



President, Ted Bertke called the March meeting of The Marion Community Development Organization to order by reciting The Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held on March 21, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. at the Marion Township Building. Meeting minutes that include updates not covered at the meeting were approved as discussed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The month ended February 29, 2024 Treasurer's report was given by Jean Bender. Bob Unrast moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Mark Hardesty seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

CURRENT TOTAL ASSETS **\$314,616**

Asset Allocations

Checking	\$274,338
CD's	\$16,876
Savings	\$23,402
Total Assets	\$314,616

Funding Allocations

Recreation Fund	\$25,361
General Fund – MCDO	\$38,966
Marion Soccer	\$17,100
Girls' Softball	\$9,272
ML FFA	\$36,737
ML FFA Pork Producers	\$26,153
Boys Baseball	\$27,814
Ag Ed Boosters	\$31,285
Ag Ed Scholarship	\$2,000
ML Bowling	\$854
Marion Industrial Park Association	\$17,671
Woods Chapel Maintenance Fund	\$1,124
Multi-Use Path	\$51,667
Fundamental League	\$8,128
Youth Basketball	\$2,057
Carthage Park	\$18,427
Total Assets	\$314,616

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Committee Chairperson – Luke Bertke

The weekly winners of the 301 Club are as follows:

March 4:	Mike & Michelle Bohman
March 11:	Nick & Beck Thobe
March 18:	Rick & Abby Bergman
March 25:	Gary & Beth Fortkamp

MARION TOWNSHIP PARK

Committee Chairperson – Lee Heitkamp

Please follow Marion Township Park on **Facebook (Marion Township Park)** and on **Twitter (@MarionTwpPark)**. You can also contact us through email: mariontwppk@gmail.com. The Monthly Park Raffle Winners will be posted next month.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION COMMITTEE

Committee Chairperson – Bob Dippold

Membership 2024 is winding down. If you have not already done so, please send in your membership form, information and payment ASAP! Memberships help facilitate growth in the community with projects like the expansion of the industrial park and facilitate youth sports. Please contact Bob Dippold (419) 305-0128 or Shannon Everman (419) 925-5707 or email to: admin@marioncommunities.com. if you have any questions about the status of your membership.

HEALTH, SAFETY, & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Committee Chairperson – Lisa Buschur

Live Well Mercer County is a public health initiative committed to improving the health of the people of Mercer County, Ohio, by promoting education, services, and resources. It is a partnership between many organizations including Mercer County Health District, Mercer Health, Foundations Behavioral Health Services, Mercer County Educational Service Center, Our Home Family Resource Center, and others. With a mission to enable all individuals to Live Well in Mercer County, it is important that all residents take the 2024 Mercer County Community Needs Assessment so action plans can be created to address needs in Mercer County. This quick assessment is vital to the future of our communities! All county residents are encouraged to complete the 2024 Mercer County Community Needs Assessment, which is open now till April 30th.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024MercerCountyCHNA>

HOUSING

Committee Chairperson – Bob Unrast

The St. Francis housing development south of Chickasaw has four building lots available. The lots are between .381 and .711 acres starting at \$28,500 and include village water and sewage. Contact Tess Mescher for more information at 419-305-0106.

The Woodview Estates subdivision still has lots available for sale. For more information, please contact Jay Ruhenkamp at 937-295-4244.

Heitkamp Developers has Lot number 7 on 8039 Lincoln Ave. in Marion Acres for sale. Please contact Dan Heitkamp at 419-925-4307 for more information.

RCS Construction has 2 lots, 1841 and 1857 Washington Ave., available for sale and new home construction. For information on all lots available for sale in Marion Acres, please contact Randy Bruns at 419-305-1869.

Dan Jutte started land development off Jackson Street. There have been street lights recently installed. Please contact him at 419-733-0053 for more information on the available lots.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Committee Chairperson – Mark Hardesty

Mark Hardesty provided an update on the FFA and Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR). Currently lake level is still below normal pool elevation, but it should rise as we get more spring rains. There was no drawdown of lake level this year due to the drought last fall.

The Lake Facilitates Authority has a wetland project currently out for bid for the Northshore Greenspace and Rosenbeck Nature Preserve Wetlands. These wetland projects will be under construction during summer/fall 2024. The LFA was also recently awarded another Clean Ohio grant to purchase 16.5 acres directly adjacent to the GLSM State Park in Auglaize County.

The Conservation Drainage Network (researchers from Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan) will be meeting in Ohio in early April. They will be hearing from Theresa Dirksen about different drainage and edge of field practices in Mercer County and they will also be touring a few projects in Mercer County.

Theresa Dirksen is also giving a talk at the Norton Engineering Stormwater Seminar in late March and speaking with the Farm Bureau Leadership program in April.

ANR is continually making improvements at the existing wetland projects to repair pumps and maximize efficiency at each site. ANR will have a drive-it-yourself tour planned for May 4, so look for more details on that in the near future

The Marion Local FFA recently held National FFA Week which was very busy with activities. The FFA Banquet was held on Thursday, March 14 at the Harvest Barn. Several volunteers kept watch during the tornadoes and bad weather that night and kept the students and visitors safe! The Ag Boosters along with New Bremen will be touring the East Creek facility on 274. The Strawberry Sales were a success and the FFA recently participated in the Dairy and Livestock Judging Days. The State Convention will be held on May 2-3, 2024 and there are potential for students to earn 2 American Degrees and 3 State Degrees.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The MCDO is still working on quotes and designs for the Welcome to Marion Communities signs in the community.

Chapel Hill Preschool will be hiring a part-time aide for the Tuesday/Thursday class for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. For more information please contact Chapel Hill Preschool at chapelhill.ps@gmail.com or 419-925-1102.

VILLAGE, TOWNSHIP AND SCHOOL REPORTS:

Carthagen Park Report – For information on renting the shelter house, call Nancy Koesters at 419-925-5192.

Chickasaw – No new information to report.

Chickasaw Park Board Report – For information on renting the park shelters (both the VFW and Ball Diamond), contact Jay Schwieterman at 419-733-6811.

Osgood – No new information to report.

Osgood Park Board Report – For information on renting the park shelters, call Nick Beasley at 937-621-7718.

Marion Township – No new information to report.

Marion Township Park Board – For information or concerns about the park, call Ryan Stucke 419-852-5088.

Marion Local Schools – No additional information to report.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 a.m., with a motion from Bob Dippold and seconded by Bob Unrast. The next MCDO meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. in the Marion Township Building.

Submitted by: Ted Bertke, President

Board of Directors

Ted Bertke, President	419-852-1072
Shannon Everman, Secretary	419-925-5707
Jean Bender, Treasurer	419-925-4254
Shannon Everman, Coordinator	419-925-5707

Committee Chairpersons

Agricultural Development:	Mark Hardesty, DVM 419-925-4212
Business Retention & Dev.:	Jill Nagel 419-925-9101
Health, Safety & Education:	Lisa Buschur 419-305-0858
Housing:	Bob Unrast 419-925-4151
Infrastructure:	Nick Moeller 619-884-9958
Membership:	Bob Dippold 419-305-0128
Recreation:	Luke Bertke 419-953-6114

2024 MCDO Membership Form

2 Membership Form Options:

- Complete the online form at <http://marioncommunities.com>.
- Complete and mail the membership form below.

MCDO Membership Business \$60 / Family \$15			
Name:			
Address:			
City, State, Zip:			
Email:			
Phone:		Date:	

Marion Community Develop...
@MarionCommunity-DevelopmentOrg



3 Payment Options:

- Please make checks payable to: Marion Community Development Organization
 - Please send remittance to: MCDO - PO Box 65 - Maria Stein, OH 45860
- Pay by Venmo - Username: @MarionCommunity-DevelopmentOrg
 - (Please include "MCDO Membership" in Description)
- Pay by Paypal: paypal.me/marioncommdeveloporg