

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes of December 2, 2015

Lansing Community College West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone, Lansing
9:00 AM

The meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board of Trustees commenced at 9:10 AM, Wednesday, December 2, 2015.

The following Board members were present:

Brad Canale
Keith Creagh
Sam Cummings
Steve Hamp

Ms. McDonough was not in attendance due to another commitment.

Also in attendance were various staff members of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other interested parties.

I. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF OCTOBER 21, 2015.

Chairperson Canale called for the adoption of the minutes of the October 21, 2015 MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY MR. CUMMINGS, SUPPORTED BY MR. HAMP, TO ADOPT THE
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2015 MNRTF BOARD MEETING.
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF DECEMBER 2, 2015.

Chairperson Canale called for the adoption of the agenda for the December 2, 2015 MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY DIRECTOR CREAGH, SUPPORTED BY MR. CUMMINGS, TO
ADOPT THE AGENDA FOR THE DECEMBER 2, 2015 MNRTF BOARD
MEETING. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

III. INTRODUCTIONS.

The Board members introduced themselves.

Mr. Steve DeBrabander, Manager, Grants Management Section, Finance and Operations Division, DNR, introduced himself and Grants Management Section staff: Mr. Jon Mayes (Unit Manager, MNRTF), Ms. Linda Harlow (Administrative Assistant to staff and Board), Ms. Amy Matisoff (Grant Coordinator), Ms. Merrie Carlock (Grant Coordinator), Ms. Tamara Jorkasky (Grant Coordinator), Ms. Christie Bayus (Grant Coordinator), Mr. Chip Kosloski (Grant Coordinator) and Mr. Mike Chuff (MNRTF Financial Specialist)

Mr. DeBrabander also introduced Ms. Sharon Schafer, Chief of Finance and Operations Division.

Mr. DeBrabander informed the audience that after 45 years of state service, Ms. Harlow will be retiring at the end of March 2016. The February 10, 2016 meeting will be her last one.

IV. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

Representative Winnie Brinks – TF15-0042, Acquisition/Expansion of Monroe North, City of Grand Rapids

Representative Winnie Brinks made comments in support of the Acquisition/Expansion of Monroe North, City of Grand Rapids project (TF15-0042). This is great unique opportunity to embrace the river and for citizens and visitors to the City of Grand Rapids to interact with it. It would be a great project for the community and urged the Board to support funding for the project.

Ms. Rosalynn Bliss, Mayor-Elect, City of Grand Rapids – TF15-0042, Acquisition/Expansion of Monroe North, City of Grand Rapids

Ms. Rosalynn Bliss, Mayor-Elect for the City of Grand Rapids, made comments in support of the Acquisition/Expansion of Monroe North, City of Grand Rapids project (TF15-0042). This project would increase urban parkland in downtown Grand Rapids.

In addition, this project is also an essential component of the Grand River Restoration project, which will support fish habitat restoration and recreational opportunities. The project aligns with state and local priorities and has earned the Urban Water Federal Partnership designation. The project also aligns with the MNRTF Board's priorities for trails and urban areas.

The timeline for this project has been underway since 2010. Permits are underway. A segment of the trail north of the acquisition is already underway.

The city has committed \$2.5 million to match the MNRTF grant and another \$2.5 million for river development.

Mr. Matt Chapman, Project Manager, Grand Rapids Whitewater – TF15-0042,
Acquisition/Expansion of Monroe North, City of Grand Rapids

Mr. Matt Chapman, Project Manager for Grand Rapids Whitewater, made comments in support of the Acquisition/Expansion of Monroe North, City of Grand Rapids (TF15-0042). The Grand Rapids Whitewater is a non-profit organization consisting of rowers, paddling clubs, anglers and businesses. They have been a partner with the City of Grand Rapids to achieve the goal of creating a safer and more exciting river experience. The project will also be the catalyst for efforts to restore the rapids.

Restoration of the river will enhance fisheries by improving fish passage to upstream habitat and restore aquatic species activities.

For the first time in decades, this project will allow residents and visitors the opportunity to access the river in downtown Grand Rapids.

Mr. John Weiss, Executive Director, Grand Valley Metro Council – TF15-0042,
Acquisition/Expansion of Monroe North, City of Grand Rapids

Mr. John Weiss, Executive Director of the Grand Valley Metro Council, made comments in support of the Acquisition/Expansion of Monroe North, City of Grand Rapids project (TF15-0042). The Grand Valley Metro Council consists of governments in five counties in western Michigan, with 38 members, representing 750,000 residents.

The project has been on the council's watch list for a long time and it has been formally endorsed. In 2011, a brownfield grant was received to do the first study of sedimentation on the river and continues to be part of the process.

Mr. Weiss stated that other organizations have endorsed the project, as well as the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. April Scholtz, Land Protection Director, Land Conservancy of West Michigan – TF15-0157,
Barrier Dunes Sanctuary Addition, White River Township

Ms. April Scholtz, Land Protection Director for the Land Conservancy of West Michigan, made comments in support of the Barrier Dunes Sanctuary Addition, White River Township project (TF15-0157).

Ms. Scholtz stated that the match for the project has been increased, so the request of the MNRTF will now be \$300,000.

The west Michigan community has rallied their support for this project.

Mr. Dave Forsberg, Manager, Community, Government and Public Relations, Upper Peninsula Power Company – Iron Ore Heritage Trail

Mr. Dave Forsberg, Manager of Community, Government and Public Relations for the Upper Peninsula Power Company, made comments on the development of the Iron Ore Heritage Trail in Iron County. This portion was recently completed.

Mr. Forsberg wanted to point out some observations he had. On the MNRTF application, there is not a check-off box that says that the local unit of government or Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will meet with all the impacted utility companies – electric, natural gas, telephone or cable. By having discussions with these entities, it would alleviate a lot of the challenges that were encountered with the Iron Ore Heritage Trail.

Mr. Forsberg suggested that in the future his company, DNR representatives and the appropriate representative from MDOT should meet to discuss how this process can be improved. This is especially important when federal grant money is involved to go with MNRTF funding. He suggested that the meeting be held early in 2016.

Director Creagh responded that he welcomes the opportunity to meet with Mr. Forsberg and MDOT. In the meeting, he would also ask the utility companies to come prepared as to how they could assist with trail connectivity and development.

Mr. Richard Bouvett, Township Supervisor, Marenisco Township – TF15-0103, Donald McKenzie Memorial Park Enhancements, Marenisco Township

Mr. Richard Bouvett, Township Supervisor, Marenisco Township, made comments in support of the Donald McKenzie Memorial Park Enhancements, Marenisco Township project (TF15-0103). The township applied for funding for the project last year and was just below the cut-off point. The township has never received a MNRTF grant.

The project is a combination of a trailhead and a pavilion. The pavilion would be used year-round. In the winter it would be used for a skating rink.

Mr. Bart Heil, Parks Supervisor, City of Midland – TF15-0128, Emerson Park River Overlook and Riverwalk Development, City of Midland

Mr. Bart Heil, Parks Supervisor for the City of Midland, made comments in support of the Emerson Park River Overlook and Riverwalk Development, City of Midland project (TF15-0128).

The project is to repurpose an abandoned water intake station along the Tittabawassee River into a universally accessible river overlook and fishing platform. The site will connect by a paved path to the Pere Marquette Rail Trail, which is halfway between downtown and

Northwood University. The riverbank has been overtaken by invasive exotics which will be removed and replaced with native vegetation.

The project is supported by many local organizations.

Ms. Deb Ellenwood, Treasurer, Algoma Township and Mr. Josh Zuiderveen – TF15-0026, River's Edge Park; and TF15-0029, River's Edge Park Acquisition

Ms. Deb Ellenwood, Treasurer for Algoma Township, made comments in support of the River's Edge Park development project (TF15-0026) and River's Edge Park Acquisition project (TF15-0029). She thanked the MNRTF Board for their past support of grants for the township.

The River's Edge development project is for trails, boardwalks, fishing access, canoe landing, picnic areas, restroom and educational signage at the park.

Mr. Josh Zuiderveen outlined the River's Edge Park Acquisition project. The project would be to acquire some additional land on the Rogue River (1.7 acres). This will increase public access to the Rogue River (which has been designated a Wild and Scenic River). Four dams will be removed.

Ms. Mindy Milos-Dale, Director, Parks and Recreation, Oakland Charter Township – TF15-0130, Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Expansion

Ms. Mindy Milos-Dale, Director of Parks and Recreation for Oakland Charter Township, made comments in support of the Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Expansion, Oakland Charter Township project (T15-0130). This project is for the acquisition of 209 acres to add to Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park, which is located next to Stony Creek Metropark.

Ms. Milos-Dale stated that the township would be unable to acquire the property without the assistance of the MNRTF (request is for \$2.2 million). The property owner, who is a residential home builder, will develop the property as a residential subdivision.

Over the past two years, the township has worked with the property owner in collaboration with land planning, wetland and real estate professionals to plan the preservation of the property's natural resources. A two-part effort includes 1) the township acquiring and protecting the entire 209 acres; and 2) the creation of a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) wetland bank to restore and protect 20 acres of wetlands.

If the township is able to acquire the property, DEQ will require the current property owner to provide a non-wasting endowment to support the township's perpetual stewardship of the wetland restoration areas. As a result, the MNRTF grant will leverage two funding sources—the township's local land preservation millage for the property purchase, plus a sustainable endowment for long-term natural areas stewardship.

V. OLD BUSINESS.

Funding Amounts Available for Grant Awards

Ms. Sharon Schafer outlined the MNRTF Financial Report. The figures listed on the report are the actual amounts available for funding.

For the investment income distribution amount, the Board has elected a 2.5 percent spending plan. The balance of \$14.8 million reflects 2.5 percent of the \$595.2 million which was the beginning balance of the Stabilization Reserve and Growth Fund. In "Other Income", \$147,218 was added. The total amount available from FY revenue is \$15 million.

Allocations of FY 2015 revenue include \$3.3 million for operating appropriations (staff salaries, Payment-in-Lieu of Taxes, operating expenses).

Funds available for 2015 projects are: \$8.8 million for acquisition and \$4.3 million for development projects, for a total of \$13.2 million.

The Stabilization Reserve balance was \$56.8 million. The investment income was \$13.1 million (this amount came in lower than anticipated, at slightly over 2 percent). If the Board makes the decision to make a deposit in the Growth Reserve, this amount would be \$13.5 million.

The ending investment balance is \$593.5 million. This is slightly less than the beginning investment balance (\$595.2 million), which leaves slightly less funding for investments.

Ms. Schafer stated that the Board does have the ability to make a motion to spend above and beyond what is available (using funds from the Stabilization Reserve). If the Board elects to use a 5 percent spending formula, the amount available would be \$28 million (\$20 million for land acquisition and \$8 million for development projects).

MOVED BY DIRECTOR CREAGH, SUPPORTED BY MR. CUMMINGS, THAT GIVEN THE HIGH QUALITY OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN THIS ROUND, AND THE DISCRETION AFFORDED TO THE BOARD, THAT THE BOARD UTILIZE A PORTION OF THE FUND'S RESERVES AND IMPLEMENT A FIVE PERCENT SPEND RULE FOR THIS YEAR'S AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

Mr. Cummings wanted to congratulate the Board for the measures that were taken in 2012. With no more annual income being received, the MNRTF is being operated more as a foundation. These spending decisions are paying off today. Mr. Hamp concurred with Mr. Cummings.

Director Creagh commented that occasionally the MNRTF comes under great scrutiny from some legislators as to why it has a Stabilization Fund and Growth Fund. When it comes time to

run capital outlay bills and talk about the MNRTF, occasionally there is a lack of support for the projects. He asked the audience for support as the MNRTF projects move ahead.

2015 MNRTF Acquisition and Development Applications – FINAL STAFF RANKINGS FOR BOARD ACTION

MOVED BY MR. CUMMINGS, SUPPORTED BY MR. HAMP, TO APPROVE STAFF RANKINGS OF 2015 MNRTF ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

At this point, Mr. DeBrabander outlined the list of acquisition and development applications, ranked in score order. This was displayed for the Board and audience via a screen for viewing. As the Board makes their recommendations, the recommended projects will change to green.

Projects currently highlighted in yellow were for Small Acquisition Grant Initiative (SAGI) (\$100,000 or less) and on the development list, Small Development Grant Initiative (SDGI). Highlighted in red were for Core Iron Belle Trail applications.

Acquisition Applications:

MOVED BY MR. HAMP TO RECOMMEND FULL FUNDING OF ALL ACQUISITION PROJECTS UNDER THE DNR STAFF RANKED LIST FROM A SCORE OF 400, TF15-0195, CITY OF GRAND LEDGE; THROUGH A SCORE OF 350, TF15-0181, DNR, PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION.

MOVED BY MR. HAMP TO RECOMMEND FULL FUNDING FOR TF15-0049, CITY OF NORTH MUSKEGON (SCORE 345); TF15-0157, WHITE RIVER TOWNSHIP (SCORE 330); TF15-0147, KENT COUNTY (SCORE 325); AND TF15-0061, WASHTENAW COUNTY (SCORE 320).

MOVED BY MR. HAMP TO RECOMMEND FULL FUNDING FOR ALL REMAINING SMALL ACQUISITION GRANT INITIATIVE APPLICATIONS THAT HAVE NOT ALREADY BEEN RECOMMENDED: TF15-0036, TUSCOLA TOWNSHIP (SCORE 345); TF15-0063, ST. CLAIR COUNTY (SCORE 330); TF15-0064, ST. CLAIR COUNTY (SCORE 330); TF15-0123, SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP (SCORE 330); TF15-0095, BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP (SCORE 305); AND TF15-0173, CITY OF PORTLAND (SCORE 270).

THE TOTAL FOR ACQUISITION PROJECTS IS \$19,926,000.

SUPPORTED BY MR. CUMMINGS. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

Recommended Acquisition projects are as follows:

- TF15-0195, City of Grand Ledge – Oak Park Expansion
- TF15-0202, City of New Baltimore – Land Acquisition of Schmid Marina
- TF15-0156, Saginaw County – GLBRT Land Acquisition
- TF15-0108, Plainfield Charter Township (Kent County) – Grand Rogue Campground
- TF15-0029, Algoma Township – River’s Edge Park Acquisition
- TF15-0170, DNR, Parks and Recreation – EV & MR, LLC Property Acquisition
- TF15-0145, Williams Charter Township – Williams Township Park Acquisition
- TF15-0212, DNR, Wildlife – Petobego SGA Land Acquisition
- TF15-0218, Littlefield Township – Hay Lake Water Access Site Acquisition
- TF15-0215, Caledonia Charter Township – Caledonia Lakeside Park – North Shore Land Addition
- TF15-0038, Milton Township – Bigelow Property (Waters Edge Resort) Waterfront Park
- TF15-0042, City of Grand Rapids – Acquisition/Expansion of Monroe North
- TF15-0144, Oscoda Charter Township – Oscoda Beach Park Property Acquisition
- TF15-0186, DNR, Parks and Recreation – Kuusisto Property Acquisition
- TF15-0179, DNR, Parks and Recreation – Koffman Property Acquisition
- TF15-0181, DNR, Parks and Recreation – Saugatuck Dunes SP Property Acquisition
- TF15-0049, City of North Muskegon – North Muskegon Property Acquisition
- TF15-0157, White River Township – Barrier Dunes Sanctuary Addition
- TF15-0147, Kent County – Millennium Park Land Addition
- TF15-0061, Washtenaw County – West Lake Preserve Expansion
- TF15-0036, Tuscola Township – Tuscola Township Park Acquisition
- TF15-0063, St. Clair County – Pine River Property Acquisition
- TF15-0064, St. Clair County – Belle River Property Acquisition
- TF15-0123, Superior Township – Superior Township Riverview Park Acquisition
- TF15-0095, Bear Lake Township – Acquisition of Lake Property for Kayak/Canoe Launch
- TF15-0173, City of Portland – Land Acquisition for Expansion of Two Rivers Park

Development Applications:

MOVED BY MR. CUMMINGS TO RECOMMEND FULL FUNDING OF ALL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS UNDER THE DNR RANKED LIST FROM A SCORE OF 420, TF15-0011, HAMPTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP; THROUGH TF15-0182, CITY OF ST. IGNACE, WITH A SCORE OF 370.

MOVED BY MR. CUMMINGS TO RECOMMEND FULL FUNDING FOR FIVE ADDITIONAL IRON BELLE CORE PROJECTS—TF15-0100, CITY OF GLADSTONE, SCORE 360; TF15-0223, CITY OF ALBION, SCORE 345; TF15-0161, GENESEE

COUNTY, SCORE 310; TF15-0163, DNR, PARKS AND RECREATION, SCORE 310; AND TF15-0127, ORION CHARTER TOWNSHIP, SCORE 300.

MOVED BY MR. CUMMINGS TO RECOMMEND FULL FUNDING FOR ALL REMAINING SMALL DEVELOPMENT GRANT INITIATIVE PROJECTS WITH A SCORE OF 310 OR ABOVE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TF15-0062, ISABELLA COUNTY—TF15-0055, DELTA CHARTER TOWNSHIP, SCORE 355; TF15-0077, MARQUETTE CHARTER TOWNSHIP, SCORE 355; TF15-0196, CITY OF TRAVERSE CITY, SCORE 355; TF15-0065, CITY OF ZEELAND, SCORE 350; TF15-0058, CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN, SCORE 345; TF15-0094, CITY OF ALGONAC, SCORE 330; TF15-0096, CROCKERY TOWNSHIP, SCORE 325; TF15-0070, MERIDIAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP, SCORE 315; TF15-0167, VILLAGE OF FARWELL, SCORE 310; TF15-0217, REDFORD CHARTER TOWNSHIP, SCORE 310; TF15-0227, AND CITY OF SOUTHGATE, SCORE 310.

MOVED BY MR. CUMMINGS TO RECOMMEND FULL FUNDING FOR TF15-0121, DNR, PARKS AND RECREATION, SCORE 360; TF15-0050, CITY OF MARQUETTE, SCORE 355; AND TF15-0238, CITY OF ROOSEVELT PARK, SCORE 200.

THE TOTAL FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IS \$8,031,200.

SUPPORTED BY DIRECTOR CREAGH. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

Recommended Development projects are as follows:

- TF15-0011, Hampton Charter Township – Finn Road Park Improvements
- TF15-0005, City of Grand Rapids – Huff Park Boardwalk Renovation and Restroom Improvements
- TF15-0072, City of South Haven – North Beach Park Improvements
- TF15-0143, DNR, Parks and Recreation – Lakelands Trail Development: M-52 to Parnall Road
- TF15-0141, Garfield Charter Township – Boardman Valley Nature Preserve Improvements
- TF15-0027, Iosco County – Iosco Exploration Trail, Phase 1
- TF15-0044, Holland Charter Township – Dunton Park Shoreline Renovation and Barrier Free Kayak Launch
- TF15-0136, DNR, Parks and Recreation – Belle Isle Lake Okonoka Picnic Area Development
- TF15-0177, Watersmeet Township – Whitefish Trail Restoration Project
- TF15-0203, City of Ferndale – Martin Road Park Improvements
- TF15-0204, City of Ferndale – Harding Park Improvements
- TF15-0007, City of Frankenmuth – Frankenmuth Memorial Park Boat Launch Improvements

- **TF15-0046, City of Ann Arbor – Gallup Park Universal Access Playground and Site Amenities**
- **TF15-0148, Spalding Township – Veterans Memorial Park Improvement Project**
- **TF15-0154, Cass County – Dodd Park Water Trail Development Project**
- **TF15-0017, Village of Shepherd – Mid-Michigan Community Pathway-Phase 1**
- **TF15-0069, Summit Township – Horton Road Trail Development**
- **TF15-0092, Jackson County – Sparks Park Inter-City Trail Connector Development Project**
- **TF15-0140, Bridgeport Charter Township – Bridgeport Cass River Trailhead**
- **TF15-0103, Marenisco Township, Donald McKenzie Memorial Park Enhancements**
- **TF15-0153, DNR, Parks and Recreation – Laughing Whitefish Falls Scenic Site Access Improvements**
- **TF15-0187, City of Harbor Beach – Waterfront Enhancement Project**
- **TF15-0008, Bridgeport Charter Township – Cass River Water Trail – Hoffmann Site**
- **TF15-0097, City of Jackson – Fourth Street Connector Development Project**
- **TF15-0182, City of St. Ignace, Little Bear East Recreation Park Development**
- **TF15-0100, City of Gladstone, Bay de Noc Trail System**
- **TF15-0223, City of Albion – Albion River Trail Expansion Project**
- **TF15-0161, Genesee County – Atlas Township Section – Iron Belle Trail**
- **TF15-0163, DNR, Parks and Recreation – Higgins Lake Regional Trail Connector**
- **TF15-0127, Orion Charter Township – Clarkston Road Regional Pathway Connection Project**
- **TF15-0055, Delta Charter Township – Hawk Meadow Restrooms**
- **TF15-0077, Marquette Charter Township – Schwemwood Iron Ore Heritage Trailhead Parking/Path/Wetland**
- **TF15-0196, City of Traverse City – Clancy Park Improvements**
- **TF15-0065, City of Zeeland – Zeeland Splash Park Expansion**
- **TF15-0058, City of South Haven – Black River Park Skid Pier Replacement**
- **TF15-0094, City of Algonac – Riverfront Park Lighting Replacement**
- **TF15-0096, Crockery Township – Phase 2a. Extension of North Bank Trail**
- **TF15-0070, Meridian Charter Township – Accessible Pavilion – North Meridian Road Park**
- **TF15-0167, Village of Farwell – Farwell Park Placemaking Improvements (Phase 1)**
- **TF15-0217, Redford Charter Township – Kraft Park Multi-Sports Complex Renovation**
- **TF15-0227, City of Southgate – Market Center Park – Pavilion Improvements**
- **TF15-0121, DNR, Parks and Recreation – Alpena to Hillman Trail Development Phase 1**
- **TF15-0050, City of Marquette – Father Marquette Park Accessibility/Improvement Plan**
- **TF15-0238, City of Roosevelt Park – Fordham Street Playfield Improvements**

Chairperson Canale stated that the information on grant applications the Board received over the past several months has been extensive and extraordinarily well done. The Board reviews this information very strategically since the MNRTF is now operating as a foundation. The Board will be very diligent in the future for funding projects within available resources. He thanked the staff and Board for their work.

Mr. Cummings thanked Chairperson Canale for his leadership on the Board this past year. Advancing outdoor public recreation is the main objective. There are no bad projects in the \$51 million list of requests that were proposed today. Michigan has natural resources that are unique and the MNRTF really advances how they are accessed and conserved. What the MNRTF has done for Michigan is extraordinary. He also thanked everyone.

Innovation Funding Subcommittee – UPDATE

Mr. Cummings wanted to recognize Ms. Helen Taylor, State Director, The Nature Conservancy, for her leadership in putting the Innovation Funding Subcommittee together. Ms. Taylor was Chair of this subcommittee.

In 2012, the Board made a resolution which allowed them to use funds from the Stabilization Reserve for grants, if they chose to do so. The Board also reviewed how they are operating and looking at ways to become more strategic in the future.

Mr. Cummings, Mr. Hamp, DNR staff, and other knowledgeable volunteers from public and private sectors served on the subcommittee. The report has been completed and will be discussed more at the February 10, 2016 Board meeting.

Highlights of the report include:

- Looking at a potential adjustment to the asset allocation to increase the rate of return.
- Looking at the revision of the spending rule.
- Consider steps to streamline administrative requirements.
- The potential to expand grant frequency.
- Help communities with regional planning.
- Continue to grow the MNRTF to maintain purchasing power.

Director Creagh also thanked Ms. Taylor for her leadership on the subcommittee. Mr. Hamp also thanked Ms. Taylor.

VI. NEW BUSINESS.

Update on MNRTF Staff Activities

Mr. DeBrabander outlined updates of various MNRTF staff activities:

- Mr. DeBrabander publicly complimented Grants Management staff for their hard work on reviewing 2015 applications.
- 2016 grant application booklets and have been updated and are on the web.
- Post-Completion Self-Certification Inspection process is ongoing. Out of 83 counties, 82 have been completed. Linda Harlow continues to work on these inspections.
- The 2016 recreation grant workshops have been scheduled.
- Staff continues work on the MiRecGrants system. Amy Matisoff is the lead on this system, spending approximately 80 percent of her time on it. This is the second year that the system has been used for application submittal.

Mr. DeBrabander believes we could be more strategic in providing funding for access to the Great Lakes shoreline every five miles. This has been mentioned in the past. He is proposing that the Board give approval for staff to make this access a priority to work with our customers to implement a strategic goal of providing public access to Great Lakes shoreline every five miles. This was outlined in the Public Land Management Strategy that was developed by the DNR with a number of stakeholders. The DNR is in the process of finalizing a map to show where we meet the criteria and where there are gaps in access to the Great Lakes. Once this map is completed, it will be put online on the MNRTF grants website for our customers to reference. He would like to get the support of the Board on this proposal and requested that they may look favorably at funding these applications in the future.

The Board was unanimous in their support of this concept.

Mr. DeBrabander also mentioned this complements with the Lake Michigan Water Trail Plan and others.

Conversions Update

No conversions resolved since the Board's last meeting.

Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2016

**MOVED BY MR. CUMMINGS, SUPPORTED BY DIRECTOR CREAGH, TO CONTINUE HAVING CHAIRPERSON CANALE AS CHAIRPERSON AND MS. McDONOUGH AS VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR 2016.
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

VII. STATUS REPORTS.

DNR Real Estate Report

Mr. Jon Mayes advised the Board that there are no new DNR acquisitions to report since the last meeting.

Completed MNRTF Projects Report

Mr. Mayes stated that one acquisition and three local development projects have been completed since the last meeting.

MNRTF Financial Report

Ms. Schafer stated that she has already discussed this report and will provide the Board with more information at the February meeting.

MNRTF Land Consolidation and Line Item Department Projects

No discussion.

VIII. OTHER MATTERS AS ARE PROPERLY BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD.

None.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The next meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board is scheduled for 9:00 AM, Wednesday, February 10, 2016, Lansing Community College West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone, Lansing, Michigan.

X. ADJOURNMENT.

**MOVED BY MR. HAMP, SUPPORTED BY MR. CUMMINGS, TO
ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Brad Canale, Chairperson
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
Board of Trustees

Steven J. DeBrabander, Manager
Grants Management Section
Finance and Operations Division

DATE