

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS – CONSERVATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND RECREATION RELATED

MICHIGAN CONSERVATION AND RECREATION LEGACY FUND

This fund ("Legacy Fund") was created by Article 9, Section 40, of the State Constitution, an amendment approved by voters in November 2006. The purpose of the amendment was to constitutionally prevent the diversion of certain funds and revenues for purposes other than those for which they were created. Section 40 created the following accounts within the Legacy Fund: Forest Recreation, Game and Fish Protection, Off-Road Vehicle, Recreation Improvement, Snowmobile, State Park Improvement, and Waterways.

The implementing legislation related to this amendment, found in Michigan Compiled Laws Sections 324.2002 – 324.2035, transferred a number of special revenue funds and certain restrictively financed activities within the General Fund to the Legacy Fund. The following special revenue funds were transferred into the fund: Game and Fish Protection Fund, Michigan State Waterways Fund, Marine Safety Fund, and State Park Improvement Fund. The restrictively financed activities transferred into the fund from the General Fund were related to various outdoor recreation activities including snowmobiles, off-the-road vehicles, recreation trails, and State forest recreation.

Financing consists primarily of hunting and fishing licenses; camping and park entrance fees; 2% of gasoline taxes dedicated for boating, snowmobiling, off-road vehicles and other trails; watercraft and snowmobile registration fees; and trail use permits. The fund also receives funding from the Michigan Game and Fish Protection Trust Fund. Expenditures are limited to those activities specified in Section 40 and include forest recreation activities, wildlife and fisheries programs, off-road vehicle and snowmobile trails and facilities, state parks and recreation areas, improvement of lake harbors and inland waterways, and water safety education programs.

GAME AND FISH PROTECTION FUND

This fund was established in 1921 to support the conservation program for preservation and control of fish and wildlife. Article 9, Section 40, of the State Constitution, an amendment approved by voters in November 2006, created the Game and Fish Protection Account within the new Michigan Conservation and Recreation Legacy Fund. As required by MCL 324.2010, the fund balance in this fund was transferred to the new account during fiscal year 2006-2007.

MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS FUND

This fund was established in 1947 to provide for improvement of lake harbors and inland waterways; construction, operation, and maintenance of recreational boating facilities; property acquisition; and administration. Article 9, Section 40, of the State Constitution, an amendment approved by voters in November 2006, created the Waterways Account within the new Michigan Conservation and Recreation Legacy Fund. As required by MCL 324.2035, the fund balance in this fund was transferred to the new account during fiscal year 2006-2007.

MARINE SAFETY FUND

This fund was established in 1967 to provide for water safety education programs, law enforcement, and regulation of watercraft on the waters of this State. Article 9, Section 40, of the State Constitution, an amendment approved by voters in November 2006, created the Waterways Account within the new Michigan Conservation and Recreation Legacy Fund. As required by MCL 324.2035, the fund balance in this fund was transferred to the new account during fiscal year 2006-2007.

MICHIGAN GAME AND FISH PROTECTION TRUST FUND

The former Game and Fish Protection Trust Fund was established in 1986 to restrict certain assets for the purpose of generating interest and earnings for transfer to the former Game and Fish Protection Fund (now accounted for within the Michigan Conservation and Recreation Legacy Fund). Article 9, Section 41, of the State Constitution, an amendment approved by voters in November 2006, further protected these assets by creating the Michigan Game and Fish Protection Trust Fund.

The fund operates under MCL Sections 324.43702 – 324.43704. The Legislature may appropriate up to \$6 million annually for use by the Game and Fish Protection Account of the Michigan Conservation and Recreation Legacy Fund. Mineral royalties from lands acquired by the Game and Fish Protection Account; direct sale proceeds; and other revenues, which, by statute, are retained for permanent investment, provide additional investment funding.

STATE PARK IMPROVEMENT FUND

This fund was established in 1960 to provide for the operation, maintenance, debt service, and improvements of the State Park system. Article 9, Section 40, of the State Constitution, an amendment approved by voters in November 2006, created the State Park Improvement Account within the new Michigan Conservation and Recreation Legacy Fund. As required by MCL 324.2030, the fund balance in this fund was transferred to the new account during fiscal year 2006-2007.

COMBINED RECREATION BOND FUND - LOCAL PROJECTS

Established in 1988, this fund operates under MCL Sections 324.19606 - 324.19612, 324.19615, 324.71303, and 324.71506 - 324.71508. The residual balances in this fund reflect proceeds and investment earnings remaining from two bond packages: \$70 million of general obligation bonds approved by voters in November 1988, as part of a \$140 million bond package for financing state and local public recreation projects, and \$50 million of general obligation bonds approved by voters in November of 1998, as part of a \$675 million bond package known as the "Clean Michigan Initiative." Proceeds from the 1988 bond package provide grants and loans to local units of government in the amounts of \$65 million for local recreation projects and \$5 million to discourage development of open space and underdeveloped lands. Proceeds from the 1998 bond package also provided grants to local units of government for local recreation projects pursuant to MCL Section 324.71602.

COMBINED ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND

This fund, which is administered by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), was established by MCL 324.19506 to account for the proceeds of \$660 million of Environmental Protection general obligation bonds approved by Michigan voters in November 1988. The statute specifies that the proceeds of these bonds be available to clean up sites of toxic and other environmental contamination, for solid waste projects, to capitalize the State Water Pollution Control Loan Fund, and to fund Michigan's participation in a regional Great Lakes Protection Fund.

MCL 324.95101 – 324.95108 expanded this fund to account for the proceeds of \$570 million of Clean Michigan Initiative general obligation bonds approved by Michigan voters in November 1998. The statute directs that bond proceeds be used for environmental response activities at facilities, waterfront improvements, remediation of contaminated lake and river sediments, nonpoint source pollution prevention and control projects or wellhead protection projects, water quality monitoring and water resources protection, pollution control activities, and pollution prevention programs.

MCL 324.5201 – 324.5304 and 324.19701 – 324.19708, expanded this fund to account for the proceeds of \$1 billion of Great Lakes Water Quality general obligation bonds approved by Michigan voters in November 2002. The law directs that bond proceeds be used to finance sewage treatment works projects, storm water projects, and nonpoint source projects that improve the quality of the waters of the State. This fund records the bond proceeds and the administrative costs of DEQ. All programmatic loan and grant payments are reported in the financial statements of the Michigan Municipal Bond Authority, a discretely presented component unit.

MICHIGAN NONGAME FISH AND WILDLIFE TRUST FUND

The former Michigan Nongame Fish and Wildlife Fund was established in 1983 to finance research and management of nongame fish and wildlife, designated endangered species, and designated plant species of this State. Article 9, Section 42, of the State Constitution, an amendment approved by voters in November 2006, further protected these assets by creating the Michigan Nongame Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.

The fund operates under MCL Sections 324.43902 – 324.43907. The fund may receive transfers from other funds, donations, investment income, and revenue from specialty license plate sales.

MICHIGAN CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS ENDOWMENT FUND

MCL 409.312a established this fund for the purpose of conserving, improving, and developing the State's natural resources, and for enhancing, preserving, and maintaining public lands and waters through the employment of residents of this State in work training programs.

Twenty million dollars earmarked from the sale of the Accident Fund of Michigan provided the fund's permanent investment reserve. Only the interest and earnings of the fund can be expended. Public Act 147 of 2007 required the transfer of \$20 million from the fund to the General Fund, thereby eliminating the fund's permanent investment reserve.

In prior years, this fund was classified as a permanent fund but the 2007 legislation resulted in the reclassification of this fund to a special revenue fund.

FOREST DEVELOPMENT FUND

This fund was established in 1993, along with the Michigan Forest Finance Authority, and operates under MCL Section 324.50507. The primary revenue source of the fund is timber revenue for State forest lands. Expenditures from the fund are for forest management activities and forest fire protection. The Authority is authorized to, but thus far has not, issued bonds.

BOTTLE DEPOSITS FUND

MCL 445.573c created the Bottle Deposits Fund to provide for the disposition of unredeemed bottle deposits. The Department of Treasury and the Department of Environmental Quality jointly administer the fund. The law mandates that an annual distribution of the funds be made as follows: 25% returned to the dealers and 75% to fund several sub-funds.

The 75% distribution to the Department of Environmental Quality is initially deposited into the Cleanup and Redevelopment Trust Sub-Fund (CRTF), and if not further distributed, remains there until the principal amount reaches \$200 million. Of funds received annually by the CRTF, 80% is allocated to the Cleanup and Redevelopment Sub-Fund (CRF) and 10% to the Community Pollution Prevention Sub-Fund (CPPF).

MCL 324.20108 moved the former Environmental Response Fund (ERF) to a sub-fund of the CRF. The law mandates that proceeds of all cost recovery actions taken and settlements entered into pursuant to the ERF (excluding natural resource damages) by the department or the Attorney General, or both, shall be credited to the ERF.