

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes of August 18, 2010 – **9:00 AM**
Lansing Community College West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone, Lansing

The meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board of Trustees commenced at 9:05 AM, August 18, 2010.

The following Board members were present:

Keith Charters
Bob Garner
Dennis Muchmore

Mr. Frank Torre and Director Rebecca Humphries were not in attendance due to prior commitments.

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

I. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JUNE 16, 2010.

Vice-Chairperson Muchmore called for a motion to adopt the minutes from the June 16, 2010 Board meeting.

MOVED BY MR. GARNER, SUPPORTED BY MR. CHARTERS, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 16, 2010 MNRTF BOARD MEETING. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF AUGUST 18, 2010 (9:00 AM).

No action taken on adoption of agenda.

IV. OLD BUSINESS.

None.

V. NEW BUSINESS.

2010 MNRTF Acquisitions – Secondary Deadline – August 2, 2010

Ms. Deborah Apostol, Unit Manager, Recreation Grants, Grants Management, DNRE, advised the Board that 25 additional acquisition applications were received by local units of government and the DNRE by the August 2, 2010 secondary deadline. The total number of applications, both acquisition and development, received for possible funding is 165. The total request for funding in 2010 is \$138 million.

At this point, Vice-Chairperson Muchmore asked DNRE staff in the audience to stand and introduce themselves. Those in attendance were: Rodney Stokes (Chief, Office of Science and Policy), John Cherry (Office of Science and Policy), Vicki Anthes (Chief, Planning and Recreation, Recreation Division), Lisa McTiernan (Grant Coordinator, Grants Management), Joe Frick (Assistant Division Chief, Operations, Administration Division), Jim Kasprzak (Chief, Administration Division), Linda Hegstrom (Grant Coordinator, Grants Management), Ron Olson (Chief, Recreation Division), Ed Meadows (Manager, Real Estate Section), Paul Yauk (Recreation Division), Steve Sutton (Fisheries Division), Carol Skillings (Recreation Division), Jule Stafford (Grant Coordinator, Grants Management), Sam Duncan (Grants Management), Linda Harlow (Grants Management) and Deborah Apostol (Grants Management).

Mr. Kasprzak made comments to the Board outlining the Administration Division, which consists of two portions: Financial Management/Budget Development and Operations. Sections contained under the Operations portion include: Grants Management, Real Estate and Field Operations (Facilities).

Mr. Frick and Mr. Kasprzak will be meeting with Grants Management staff to identify workload of existing staff and other issues.

Vice-Chairperson Muchmore asked Mr. Kasprzak for an organization chart of DNRE and Administration Division, when in place. He also stated that he would like to have a discussion at some point as to what the MNRTF Board can do to enhance the staff. The Board feels that Grants Management staff is overstretched at the present time.

TF09-100, Cass River Greenway Water Trail Development, City of Vassar – **PROJECT WITHDRAWAL**

Ms. Apostol outlined a request from the City of Vassar to withdraw their Cass River Greenway Water Trail Development grant. Costs for the project have significantly risen, and the city is unable to absorb the additional funds. The grant amount was \$15,400.

MOVED BY MR. GARNER, SUPPORTED BY MR. CHARTERS, TO ACCEPT THE WITHDRAWAL OF TF09-100, CASS RIVER GREENWAY WATER TRAIL DEVELOPMENT, CITY OF VASSAR. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

VI. STATUS REPORTS.

Financial Report

Mr. Frick outlined the Financial Report for the Board. This basically is the same report the Board received at the June meeting.

Mr. Charters mentioned the expense for Forest, Mineral and Fire Management (now Forest Management Division). Mr. Frick responded that this is related to the generation of the revenue. When the revenue starts getting redirected to the Park Endowment Fund, there will not be this expense charged to the MNRTF.

Open Projects Status Report

Ms. Apostol outlined the report for the Board.

MNRTF Lump Sum and Line Item Department Projects

Ms. Apostol outlined the report for the Board. Mr. Charters mentioned the Kamehameha Schools Development Rights project (TF06-128), which still had a balance of \$1.1 million. He thought there was a three-year limit for completion of a project. Ms. Stafford responded that is correct, and then the Department of Information, Management and Budget (DTMB) allows an extra year to close out. Mr. Charters stated the three-year project completion was a Board policy.

Vice-Chairperson Muchmore also stated that the Board is going to take a hard-line approach on grant size, duration and multi-year allocations due to the expected reduced funding in 2011.

DNRE Real Estate Report – State Acquisitions

Mr. Ed Meadows stated that the Board did not receive a DNRE Real Estate Report for this meeting. He did make comments on the DNRE lump sum report and clarified some facts for the Board. He stated the Board should look at these balances as a checkbook where the checks have not yet cleared the bank. Land negotiations/agreements/closings are in the process. DNRE staff is aware of the deadlines where the funds would expire, but want to spend these funds wisely.

Completed Projects Report

Ms. Apostol outlined the completed projects report. Nine projects have been completed since the June Board meeting – four acquisition and five development projects.

Grants Management Outreach Report

Ms. Lisa McTiernan outlined the Grants Management Outreach Report for the Board. Staff has been primarily focusing on site visits and applications since the last report. There will be a presentation this morning on the Michigan Prosperity Initiative that staff has been involved with.

Vice-Chairperson Muchmore likes the outreach approach to communities. This will become more important in the future. He encouraged communities to contact Grants Management staff to discuss any issues.

V. NEW BUSINESS (continued).

Election of MNRTF Vice-Chairperson

Mr. Garner stated that he feels we should proceed with electing the Chairperson of the MNRTF Board, as well as the Vice-Chairperson.

**MOVED BY MR. GARNER, SUPPORTED BY MR. CHARTERS, TO
APPOINT MR. MUCHMORE AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE MNRTF**

BOARD. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.
MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY MR. MUCHMORE, TO
APPOINT MR. GARNER AS VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE MNRTF
BOARD. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

Multi-Phased Projects Discussion

Chairperson Muchmore stated that there are several phased projects with remaining balances. These include City of Saugatuck, Saugatuck Harbor, Phases 2 and 3 (\$7 million); DNRE, Wildlife Division, Au Train Basin, Phase 2 (\$1 million); and Northville Township, Linear Park, Phase 2 (\$3.5 million). All these phased projects total \$12.5 million.

Acme Township did not submit an application for Phase 3 of the Acme Waterfront project (\$1 million) this year, as they wanted to request this phase in 2011.

The issue of future multi-phased projects will be discussed further in the Board's afternoon meeting.

III. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

Ms. Faye Alexander-Nelson, President and CEO, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy; and Ms. Vicki Anthes, Recreation Division, DNRE – State Parks and Detroit Riverfront Conservancy Presentation

Ms. Faye Alexander-Nelson, President and CEO of the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy; and Ms. Vicki Anthes, Recreation Division, DNRE provided updates on the progress made on the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy riverfront project and Milliken State Park, via a PowerPoint presentation.

The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy is a non-profit organization, with a mission to bring public access to Detroit's riverfront through construction, operation, maintenance, programming and security of the riverfront, park, plaza, pavilion and greenways constructed and currently being developed. This also serves as a catalyst for economic development and community outreach.

The city has seen hundreds of thousands of visitors on the riverfront since 2007, when three miles were opened. This includes not only local residents, but suburban areas and out-of-town residents as well.

Activities along the riverfront include the Annual River Days festival, Red Bull Air Races, and Detroit Free Press/Flagstar Marathon. These events attract thousands of visitors. In addition, there are other community programs along the riverfront which include weekly yoga sessions, senior river walkers club, riverfront canine club, Audubon Society and this winter the Metro Detroit Ski Council will utilize the Dequindre Cut for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

Visitors can rent bikes, take a cruise on the Diamond Jack river tour, have lunch at the Riverfront Cafe, or ride the carousel. Recent additions to the riverfront include the Dequindre Cut greenway and trail and William G. Milliken State Park and Harbor.

Before and after development photographs of the riverfront were shown and outlined. Ms. Alexander-Nelson stated that another half-mile (East Riverfront) from the Joe Louis Arena just east of Belle Isle Bridge is 80% completed. Once completed, this will allow visitors to have 3-1/2 miles of riverwalk. The vision is to have a riverfront from west to the Ambassador Bridge and east to Gabriel Richard Park. Progress is being made on the Detroit-Wayne County Port Authority Terminal and Dock, located just west of the Renaissance Center. The facility is almost done, with the terminal scheduled to be completed within the next month or two. There will be a customs processing site and a visitor's center located at the terminal. A large dock will be developed to accommodate all kinds of cruise ships, vessels, ferries and water taxis.

Ms. Alexander-Nelson further stated that the riverfront project has seen an economic impact—both construction and permanent ongoing operations and responsibilities. This has created hundreds of jobs. Festivals and other activities along the riverfront have had a major economic impact on the community.

A conceptual plan for development on the west side of the riverfront has been developed, and a community meeting was held last week to share these plans with local residents and businesses. The meeting went well.

At this point, Ms. Anthes provided an update, via PowerPoint, on the William G. Milliken State Park and visions for the future. Phase 2 of the park was completed this last fall.

The development of the park could not have been accomplished without partnerships—Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, City of Detroit, the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, and others.

The DNRE wants to link the park up with other trail systems and neighborhoods. This is a good opportunity to get urban residents out of doors and explore natural resources.

Ms. Anthes read the comments that former Governor William G. Milliken shared with the audience at the dedication of the park last fall.

Ms. Anthes pointed out aspects of the Dequindre Cut project. The greenway was completed a year ago and the trail in May.

The DNRE is looking for additional partners for the park. The Peter Stroh Memorial is the first financial partner with their commitment of the grant match (\$1 million) for a DEQ grant for the wetlands project. The Detroit Economic Growth Corporation did the design concept.

Ms. Anthes outlined visions for the riverfront and park in the future. The MNRTF Board provided an acquisition grant two years ago for the Free Press parcel of \$7.8 million over two consecutive years. The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy contributed a \$6 million gift to the land parcel and also brought \$2.8 million of federal funding for the purchase. The west riverfront is the next push for development.

Ms. Anthes outlined two parcels that are critical for additional development of the state park. The first parcel is the Atwater Loft building, which has sat vacant for some time. The Detroit Economic Development Corporation is willing to discuss acquisition of the property. This property would have a huge impact on how the remainder of the park is

developed. The other property, north of Atwater Street, is the Globe Building and some vacant land just north of it. She discussed additional parcels of interest to future development of the park—Watermark parcel, existing City of Detroit owned Chene Park and Holsom property. None of these properties have been developed. The DNRE would like the City of Detroit to consider these properties for acquisition to the Milliken State Park to expand recreational opportunities. Another parcel for consideration is located on the west riverfront area and is approximately 40 acres. The City of Detroit owns this property as well. If all parcels were acquired, the state park would go from 31 acres to approximately 78 acres.

Chairperson Muchmore made mention of the fact that there is only one access point for boats. He hopes that another access point is put in on the west end. This would be a nice use of Waterways Fund monies. Ms. Anthes responded that this is being looked at as more of a launching facility.

Ms. Anthes further outlined the vision of development at the Globe Building property. A portion of the interior space could provide opportunities for an adventure and discovery center. There would be hands-on activities for visitors to experience outdoor recreation and natural resources, such as climbing a giant White Pine tree, simulated kayaking trip or an indoor archery center.

Chairperson Muchmore wondered if staff has talked to the Great Lakes Fishery Trust or Michigan Oil and Gas Association to see if they have an interest in being a partner in developing such a concept. Ms. Anthes responded that the DNRE is looking for partners, but has not yet approached these organizations at this time.

Ms. Anthes also outlined an outdoor play structure that would focus on natural resources. She also outlined designs of riverfront areas that some other states have developed.

At this point, Ms. Alexander-Nelson showed a video of the progress of the Detroit riverfront.

Mr. Charters provided Board members with a copy of the “History and Projects Summary of the MNRTF” prepared by the Michigan Oil and Gas Association. This report was requested at the last Board meeting.

Mr. Mark Wyckoff, Senior Associate Director, Michigan State University, Land Policy Institute – Presentation on Michigan Prosperity Initiative

Mr. Mark Wyckoff, Senior Associate Director, Michigan State University (MSU), Land Policy Institute, made a PowerPoint presentation on the Michigan Prosperity Initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to prepare Michigan to better compete in the global New Economy. The three phases are: 1) New Economy Training Programs (101, 201 and 301); 2) Assist State Planning and Development Regions prepare Strategic Growth Plan; and 3) Assist State of Michigan Prepare a State Strategic Growth Plan.

The Michigan Prosperity Initiative was initiated in the summer of 2009 by MSU’s land Policy Institute after discussions with the Michigan Municipal League and Michigan Townships Association in 2008. The Initiative was presented to Governor Granholm and MSU President Lou Anna Simon. It is financially supported by the Michigan Economic

Development Corporation, Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth (DELEG) and MSU Extension. All three phases will be completed this year. The Initiative had many partners, as well as assistance from the MSU County Extension offices and regional planning commissions.

The New Economy Training (101, 201 and 301) consisted of 12 hours of instruction, with 3,000 people attending. Those in attendance committed themselves to learning about new economy and what we can do in Michigan to do a much better job competing globally. This involves "Peacemaking" which is improving the quality of the places in Michigan to attract new talent to the state. Quality talent is very mobile and moves to places where there is a very high quality of life, and green infrastructure is very critical.

Governor Granholm has requested that a synthesis New Economy training program be repeated on October 7th for representatives of key stakeholder groups. This will be three hours of instruction by invitation only. At this training program, attendees will be asked to respond to ideas for about ten new strategic initiatives that could be taken in Michigan to move the economy forward.

Most of the people who attended the New Economy Training stated that the training was transformative and how bad economic circumstances are and how far behind Michigan is from other places. There are things that could be done, however, that could move the state forward.

A growth study was conducted that showed the impacts of segments of the population, but educated youth, high-equity immigrants, educated senior citizens and entrepreneurs are critical to success. Michigan is not doing well in any of these categories except educated senior citizens. The study identified target peacemaking that includes vibrant downtowns, green, infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle linkages and transit. Talented people are looking for these types of things.

The New Economy 201 program got into planning that we need to do and are not doing. This includes the importance of regional economic development planning, principles and best practices, regional focus, peacemaking and strategies, entrepreneurship, and integration with local master plan.

The New Economy 301 program identifies strategies to bridge the gap and asset/place-based strategies for future prosperity. This included revisiting 13 actions that could be taken.

Phase Two is the creation of 14 asset-based Regional Strategic Growth Plans. These plans will be presented to DELEG and the Michigan Economic Development Commission in September.

Phase Three will be the State Plan. In August, September and October, the Land Prosperity Initiative will be working with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and DELEG to prepare a set of 10 proposed economic development strategies. Feedback will be provided by a variety of stakeholders on the plan.

Mr. Wyckoff concluded by stating that:

- Michigan has the assets to compete in the New Economy.

- All major global economic activity is regional.
- Know your economic region and use its assets to build a better economy.
- Quality places attract knowledge workers and jobs.
- Quality places are built with careful planning and hard work.
- Globally competitive places are built with regional cooperation.
- Working cooperatively together, we can return Michigan to prosperity.

Chairperson Muchmore asked where funding for this program comes from. Mr. Wyckoff responded from the Michigan Economic and Development Corporation, DELEG and MSU Extension. This is a one-year project initiative. Governor Granholm wants the plan completed and presented to the next Governor so he has this to consider.

Mr. Randall DeBruine, City Manager; and Ms. Andrea Belding, Mayor Pro-Tem, City of Belding – 10-048, Lightning Bend Preserve Addition

Mr. Randall DeBruine, City Manager; and Ms. Andrea Belding, Mayor Pro-Tem, City of Belding, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of Lightning Bend Preserve Addition (10-048). The Lightning Bend Preserve is a 90-acre park. The project is to acquire an additional 38 acres to expand the preserve, which would include one-half mile of river frontage.

Mr. DeBruine pointed out the boundaries of the park via a map on PowerPoint.

The park includes an existing ADA accessible picnic shelter/pavilion, parking and vault toilet. An old growth forest consists of many species and has many walking trails as they loop the entire property and tie into the preserve. This allows for easy construction in the future of accessible trails through the preserve and connecting to the city's pathway system.

A pond on the property is partially on preserve property and on the proposed acquisition. Acquisition would allow the preserve to own the entire pond. In addition, there is another pond on the proposed acquisition property. A natural creek runs from the wetlands to the Flat River.

Mr. DeBruine continued to outline various aspects of the proposed acquisition via photographs on PowerPoint.

Ms. Belding stated that the city's master plan goals are to purchase additional park lands, in particular areas which provide additional linkages for future pathway systems, properties which expand Lightning Bend Preserve, future pathway connections to East Riverside Park, lands adjacent to existing parks, riverfront property and a site for a potential active sports park for soccer and football facilities.

Lightning Bend Preserve is the city's only nature preserve. In the last five years, a new entrance and parking, outdoor pavilion and rustic toilets were developed. The preserve is used by residents for informal walks, school nature programs, scout groups, cross-county skiing meetings and dog sled events. The next phase of development is the completion of a formal trail system, including an ADA accessible trail route, fishing access to the Flat River, educational interpretive signage and directional trail signage.

Another goal of the master plan is to construct a paved pathway that connects East Riverside Park and Lightning Bend Preserve. This pathway is still being reviewed regarding public right-of-way lands and possible use of private lands for the connection. It is hoped that in the future the pathway system will connect to surrounding planned statewide trail systems.

Mr. Garner asked if there was fishing and bow hunting on the property. Mr. DeBruine responded there was fishing. No bow hunting is allowed on the portion of the property located in the city, but could bow hunt on the portion located in the township.

Mr. Charters asked if the city had their match for the project in place. Mr. DeBruine responded the property owner will provide the 25 percent match with donated land value, but no cash match from the city.

Chairperson Muchmore asked if there were long-range plans for the property. Ms. Belding stated that this has been declared a nature preserve and the proposed acquisition would be an extension of the preserve. Mr. DeBruine added that volunteers help maintain the preserve.

Chairperson Muchmore asked if there were fees to enter the preserve and about the ADA accessibility. Mr. DeBruine stated there are no fees for the preserve and the goal is to have ADA accessibility to the river.

Mr. Mark Huebner, Parks Operation Manager; and Mr. Kip Miller, Chief Naturalist, Berrien County – 10-011, Galien River County Park Development

Mr. Mark Huebner, Parks Operation Manager; and Mr. Kip Miller, Chief Naturalist, Berrien County, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Galien River County Park Development project (10-011). Mr. Miller stated that Galien River County Park, in New Buffalo Township, was acquired in June of 2001 and is 86 acres in size. The park acquisition was made possible by a grant from the MNRTF program.

Mr. Miller stated that Galien County Park is a major “gateway” into the State of Michigan. The park is located just off I-94 which is an accessible point for people coming into the state from the Chicago area.

The park includes a mix of upland and wetland habitat along the Galien River, with 8,600 feet of river frontage and a wetland area which is part of the New Buffalo Marsh.

In 2008, the county received a grant from The Pokagon Fund to put together a master plan for park improvements. The major priorities of the plan are to provide access to the river’s edge and the Great Lakes marsh. Development would include boardwalks, fishing platforms, observation decks and marsh overlook tower and would provide access and enhance visitor experiences. The marsh tower would be ADA accessible from the parking lot. Development would also include a paved access road, parking, additional upland trails and facilities. The park currently has no development other than a simple trail from the uplands.

Other development facilities in the future include an interpretive/visitor center and lodge building that would serve as an area where public programs could take place.

All of the facilities in the master plan are designed to provide infrastructure for interpretive programming for school groups and the general public. Berrien County has an interpretive staff.

The estimated costs for all of the proposed improvements that are included in the master plan in its entirety are \$7.7 million. The county will develop the improvements in phases. Phase I of the project would be \$925,000, with \$125,000 from Berrien County, \$300,000 from The Pokagon Fund and a request of \$500,000 from the MNRTF.

Galien River County Park has the potential to become a regional attraction and an integral part of Michigan's travel industry. Once developed, it will serve the outdoor recreation and education needs of area residents and visitors. Year-round programming is being planned.

Chairperson Muchmore wondered why the Road Commission wasn't building the roadway. Mr. Miller responded to date they have not indicated they would build the road, but it is a possibility.

Mr. Garner asked if hunting would be allowed. Mr. Miller responded limited hunting as there is not much upland.

Chairperson Muchmore asked if there were fees charged. Mr. Miller responded that entrance fees are charged at the other county parks, but he does not know if there will be fees for this park. Possibly once staff is on site, fees will be charged.

Dr. Chuck Nelson, Michigan State University; and Mr. Jerry Jaloszynski, Green Space Commission Coordinator, Clinton County – 10-029, Motz County Park Addition

Dr. Chuck Nelson, Michigan State University; and Mr. Jerry Jaloszynski, Green Space Commission Coordinator, Clinton County, made a presentation in support of the Motz County Park Addition project (10-029). A DVD presentation was shown providing an update of the development of the park. The proposed acquisition submitted is to acquire 260 acres across the street from the park.

Dr. Nelson stated that Clinton County does not have many natural lakes. To enjoy water-based recreation, it must be created. Motz County Park is a former sand and gravel site.

As outlined in the DVD, the park has been made ADA accessible. Wheelchairs that actually go in the water are available for handicapped individuals.

Dr. Nelson stated that the county has been working with the DNRE's Fisheries Division with the goal of developing walleye fishing. An 80-acre prairie restoration is being planned. The park is open to youth hunting, with a second youth waterfowl hunt upcoming this year.

Mr. Garner asked what is the grant amount being requested by the county. Dr. Nelson responded \$1.6 million. Mr. Garner wondered if the county needed this whole grant amount. Dr. Nelson responded the county would have to see what the appraisal says.

Mr. Jaloszynski made some comments in support of the project. The county park commission was created in 2002. Since 2004, the county has received two MNRTF grants (acquisition and development).

Motz County Park has received significant use in its first year. Several events have been and will be held in the park. On weekends, the park is at visitor-capacity. With acquisition of the additional property, it will allow the county park (currently 42 acres) to grow.

Mr. Michael E. Reagan, Supervisor, and Ms. Susan Reagan, Deputy Supervisor, Bridgeton Township (Newaygo County) – 10-058, Muskegon River Waterways Trail

Mr. Michael Reagan, Supervisor; and Ms. Susan Reagan, Deputy Supervisor, Bridgeton Township (Newaygo County) made a presentation in support of the Muskegon River Waterways Trail project (10-058). The township is approximately 45 minutes from Grand Rapids or Muskegon. About 10 miles of the Muskegon River runs through the township. Hunting, fishing, boating, kayaking and swimming is experienced in the area. The waterways trailway will not only serve the township, but also Kent and Muskegon counties, as well as Newaygo County, in collaborative relationships and partnerships.

Ms. Reagan outlined the proposed project. The township has a waterways trail located along the Muskegon River. Development would include parking lot improvement, access drive, shore fishing and shoreline stabilization.

Use at the boat launch area has increased over the years. An adjoining parcel was purchased by the township in 2008. This extension provided shoreline erosion protection, a separate pedestrian launch area, a gazebo rest area and other public amenities. An E-Z dock was installed.

Ms. Reagan continued by outlining the agencies and individuals who have assisted in the project. She also outlined events that have been associated with the project.

Chairperson Muchmore asked about the match. Ms. Reagan responded that there is \$101,000 in match towards the project.

Mr. Mark Lloyd, Director of Planning, Building and Economic Development; and Mr. Hilliard Hampton, Mayor, City of Inkster – 10-027, Inkster Park Greenway Trail

Mayor Hilliard Hampton and Mr. Mark Lloyd, Director of Planning, Building and Economic Development, City of Inkster, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Inkster Park Greenway Trail project (10-027). Ms. Ann Capela, City Manager; and Ms. Jeanne Fields, Housing and Education Manager, were also in attendance.

Mayor Hampton stated that this project dates back six years and has been delayed due to economic issues. This trail will run along the Rouge River and through a community of 30,000 residents. This project promotes life into the community by employment opportunities, increasing real estate values, support for emotional and physical health, economic stimulus and strengthen community ties. This trail could tie into similar trails in the cities of Dearborn Heights and Westland.

Mayor Hampton further pointed out that the City of Inkster has never received a MNRTF grant.

Mr. Lloyd continued the presentation by stating that the project would provide access of a natural environment to an urban setting. In 2003, the city hired a consultant to develop the construction documents and design specifications for the project. The project includes 4-1/2 miles of greenway trail traversing the city and county parkland, Rouge River and Inkster Valley Golf Course which will provide vital transportation and recreation linkages. This is a cooperative effort with the state, county and city.

The trailhead would begin at Beech Daly at the Dearborn Heights access point and run west through an undisturbed natural area of the Rouge River area. The trail crosses at John Daly which then runs into Inkster Park, part of the Wayne County park system. This park has restrooms, a pavilion, bridge, and parking, with a future crossing by the Rouge River.

Mr. Lloyd pointed out areas where the trail would traverse via a map on PowerPoint.

The trail would cross under an underpass on Inkster Road and then swing up into Colonial Park, which is a Wayne County park. This park also includes a restroom, ball fields and picnic area. From there the trail would run into the Inkster wetlands and Inkster Valley Golf Course. The Inkster Valley Golf Course is ranked second in the State of Michigan and 71st in the country.

A spur of the trail would traverse to the Dozier Recreation Center, which has restrooms, tennis courts, indoor basketball and an outdoor swimming pool. The trail would go under an underpass on Middlebelt Road, back along the golf course and ending at the trailhead at Henry Ruff in Westland.

The trail would create direct community and regional linkages to Westland and Wayne to the west and Dearborn Heights and Dearborn to the east. In addition, the trail would link schools, the Inkster Library/Municipal Complex, Michigan Avenue (a US-12 Heritage Highway) and Inkster Road. The Inkster Downtown Development Authority has also been involved.

Phase I of the trail project would be \$545,000. The city is requesting a MNRTF grant of \$408,000. The local match would be \$80,000 from the city's general fund/restricted funds and \$57,000 labor/materials.

Mr. Steve Alman, Design Section Manager, and Mr. Al Amen, Wayne County; and Mr. John Hartig, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – 10-084, Refuge Gateway Boat Dock/Fishing Pier

Mr. Al Amen and Mr. Steve Alman, Wayne County Parks, and Mr. John Hartig, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Refuge Gateway Boat Dock/Fishing Pier project (10-084). He introduced several others in attendance supporting the project.

Mr. Alman stated that the project is located on the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Gateway site in Trenton. When completed, the wildlife refuge project is intended to serve and protect habitat along the Detroit River. The 44-acre brownfield site was

donated to Wayne County in 2002 by Daimler Chrysler and is adjacent to 410 acres of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Humbug Marsh.

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Gateway stretches 48 miles along the Detroit River and western shores of Lake Erie, by the mouth of the Rouge River in Detroit to the Ohio border. It contains over 6,000 acres of island, coastal wetlands, shoals and upland habitat. This is one of the last undeveloped shorelines in the U.S. mainland of the Detroit River and Michigan's only wetlands of international importance. The gateway site will serve as a key attraction and entry site in the only international wildlife refuge in North America. Collaboration was undertaken for this project by recreation and education groups and elected officials.

Development of this project will include an aggregate road for vehicular access, boardwalk, floating dock and fishing pier.

Mr. Hartig continued the presentation by stating that the project will provide a premier urban shore fishing experience in Southeast Michigan. The project will be universally accessible. He pointed out various aspects of the project, and areas that have been cleaned up or yet to be cleaned up, via photographs on PowerPoint.

Mr. Hartig stated that U.S. Fish and Wildlife funds will be used to do a re-engineering of the shoreline, as well as a second road. The funding sought by the MNRTF would support the boat dock and fishing pier.

Mr. Hartig also mentioned several fishing tournaments and events that are held on the refuge gateway area.

Mr. Amen provided some additional comments in support of the project. He mentioned that a priority of the MNRTF Board is the funding of trails. This project will function as a riverfront feature on a regional greenway network, which is part of the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative. This regional pathway system will connect the 21 downriver communities, Wayne and Monroe Counties through a network of trails and greenways. One mile of trail will be constructed along the Humbug Marsh.

Other Board priorities include wildlife corridors and projects within an urban area. This area qualifies for both these priorities.

Mr. Garner asked why the county did not seek Waterways Fund monies for the project. Mr. Amen responded that the Waterways Commission was approached, and funding was not approved. Great Lakes Fisheries Trust was also approached and funding was also not approved. The Waterways Fund is more interested in funding marinas. This project will not have a boat launch.

Mr. Charters asked if any MNRTF funds have been provided in the past for this project. Mr. Hartig responded no.

Mr. Kirk Profit, Director, Governmental Consultant Services; Mr. Art Serafinski, Recreation Director, Ypsilanti Township; and Mr. Leigh Greden, Executive Director, Government Relations, Eastern Michigan University – 10-055, Lakeside Park Improvements, Ypsilanti Township (Washtenaw County)

Mr. Kirk Profit, Director, Governmental Consultant Services, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Lakeside Park Improvements project, Ypsilanti Township (Washtenaw County) (10-055). He thanked the MNRTF Board for their support over the years. This project will expand open access to fishing. There will be recreational opportunities for boating. Ypsilanti Township, Eastern Michigan University (who will build the boat house) and Washtenaw County Parks representatives are partners in the project.

Mr. Serafinski continued to outline aspects of the project. The park is located on Bridge and Textile Roads. There has been much collaboration with the county and Eastern Michigan University. The park will tie into the Border-to-Border Trail system.

A representative from Washtenaw County Parks outlined how the Lakeside Park would tie into the county trail system. The county does not operate any parks that are adjacent to the Huron River, which is the county's most prominent natural feature. To satisfy the residents of the county, the county needed to partner with local municipalities to provide access. The Border-to-Border Trail is a 35-mile trail from Livingston County through the Huron River Valley and ending at Wayne County. Construction is half completed and currently the trail runs to a county border. Local money was used.

Mr. Serafinski outlined current facilities in the park via photographs on PowerPoint.

This project will be to develop universally accessible boat docks, fishing, docks, scenic overlooks, non-motorized pathways, an outdoor classroom and picnic shelter, and community boat house.

Mr. Leigh Greden made some additional comments on the project. It is Eastern Michigan University's intention to build the community boat house for this project. This boat house will be a valuable resource for the university's rowers, for high school rowers and the active local rowing community. The university will contribute \$450,000 to construct this community boat house, provide \$50,000 in in-kind support (engineering, architecture and construction services), and to work with the township, county and local community to create a partnership agreement to ensure that rowing opportunities are available throughout the community.

Mr. Russ Soyering, Planning Director, City of Traverse City – 10-062, Clinch Park Bayfront Revitalization

Mr. Russ Soyering, Planning Director, City of Traverse City, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Clinch Park Bayfront Revitalization project (10-062). Clinch Park is located on Grand Traverse Bay. Formerly there was a zoo closed and power plant torn down in the park area. The marina has recently been renovated.

Mr. Soyering stated that the city has been in collaboration with six counties on a regional vision for northwest Lower Michigan. The group wants to ensure that natural resources are protected, open space provided, and opportunities to enjoy the water front and

natural amenities located in northwest Michigan. As a result, a master plan was developed for the waterfront. A design plan was also completed.

Development for the park will include a new natural play area, universally accessible canoe/kayak boat launch, splash pad, universally accessible beach and water access, and promenade.

Mr. Soyring outlined aspects of the proposed development via photographs on PowerPoint.

Mr. Soyring pointed out that there are many events that the City of Traverse City is involved – Traverse City Film Festival, (110,000 attendees) free movies on the waterfront (5,000-10,000 attendees), and National Cherry Festival (hundreds of thousands of attendees). Traverse City has also been featured in magazines as one of America’s best beach towns, most authentic tourist destinations and top five cities to retire to in the United States.

Chairperson Muchmore asked if fees were charged. Mr. Soyring responded no. Chairperson Muchmore also asked about the city’s match. Mr. Soyring responded the city is providing a 50% match.

Chairperson Muchmore asked why the MNRTF should pay for rebuilding the seawalls. Mr. Soyring responded the city needs help in protecting the water quality of the bayfront. Erosion is appearing that the city is trying to repair and cannot keep up with due to use. The walls are expensive, but the city wants to rebuild them in a thoughtful and environmentally sensitive way. Chairperson Muchmore feels rebuilding seawalls is not a good use for MNRTF funds. He feels this should be the responsibility of the city as they encourage the planned events and the city profits from them.

Chairperson Muchmore asked about the “natural playground.” Mr. Soyring responded that the public wanted a more authentic-looking playground (not the typical style of playground) to go with the character and geography of the area.

Mr. Les Salacina, Supervisor, Brooks Township (Newaygo County) – 10-150, Coolbough Natural Areas Addition

Mr. Les Salacina, Supervisor, Brooks Township, deferred his presentation to the October 6, 2010 MNRTF Board meeting. Chairperson Muchmore stated Brooks Township will be added to the agenda for the October meeting.

Ms. Anita Twardesky, Co-Chair, Downriver Linked Greenways – 10-002, Flat Rock-Oakwood Metro Park Connector, City of Flat Rock

Ms. Anita Twardesky, Co-Chair, Downriver Linked Greenways, made a presentation in support of the Flat Rock-Oakwood Metro Park Connector, City of Flat Rock project (10-002). The Downriver Linked Greenways is comprised of 21 communities in southeast Michigan that work to put together greenways projects.

The Flat Rock project is located between Oakwood Metro Park, Willow Metro Park and Lake Erie Metro Park. Two miles need to be developed. Once this project is completed,

the connector will have been completed from Lower Huron Metropark to the International Wildlife Refuge.

The City of Flat Rock is providing \$350,000 in general fund for the project.

When completed, this will provide approximately 7,000 acres of parkland and 25 miles of contiguous greenway trails (Lower Huron Metropark to Lake Erie Metropark).

Mr. Tom Woiwode, Director, Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan – Dequindre Cut/Detroit Riverfront

Mr. Tom Woiwode, Director, Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan, made comments regarding the Dequindre Cut and Detroit Riverfront projects. He also noted that his foundation provided \$96,000 in funding for the City of Inkster's proposal; funding for Downriver Linked Greenways projects, and Humbug Marsh.

Mr. Woiwode reiterated comments that were made by Ms. Alexander-Nelson and Ms. Anthes earlier about the Dequindre Cut project. The original plan was to connect the trail into the Eastern Market. In the first phase of the project, the trail got users as far as Gratiot. North of Gratiot the property was privately owned. The railroad company owns this property. Just last month the railroad company has agreed to sell the property.

The Community Foundation is prepared to provide the match required for the acquisition. With this property, the Dequindre Cut trail will actually directly connect with Eastern Market. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) provided a \$393,000 grant towards the Dequindre Cut south trail construction. They have expressed interest in continuing the project north and have some construction funds available.

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

The MNRTF Criteria presentation, as outlined on the agenda, was deferred to the meeting of August 18, 2010, beginning at **1:20 PM**.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The next meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board is scheduled for **1:20 PM**, Wednesday, August 18, 2010, Lansing Community College West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone, Lansing, Michigan.

IX. ADJOURNMENT.

**MOVED BY MR. GARNER, SUPPORTED BY MR. CHARTERS,
TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM.

Dennis Muchmore, Chairperson
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
Board of Trustees

Joseph D. Frick, Acting Manager
Grants Management

DATE