

MINUTES

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

March 10, 2011

Lansing Community College M-Tec West Campus
5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing, MI

PRESENT FOR THE NRC

Tim Nichols, Chair
Frank Wheatlake
John Madigan
John Matonich
J.R. Richardson
Mary Brown

ABSENT

Hurley Coleman

PRESENT FOR STAFF

Bob Reichel, Legal Counsel, Office of the Attorney General
Rodney Stokes, Chief of Staff, Department of Natural Resources
Gary Owen, Legislative Liaison
Debbie Whipple, Assistant to the Natural Resources Commission
Other Department staff

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Natural Resources Commission (NRC) Chairman Nichols called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Chairman Nichols wished Director-Designate Stokes a happy birthday.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Legislative Update

Gary Owen, Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) Legislative Liaison, gave the following report:

Senate Bill 27 – Senator Goeff Hanson

Executive Order 2004-3 divided regulatory responsibilities for privately-owned cervidae facilities between the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the DNRE. Specifically, duties pertaining to the licensing, application, registration, and inspection of privately owned cervidae facilities were transferred to the DNRE. Duties for animal health and disease surveillance were reserved for the MDA. These duties were reallocated between the two departments based in part upon the belief that it provided for more efficient administration of the regulatory program and provided greater assurance at guarding against the potential introduction and transmission of diseases among captive and free-ranging wildlife. Executive Order 2004-3 was issued with the support of both the DNRE and the MDA.

The bill strikes references to the DNRE as the primary regulatory agency for the administration of the “Privately-owned Cervidae Producers Marketing Act” and replaces those references with the MDA. The bill identifies the DNRE as a consultative agency.

House Bills 4021 and 4028 – Representative Dave Agema

House Bill 4021 amends MCL 324.1902 by adding subsection 324.1902(4) which would direct 20 percent of revenue collected from the rents, royalties, and bonuses paid on leases of state-owned mineral rights to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF); 20 percent to the State Aeronautics Fund (SAF); and 60 percent to the Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF). Presently, 100 percent of this revenue accrues to the MNRTF.

House Bill 4028 modifies MCL 247.660 by amending Section 10 to allow the MTF to receive the diverted funds.

House Joint Resolution B of 2011 proposes to modify the Michigan Constitution by seeking an amendment to Article IX, Section 35, to restrict the contribution to the MNRTF to 20 percent of all rents, bonuses, and royalties collected after the amendatory date. The effective date of the amendment is anticipated to occur in 2012.

The MNRTF is expected to be at its constitutionally mandated cap of \$500 million by June 2011. As a result, after the cap has been reached, 100 percent of mineral revenue from state-owned minerals would normally accrue to the State Park Endowment Fund (SPEF). Gross mineral revenue production from state-owned minerals is estimated at \$50 million for each of the next two years. These bills would reduce revenue to the SPEF by 80 percent to about \$10 million.

With the loss of General Fund support in 2004 for state parks, there has been a structural deficit in that program accumulating a \$321 million-plus backlog of maintenance and infrastructure needs. With a reduction of funding to the SPEF, it will neither meet the needs to address accumulated maintenance and infrastructure

shortcomings, nor accumulate revenue necessary to reach its statutory cap of \$800 million. Reaching the \$800 million cap would provide long-term stable funding to a program which is fundamental to supporting Michigan's recreational and tourism industries.

Justification provided to support the diversion of 60 percent to the MTF is that roads are where this money (from oil production refined to make gasoline) is most used. However, the portion of that revenue derived from oil production is relatively small being only 17 percent in 2009 and six percent in 2010.

Senate Bill 207 – Senator Joe Hune
House Bill 4279 – Representative Peter Pettalia

Youth Mentor Hunting Program

Senate Bill 207 and HB 4279 propose to eliminate the minimum hunting age in Michigan and provide for a mentored youth hunting program. Under the bill, youths under the age of 10 would be eligible to hunt in conjunction with a mentored youth hunting program. The bill charges the NRC with developing that program within one year of the effective date of the act. The bill also creates the mentored youth hunting license. The fee for the license is \$7.50. The bill is a priority for the MUCC and they worked closely with the Department in developing the legislation.

House Bill 4111 – Representative Bruce Rendon

The department already has the authority to hire volunteers for parks and recreation services and this bill allows us to hire them for wildlife habitat work. This was brought forward by the MUCC in conjunction with a number of other conservation groups that strongly support and understand the need for the DNR to be able to do this.

Owen reported that he received a question from **Senator Tom Casperson**, wondering if it's necessary to have both the youth hunt and now the proposed youth mentored hunting program that would allow youth the age of ten and under to be eligible to hunt. Owen responded to Senator Casperson that it might be a good idea to include in the bill a provision to ask the Natural Resources Commission to look at whether both are necessary.

Commissioner Wheatlake asked what the status was on changing the opening day for deer hunting to Saturday. Owen said he and NRC Chairman Nichols met recently with Representative Kevin Cotter, sponsor of the bill, and felt it was a real positive meeting. Owen and Nichols presented the sponsor with different surveys the DNR has and discussed the impact that different days of the week would have on a number of variables. Owen said the sponsor expressed a desire to meet with the NRC members for input and to talk about where the issue is heading.

State Forest Campgrounds

Lynne Boyd, Chief of the DNR Forest Management Division, reported that, given the reductions in campground program funding sources, additional reductions in campgrounds will need to be made. State forest campgrounds are funded by the General Fund as well as a small amount from the Waterways Fund and campground users' fees. Since 2008, General Fund appropriations for campgrounds have been reduced a total of \$411,000, a significant decrease. There is just over \$200,000 left from the General Fund in that program that fund all non-motorized activities for trails and supplements the campground users' fees.

Because of cuts in previous years, there isn't much left to cut in 2011 except to close additional campgrounds. A proposal of campgrounds to be closed is being developed for the Director's consideration. Different criteria are being looked at, including associated recreation, campground quality, financial stability, fire risk, use and occupancy, proximity to other campgrounds, and renovation needs.

Land Acquisition

Director-Designate Rodney Stokes reported that there are currently three land acquisition items on today's Agenda that he will be placing on hold because of a bill introduced into the Senate just this week that would limit the Department's ability to acquire land. Stokes indicated that there has not been an opportunity to fully discuss and analyze the bill as well as to get a good understanding of the issue from the Department's professional real estate staff. Before the Department adds any more land to state ownership, the Director wants to have an opportunity to review the proposed legislation.

Department Split Update

Director-Designate Rodney Stokes gave an update on the DNRE split. Stokes reminded everyone that on Governor Snyder's second day in office, he signed an executive order that established the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Quality as two separate agencies, effective March 13. Stokes reported that he has already been confirmed by the Senate and will be the Director of the Department of Natural Resources on Sunday, March 13.

Stokes said that splitting the Department into two separate entities will not cost the state money. He explained that the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Quality, as well as the Department of Agriculture, are beginning to share services among the departments, including accounting services, human resources staff, fleet management, purchasing, facilities management, and technology and are still looking at other areas not only to save money but to become more efficient.

Conservationist of the Year Award

Director-Designate Rodney Stokes offered sincere congratulations on behalf of the Department to Russ Mason, Chief of the DNRE Wildlife Division, for recently being named Conservationist of the Year by the Michigan Council of Pheasants Forever.

The award is the organization's highest honor and was presented during the annual Pheasants Forever State Convention held in East Lansing.

Chief Mason received the acknowledgment for his strong commitment to building partnerships, supporting habitat restoration, and promoting Michigan's hunting heritage.

Mason has been the DNRE's Wildlife Division Chief since 2008 and has more than 30 years of natural resources experience. Stokes said Mason is a true conservation leader, working for what he believes is best for Michigan's wildlife and natural resources.

2012 Budget Overview

Sharon Schafer, Assistant Chief, Administrative Division, Finance, gave an overview of the Department's 2012 budget. She announced that the budget process for 2012 has been started. Schafer stated that the Department is sharing services with the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Agriculture as a necessity in order to survive after some of the reductions in funding.

Schafer reported that the overall budget appropriation for 2012 is proposed to be at \$330.2 million. That includes a 14.2 percent reduction in the state General Fund component, meaning the Department will be down to \$13.7 million in General Funds.

The accounting staff are now Department of Transportation (MDOT) employees. The DNR is sharing accounting services with MDOT, the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Agriculture.

CWD and Bovine TB Reports

Dr. Steve Schmitt, DNRE Wildlife veterinarian, gave a presentation on the final 2010 Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Surveillance Report. In 2010, approximately 900 deer were tested for CWD. All tested negative. Dr. Schmitt said most of the testing was done in Kent County where, in 2008, a CWD-positive captive whitetail deer was found. Targeted surveillance was done in the rest of the state, where 50 animals were tested. That testing was done on animals that were showing some symptoms of the disease. Over the years, more than 33,000 wild deer, almost 1,600 wild elk, and 66 wild moose have been tested and all tested negative for CWD. During that period, the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) tested over 17,000 captive cervids, mainly whitetail deer and elk, and only the one tested positive in Kent County. Dr. Schmitt said we must

continue to be diligent in preventing the establishment of CWD in Michigan. If the disease becomes established, it will be here forever.

Dr. Schmitt also reported that in 2010, Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) surveillance was concentrated in a five-county area (Presque Isle, Montmorency, Alpena, Oscoda and Alcona) and a 5-10 mile radius where TB-positive deer have been found in the past couple of years (one each in Iosco, Shiawassee, and Cheboygan counties and two in Emmet County.) Passive surveillance was done in the rest of the state. In 2010, Bovine TB testing was done on approximately 5,000 deer statewide, with 24 testing positive. Over the years, approximately 190,000 deer have been tested for TB, and 687 tested positive.

The two Bovine TB eradication strategies that have been in place for over ten years have been keeping deer from concentrating by eliminating supplemental feeding and baiting and reducing deer numbers through hunting to a level supported by the natural vegetation. This strategy, with the help of hunters, has helped to reduce the prevalence of TB from 5 percent in 1995 to 1.8 percent in 2010. Evidence suggests that eradication of TB, if it can be achieved, will take decades and will take much more aggressive action than what's in place now. The current management strategies need to be continued. Dr. Schmitt is afraid the disease will spread if the eradication strategies are not continued.

James Averill, DVM, PhD, Michigan Department of Agriculture, gave an overview of a 2010 report on Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in cattle herds. Michigan obtained TB-free status in cattle population in 1979; in 1998, a first positive result was found in a cattle herd, and the entire state lost its TB-free status in 2000.

Averill stated that agriculture is a growing industry in Michigan, contributing an estimated \$70 billion to the economy and 1.5 million jobs linked to food and agriculture. Michigan's cattle industry, as well, with 1.1 million head, contributes an estimated \$6.4 billion annually to Michigan's economy.

Though a lot of money has been spent on the Bovine TB program over the past 15 years, they have identified where the risk of the disease is, and they're very close to making some major steps to getting a majority of the state to TB-free status.

Horseback Riding at Lost Nation State Game Area

Steve Beyer, DNRE Wildlife Division, reported that in 2010, two bills (HB 4610 and SB 578) were enacted (Public Acts 45 and 46 of 2010) that are centered around horseback riding and recreation. The bills focused on a trails system and pack and saddle animal access on state lands. They established an equine trails subcommittee and provided for the development of a plan for a statewide network of horseback riding trails. At the time the bills passed, the legislation did reaffirm any existing land use rules and provided a way to review new restrictions. In addition, the legislation called for the

Department to conduct reviews of existing horseback riding restrictions at specific areas, including the Lost Nation State Game Area where there has never been a designated or open area for horseback riding. There are about 2,500 acres in the Lost Nation State Game Area, which have always been managed as a game area.

The Lost Nation State Game Area was acquired and continues to be managed and maintained by a mixture of funds from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, funds in the Game and Fish Protection Fund, and also from participation in the federal Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act. Both the state funds and federal funds have specific regulations and legal requirements that protect lands that are acquired and maintained by the funds.

Sporadically throughout the years since the 1970s, requests to allow horses and develop trails at the game area have been received. Those requests have been considered, however, it has been consistently determined that it is not appropriate for the Wildlife Division to allow that type of activity on lands that were purchased and are maintained for wildlife related purposes.

On January 18, 2011, a public information meeting was held in Hillsdale County, which was very well attended and included some very lively and engaged discussions. As a result of the Department's review, the conclusion is that the current use restrictions for the Lost Nation State Game Area are appropriate and adequate to ensure that the area continues to serve its wildlife related purposes. The final report will be available on the DNR's Website.

Marita Davis of Montgomery, Michigan, spoke in favor of allowing horseback riding at Lost Nation State Game Area. She and her husband attended the January 18, 2011, public meeting in Hillsdale County and listed several concerns they had with the meeting. Davis went on to say that building horse trails in the area would not cost the state anything; horseback riders would do the work for free. She said it would be good for the local economy and asked the Department to please reconsider.

Director Stokes asked **Russ Mason, Chief of the DNRE Wildlife Division**, to make arrangements to answer questions Davis had regarding the January 18 meeting and also the reasons for the decision not to allow horseback riding in the area.

NRC Chairman Tim Nichols introduced and welcomed state **Representatives Jon Bumstead, Matt Huuki, and Ed McBroom** to the meeting.

Shikar Safari Officer of the Year Award

Director Stokes announced that the Shikar Safari Club International would present its Wildlife Officer of the Year Award. He explained that the award is one of the major awards in the Law Enforcement Division for recognizing outstanding performance and

that the honor also carries the distinction of being Michigan's Conservation Officer of the Year. The nominations are submitted by conservation officers, based on established criteria related to officer duties and personal attributes. Director Stokes called on **Gunnar Klarr**, representative of Shikar Safari Club International, to make the presentation. **Klarr** first offered thanks, on behalf of the people of the state of Michigan, to all the men and women who serve as conservation officers for what they do every day, even by risking their lives in what is a very dangerous profession, so that the citizens of Michigan can enjoy the abundant, well-managed wildlife and natural resources of the state.

Klarr announced that the 2010 Shikar Safari Club International Wildlife Officer of the Year is an award that is given every year in all 50 states and in every province in Canada. To be chosen as a recipient is no small accomplishment. Every award winner is selected by a group of their own peers. The criteria are based on bravery, quick wisdom in the face of life-threatening circumstances, and loyal service that goes above and beyond already demanding duties.

Klarr said it was with deep admiration and appreciation to present the esteemed award to **Conservation Officer Steven Lockwood of Gladwin County** for a job well done.

Klarr asked **Gary Hagler, Chief of the DNRE Law Enforcement Division**, to say a few words about Officer Lockwood and some of the things he has accomplished. **Hagler** conveyed that Officer Lockwood is an 11 year veteran of the agency, is highly respected by his fellow conservation officers, and does excellent investigative work. Steve was the primary investigator investigating the marijuana growing operation on state lands where 4,000 plants valued at nearly \$4 million and tied to a Mexican drug cartel were seized. Hagler thanked Lockwood, told him to keep up the good work, and that he was very proud of him.

Lockwood accepted the award on behalf of all conservation officers and thanked his fellow officers who nominated him and sponsored him through the channels.

Reports of Committee of the Whole ended at 4:25 p.m.

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NRC Chairman Nichols adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 4:25 p.m. and reconvened at 4:35 p.m.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Jim Sweeney, Traverse City, Michigan, spoke in favor of lifting the ban on deer baiting. Sweeney said baiting does not cause Bovine TB or CWD any more than tomatoes cause salmonella or hamburger causes e coli. If testing shows evidence of bacteria or disease, then it becomes reasonable to take measures to mitigate the spread. He suggests people be allowed to use bait in limited quantities.

Sharon St. Croix, Beaverton, Michigan, spoke in favor of deer baiting. She explained that some hunters are limited by time and/or physical condition, and baiting would give those individuals a better chance of harvesting a deer. St. Croix asked the Commission to please lift the baiting ban to give everyone an equal chance, whether they have limitations or not. She asked the Commissioners to save the interest of deer hunting for all, including the next generation of hunters.

Millard Holton, Mason, Michigan, spoke on expanding hunting opportunities and aiding hunter recruitment. Holton said he has seen all kinds of changes to our game laws and hunting opportunities. He outlined some changes to current game laws that, if adopted, he feels would attract more young hunters to the sport and expand more hunting opportunities. His suggested changes include abolishing all restrictions on using tree stands while hunting legal game, allowing more than one kind of weapon in possession during concurrent or overlapping hunting seasons, and backing up the early spring turkey season for two days and start it on Saturday.

Dave Wheeler, owner of Lucky Buck, the company that makes the deer mineral designed specifically for whitetail deer with the intention of making them healthier said he is in favor of lifting the ban on deer baiting. He outlined some of the advantages of the deer mineral on the immune system of deer.

Larry Rhinaryd of Wixom, spoke on controlled hunts and how they would help generate revenue and increase the opportunity for youth to hunt. Rhinaryd also said he believes the general usage of crossbows should be limited until after November 1.

Phil Hewitt, Michigan Bear Hunters Association, reported that the association has concerns with the DNR's recommendation to ban the use of all chocolate in bear baits. They understand that protecting the resource needs to take precedence, but the total ban on chocolate seems to be more of a "knee-jerk" reaction than a scientific recommendation. The association feels that changes to regulations should be considered in the next regulation cycle. Educating the hunting community on the negative effects that dark, unsweetened chocolate in concentrated form could have on wildlife should be done, while more research is conducted and information is gathered. Hewitt encouraged careful consideration of information presented to the Commission while making its decision in this matter.

Commissioner Madigan asked Hewitt if his organization would be willing to help get that word out, and Hewitt said absolutely. He said they could put the information in a Bear Facts magazine that is issued five times a year to their membership and also in an electronic newsletter they send out to approximately 300 people, as well as list the information on their Website.

Tim Kline of Sparta, Michigan, said that he read on the Internet that feed not fit for domestic animals or for human consumption is sold as bait and feed for wild animals. He feels we somehow have to work on making the quality of feed or bait for wild

animals better or regulate what is sold for bait and feed, everything from deer bait to bird seed.

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Chairman Nichols adjourned the public appearances portion of the meeting and called the regular meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Chairman Nichols listed the Natural Resources Commission FOR INFORMATION ONLY items as:

Bear Regulations
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 04 of 2011

Elk Regulations and License Quotas
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 5 of 2011

Chairman Nichols reported that the Waterfowl Hunting Zones item had been pulled from the Agenda.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes, March 10, 2010, NRC Meeting

Commissioner Matonich made a motion, supported by **Commissioner Richardson**, that the March 10, 2011, NRC minutes be approved. Motion carried.

APPROVED:
Date: _____

Timothy Nichols, Chair

Rodney A. Stokes, Chief of Staff

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Field Dog Trials

Commissioner Madigan made a motion that Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 03 of 2011 regarding field dog trials be adopted. **Commissioner Matonich** supported the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Madigan emphasized that this amendment will require a permit only when the trials take place outside the dog training season. No special permit will be required during dog training season.

Chairman Nichols listed the Director's FOR INFORMATION ONLY items as:

LATE MEMO – Statewide Trout, Salmon, Whitefish and Lake Herring Regulations (FO-200). Will be presented for action in April.

DIRECTOR'S ACTION ITEMS

Chief of Staff Rodney Stokes intends to sign all Director's Action items except three land acquisition items that he will put on hold until more information and clarification is

received on a Senate bill that was introduced this week and a hearing held today that will restrict the ability of the Department to acquire land. Stokes said he is reluctant to add any additional acreage to the Department's ownership until he has a full understanding of what that legislation, if passed, will do. **Stokes'** intention is to have an opportunity to meet with the sponsor of the bill to explain the land consolidation process and to advise of the number of acres the Department has as a result of that process as well as the number of acres currently for sale. Stokes hopes to come to an agreement or resolution with the sponsor of the bill to loosen the restrictions the legislation would have on the Department.

Stokes will sign the remaining two land transactions – one an easement and the other an exchange.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Wildlife and Fisheries Committee

Commissioner Madigan reported that Chief Russ Mason gave a Wildlife Division update during which time the Beaver Island issue was revisited where residents of the island requested that an order be supported to regulate some of the hunting on the island. **Madigan** made a motion to allow Chief Mason to hold a public meeting with residents on Beaver Island to have an open forum to discuss the hunting regulations' proposal and that the proposal and meeting be publicized in the local paper and other media in order to get the notice out to the general public. **Commissioner Wheatlake** seconded the motion, and it was carried.

Commissioner Madigan reported that there were other updates by Chief Mason on the moose advisory team, the wildlife realignment in the department, and the final GPS documentation. There was a presentation by Adam Bump on bear regulations, a discussion on waterfowl zones, an update on elk regulations and quotas, and an update on the Late Order regarding trout regulations in northern Lake Huron.

Land Management Committee

Commissioner J.R. Richardson reported that the first meeting of the new committee was held, and the charter was reviewed, which is providing advice relating to land management and issues. The committee discussed the Michigan Snowmobile Trails Advisory Committee updates, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service direction on management of game, state forest campground management and possible reductions, updates on mineral forestry production land use, volunteer partnership, and habitat. The committee made a list of priorities and will meet in June, September and December, 2011.

Richardson also commented that he and **Commissioner Matonich** met with the Lake Gogebic group and the Ottawa Sportsman's Club.

Technology, Information, Marketing, and Education (T.I.M.E) Committee

Commissioner Brown reported that there was a presentation by Gary Jones, Waterloo Park Manager, regarding developing youth recreation programs through partnerships at the Waterloo Recreation Area and also the cooperative efforts with MUCC to have a camp reinstated there. They also are looking forward to hiring a new director at the Eddy Center. There also was a presentation on aquatic milfoil.

A full report is attached.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Matonich reported that he and Chairman Nichols attended several functions, including events with MUCC, Farm Bureau, and Building Trades.

Commissioner Wheatlake announced that the NRC Policy Committee on Finance and Administration will begin its cycle in April to review monthly spend plans, look at budget issues, talk about any audit issues, and review investment strategy.

Commissioner Madigan reported he attended the Upper Peninsula bear meeting in Escanaba.

Commissioner Brown said she is looking forward to the NRC southwest Michigan meeting in Kalamazoo in July.

Commissioner Nichols said besides the functions Commission Matonich mentioned, he had an opportunity to spend some time with the wildlife leadership group in Roscommon. He also met with state Representative Cotter. Nichols also participated in a conference call with Director Stokes, Department of Agriculture Director Creagh, and Don Coe, chairman of the Agriculture Commission, regarding building the relationship between the departments and how to move forward on important issues. Nichols said they intend to continue those discussions in the future.

Commissioner Wheatlake made a motion to adjourn, seconded by **Commissioner Brown**. Motion passed and the regular meeting of the NRC was adjourned.

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Natural Resources Commission
Technology, Information, Marketing and Education
March 10, 2011
Lansing Community College
M-Tec/West Campus
5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing, MI

Meeting convened at 1:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Mary Brown, John Madigan and Tim Nichols

Developing Youth Recreation Programs through Partnerships at Waterloo Recreation Area

Overview of the Waterloo Recreation Area - Mr. Gary Jones, Waterloo Park Manager mentioned that Waterloo is the largest state park in the Lower Peninsula with over 20,000 acres; the park has five campgrounds, a discovery center, rustic and camper cabins, and a boating access on ten lakes within the park, and over 50 miles of trails.

Gary mentioned that there are six different exits from I-94 to the park. Visitor day use consists of beach and picnic areas, fishing piers, hunting, birding, hiking, boating, disc golf, equestrian trail use and hosts a variety of events. Camping and lodging; Sugarloaf has 164 modern sites and Portage Lake has 136; Green Lake has 25 rustic sites and Equestrian has 25 sites; there are 3 rustic and 1 camper cabins within the park.

The Discovery Center is one of eight DNRE visitor centers in the State. The center has a geology theme, provides interpretive programs throughout the park, hosts numerous school field trips and has an active friends group.

The Outdoor Center was built in the 1920s; Mill Lake is dormant and in poor condition, Cedar Lake is under lease to Michigan United Conservation Clubs.

Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) Youth Camp Programming at Waterloo's Cedar Lake Outdoor Center – Paul Rose, MUCC Board President mentioned that he has a very long personal connection with Waterloo Recreation Area; he was raised in Ann Arbor. He mentioned that MUCC has had an outdoor youth camp program since 1946; it is one of the oldest around and is targeted toward the continuation and the inspiration of our outdoor areas. In early 2000, MUCC was in need of finding a new home for their camp facility; in 2002 MUCC and the DNR came together and Cedar Lake Outdoor Center became their new home.

Liz Roxbury, MUCC Education Manager, mentioned for more than 60 years, MUCC has offered Michigan kids ages 9-16 an amazing week-long summer camp experience. Guided by conservation values the youth camp offers a chance to be fully immersed in enjoying and

developing an appreciation for the great outdoors. A true Michigan experience, Cedar Lake Outdoor Center (CLOC) continues to be home for so many who have grown to love this camp and we will be returning to CLOC in 2011 after several years of renovation.

A new model curriculum will be introduced this year; introducing camps to younger children – Bugs n slugs for 5-7 year olds; Conservation Connection for 8-11 year olds; Big Game Hunting for 12-14 year olds; and Stewards in Training for 13-15 year olds. The generous support of the Hal and Jean Glassen Memorial Foundation allowed for a research based thematic curriculum that incorporated modules. These modules will allow for counselors to have greater influence in how the curriculum is taught, supplying them with the necessary tools to support it. Partners such as the DNRE, affiliate nature centers and sportsmen's clubs, hunter safety education and more are being consulted on development to ensure the highest quality of curricula.

What's next: continuing to connect communities in the Chelsea greater area to Waterloo and CLOC facility through civic engagement, fundraising to implement the "Tree-tops" program and secure facilitators by 2010, facility, equipment and curriculum development to progressively improve upon existing programs, and addition of new programs to the facility outside of the camp season like the "Winter Workshop."

Waterloo Interpretive Programming at the Eddy Discovery Center – Jon Spieles, DNR Interpretive Manager mentioned that in 1977 the Eddy Center was built; CETA program funded five employees, then in 1980 the building was closed. Three years later the Waterloo National History Association – friends group re-opened the building. The center then closed again and when the building re-opened seven years later it was named the Eddy Geology Center with one full-time interpreter.

Jon mentioned that looking forward, we are in the process of filling a park interpreter position, looking for a candidate who will work closely with the Waterloo History Association, MUCC, and other partners on common goals. We need to pay attention to trends and remain focused on our mission.

Aquatic Milfoil

Eric Bacon and Mike Bitondo, Water Resource Division, mentioned that Eurasian water milfoil was first confirmed in Michigan in 1965. By 1973 it was generally considered widely distributed throughout the Lower Peninsula. They do not have an exact count on the number of permits; these numbers were taken by the certain kind of chemicals used 634 individual permits issued targeting EWM and 821 certificates of coverage issued for pond treatments (possible EWM treatments).