



**Accessibility Advisory Council
Minutes
Tuesday, June 24, 2014**

10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Demmer Center – MSU
4830 E. Jolly Rd, Lansing, MI 48910

AAC Members:

Rick Briggs, Al Bobrofsky, Cindy Burkhour, Vendella Collins, Justin Lippe (Proxy for Ann Conklin), Jonathon Edgerly, Carolyn Grawi (via phone), Aaron Harris, Michael Harris, Sarah Peura (via phone), Amy Trotter (via phone), John Witzke, Duncan Wyeth (via phone).

A-Team Members:

Greg Andrews, Natalie Elkins, Diana Engle, Mike Evanoff, Carol Freed, Joe Frick, Creig Grey, Pat Lawson (via phone), Deb Stolecki for Fran Ryan, Lynne Thoma, Stacy Welling-Haughey (via phone).

Guests:

Al Bobrofsky, Michael Galella, Aaron Andres (via phone), Josh Butcher, Jim , Brett VanDrie, Ken Buchholtz, Laura Griffin, Stacey Locke, Erica Johnson, Scott Crawford, Shae Luther, Tyler Riddle, Nancy Bell, Trina Austin, Gen Bennett, Christine Schwerin, Tashana Piper, Aprell Johnson, Nicole Ballinger, Bruce Potter, and Piotr Pasik.

Roll Call and Visitor Introductions: Rick Briggs and Bill Sheffer(?)

Minutes Acceptance: Motion made to accept the March 18, 2014 minutes by Al Bobrofsky, seconded by Duncan Wyeth, passed.

Department Updates – Joe Frick:

Trust Fund Update, Traverse City – Christie Bayus, DNR Grants Coordinator, will be attending a ribbon cutting ceremony at Clinch Park in Traverse City, June 25, as part of a \$500,000 grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, as well as a \$100,000 grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The redesigned beachfront features a modern pavilion, a splash pad for children and an improved trail system making the park wheelchair and handicap accessible.

Budget – The DNR did very well acquiring funds to cover trails. As Belle Isle continues to be the focus, we are receiving good reports that . Closing on the Globe Building, Outdoor Discovery Center located across from the William G. Milliken State Park in Detroit, is slated for this Friday, June 27. A grand opening will be scheduled for the Spring of 2015.

DNR Marketing and Outreach (MOD) Update:

Christine Schwerin, on behalf of Kristin Phillips, reported that some of MOD's initiatives are helping to promote hunting and fishing license sales and changes through the Pure Michigan Campaign, and showcasing Belle Isle.

The Outdoor Adventure Center located in the Globe Building in downtown Detroit, should be open this fall. It will house live simulators for kayaking, hiking, and ORV riding. There will be a lab for children and all exhibits will be accessible.

Commissioner Briggs requested that MOD report on the progress of Operation Freedom Outdoors for September's meeting.

Discussion:

- Pure Michigan consider having a tab that includes "accessible" and should also be international
- Access should be for "ALL" people and not designated as "disabled"
- DNR could take initiative of going forward showing people with disabilities as part of any experience included on DNR website
- Have a conduit for the public to submit photos of real people doing real things – not stages shots; ask field staff to snap photos

Peckham's Work Force Action Team and Veteran's Group:

Stacey Locke started out by saying that the Greenhouse and Riverside Work Force Action Teams & Veterans Services was awarded a \$10,000 grant made possible by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development Sustainable Communities program, Mid-Michigan Program for Greater Sustainability, and Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council. The grant would allow for additional accessible options at the Potter Park Zoo in Lansing. A ribbon cutting celebration and dedication is scheduled for September 19, 2014, National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

- **Adding and modifying signage** to increase awareness for wheelchair accessible areas, other interactive areas, and the sensory garden for the blind.
- **Modifying current grilling areas** by adding wheelchair accessible picnic tables and adjusting two grills to make them accessible.
- **Painting and adding the new International Symbol of Access (ISA)**
- **More accessible picnic area reservation system**

Their next future project will focus on adding accessible picnic tables (Spider Tables) at the Danford Island Park in Dimondale.

Tour of Demmer Center by Michael Galella, a shooting sports training facility that includes both indoor and outdoor range facilities.

Accessible Fishing Initiative

Greg Andrews and Stacy Welling-Haughey led discussion on how to better promote this, possibly making it a state-wide initiative. Ideas ranged from identifying locations on a regional basis down to every county. Ask people to identify accessible fishing spots, along with pictures, and have DNR inventory them on their Fisheries website. Contact angler organizations, the MI AARP for inclusion in their bulletin, and GOVDelivery. Tour the state with a trailer outfitted with available accessible fishing equipment, linking with conservation partners.

Gather information and present to the DNR Management Team.

UP Veterans Partnership Update

September 7, -----

Highland River Adventures Experience

Diana Engle talked about her kayaking experience with Highland River Adventures in Eaton Rapids. This organization is a full service paddle sport provider and Kayak School, specializing in adaptive paddle sports. They also host Michigan's only Team River Runner (TRR), non-profit, which provides active duty service members and veterans experiences through whitewater boating and other paddling sports. Their group is focused on making the Grand River a truly accessible river.

Next AAC Meeting

Motion was made by Duncan Wyeth and seconded by Albert Bobrofsky to move the September 22, meeting to September 8, following the -----.

Public Comments

- Make a goal to reserve five percent of camping sites as ADA

Announcements

After 29 years of service, Lt. Creig Grey will be retiring in August.

Thanks to Michael Galella and the Demmer Center for allowing us to meet in their facility.