, Dan Sutherland, Denise Johnston and Clarice Beckner.

Baird Update: Rick reported that the Baird was scheduled to leave Louisiana on June 30. It will take 21 days, 3 fuel stops, running 24 hours per day to arrive in Cheboygan, Michigan. The dedication still does not have a scheduled date – possibly September 7, September 12 or sometime in October.

Adopt A Highway: Next clean up during July 8-16. Date not yet set.

Antrim County 4H/Soil Conservation Day: Tim reported that he is working on a joint venture with Antrim County 4H Office. On September 20 (September 21 rain day) 300-600 elementary students from Antrim County schools will tour the hatchery and view presentations. There is a possibility that the Friends Group could have a membership drive at that time.

By Laws & Memorandum of Understanding: Rick reported that there were some minor changes and corrections made to the By Laws. Also the MOU will have a signature line added for the Regional Director to sign. The Regional Office will receive a copy of the MOU and the By Laws.

Transfer of Funds: Rick transferred over \$480 to the Friends Group. This includes \$200 from 2004 volunteers Jim and Clare Wisman (Arkansas) and \$280 from the Myers family (Charlevoix).

Treasurer's Report: Peg reported that the group has \$93 in the checking account and \$1 in the savings account. This includes a \$50 donation (dues) from the Westerhof family.

Membership Update: Dale reported that he sent out flyers to prospective members and made follow up calls.

Old Business

Bob discussed the 501(c)3 packet and that our non-profit status would be retroactive to the day we started. He also mentioned that we needed a Conflict of Interest policy or numerous other questions would have to be answered. He presented a Conflict of Interest policy for review. Motion made by Dale, seconded by Peg to accept the policy. All ayes – motion passed.

Bob noted the group's intention to have a presence at the Baird dedication. This would involve an information booth. Tim offered to prepare a banner, brochure and poster for the event.

Peg reported that the membership receipts were being printed.

Peg briefed the group on the "Gateway to the Jordan River Valley", which is a 40 acre parcel that is being purchased. This is for 3500 feet of river frontage. Peg suggested the possibility of the group making a \$100 donation, hopefully from individual donations and not from the groups fund balance.

Next meeting scheduled for July 26. The Executive Board meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. and the General Membership Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Present: (in addition to those attending the Executive Committee Meeting) Wendy Coger, Jim Barber, Marilyn Barber, Russ Blasdell, Katie Harriger, and Duane Arnott.

Bob welcomed everyone and made introductions. Rick gave the background of why a Friends Group is being formed. Bob explained the MOU (agreement with the Fish & Wildlife Service), By Laws (how the group conducts business), and the application process for non-profit status. A Friend Groups is an opportunity to help the hatchery, the environment and other groups.

The groups Annual Meeting is held in October. At that time election of officers is held.

Upcoming Events

- Baird Dedication – date not set
- Adopt A Highway – date not set (July 8-16)
- Antrim County 4H/Soil Conservation Program – September 20 (in case of rain – September 21)

Peg reported on the North Country Trail. The Friends Group maintains 2-1/2 miles, part of it is roadway. She needs people to volunteer to walk and clean up the trail. Denise often hikes the trail, so she offered to keep Peg aware of any clean up that may be needed. Peg also mentioned there is an old campsite that she would like to restore, possibly with the assistance of the East Jordan Boy Scouts (Duane Arnott).

Summary

Meetings are held the last Wednesday of the month. The Executive Committee meets at 6:00 p.m. and the General Membership at 7:00 p.m. The annual meeting is each October.

Dues are \$10-individual, \$15-family, \$30-business, and \$1 for student. This will help cover expenses (postage, printing brochures, etc). Jim Barber asked what the price was for a non-profit group. Bob will add that as an agenda item for next meeting.

Bob asked for people to sign up for committees: 1) advocacy for the hatchery; 2) increase public and private awareness; and 3) financial support of projects that benefit fish and other wildlife.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, July 26.

Bob asked that everyone ask someone to come along with them. Tim mentioned he may have one of our volunteers speak informally to the group about his volunteer experience at the hatchery.

Meeting adjourned.