

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes of August 17, 2011
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 9:00 AM, Wednesday, August 17, 2011.

The following Board members were present:

Keith Charters
Samuel Cummings
Bob Garner
Rodney Stokes

Mr. Torre 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.

Chairperson Garner mentioned that on July 21, 2011, the Traverse City State Park was renamed the **Keith J. Charters Traverse City State Park**. The renaming ceremony was spectacular and Mr. Charters was very deserving of this honor. The audience gave Mr. Charters a round of applause.

Mr. Charters mentioned the book recently published by Mr. Jack Westbrook, entitled "Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund 1976-2011 – A 35-Year Michigan Oil and Gas Industry Investment Heritage in Michigan's Public Recreation Future." He stated this is the best history of the MNRTF that he has ever seen. Chairperson Garner concurred that this is a great book, and thanked Mr. Weston for his accomplishment in putting all the material together.

Chairperson Garner asked Mr. Steve DeBrabander, Manager, Grants Management, DNR, to introduce Grants Management staff in attendance. Staff included: Mr. Jon Mayes (Unit Manager, MNRTF), Ms. Linda Harlow (Administrative Assistant), Mr. Sam Duncan (Program Manager, Land and Water Conservation Fund/Marine Safety/Recreation Passport and Accounting Specialist for MNRTF), Ms. Jule Stafford (Grant Coordinator), Ms. Shamika Askew-Storay (Grant Coordinator), Mr. John Cherry (Grant Coordinator), and Ms. Christie Bayus (Grant Coordinator).

Also in attendance was Mr. Joseph Frick, Assistant Chief, Finance and Operations Division; Mr. Ed Meadows (Manager, Real Estate Section), and Ms. Valerie Lafferty (Appraisal Reviewer). Mr. Meadows further introduced Ms. Lafferty, who was recently hired, and outlined her credentials and the work responsibilities she will be conducting in the Real Estate Section.

At this point, Chairperson Garner asked, since Mr. Meadows needed to leave the meeting, if Board members had any questions on the DNR Real Estate Report. Board members did not have any questions.

Mr. Meadows added that this afternoon is the opening from the sealed bids auction for the surplus parcels in the DNR's land consolidation strategy. There are a record number of bids this year. This year, advertisement space was purchased on Goggle. Real Estate Section is working with the DNR's Marketing and Outreach Division to employ new methods for announcing land sales and projects.

I. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JUNE 15, 2011.

Chairperson Garner called for the adoption of the minutes from the June 15, 2011 MNRTF Board meeting.

MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY MR. CUMMINGS, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 15, 2011 MNRTF BOARD MEETING. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF AUGUST 17, 2011.

Chairperson Garner called for the adoption of the agenda for the August 17, 2011 MNRTF Board meeting.

MOVED BY DIRECTOR STOKES, SUPPORTED BY MR. CUMMINGS, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA OF THE AUGUST 17, 2011 MNRTF BOARD MEETING. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

III. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

Mr. Mark Bender, Village Manager, Village of Lake Odessa – 11-034, Lake Odessa Municipal Beach Development

Mr. Mark Bender, Village Manager for the Village of Lake Odessa, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Lake Odessa Municipal Beach Development project (11-034).

The village has a municipal beach that is open to the public. At this time, it is not ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)-compliant and no division of boaters and swimmers other than buoys. Boaters are prohibited from using the beach facilities. There is little protection from boaters. In addition, there is a lack of public parking and no security measures. The beach area has had problems with vandalism.

There is a bowling alley next to the beach area that has some parking.

The village's proposal is to provide 57 additional barrier-free parking spaces for the beach area, a universally-accessible dock, modernize and make ADA-compliant developments to restrooms, ADA-compliant canoe and kayak launch, lighting and security system and all terrain wheelchairs.

Chairperson Garner asked if the MNRTF has provided funding for wheelchairs in the past. Mr. Charters responded yes.

Mr. Charters asked about the vandalism. Mr. Bender responded there is a kitchen in the pavilion/concession area and have experienced vandalism in the past.

Director Stokes asked if the village owned both parking lots – for the beach area and bowling alley users. Mr. Bender responded yes. The bowling alley uses very little of the parking area. Director Stokes has a concern about providing parking for private businesses.

Mr. John Scholtz, Director of Parks, Ottawa County – 11-106, Ottawa Beach Waterfront Walkway Development

Mr. John Scholtz, Director of Parks for Ottawa County, made a presentation in support of the Ottawa Beach Waterfront Walkway Development project (11-106).

The project would be to build a third, and final, segment of a waterfront walkway along Lake Macatawa in the Ottawa Beach area. This is the area known primarily for Holland State Park. Ottawa County owns 58 acres and is amongst the two units of the State Park. It is also surrounded by private cottages.

The property where the waterfront walkway will be constructed was only recently made available to the public through a Court decision and negotiations with the West Michigan Park Association. For many years Ottawa County tried to transfer this property to the State Park, but was not successful.

A master plan was developed and there was close coordination between the DNR's Parks and Recreation Division, Park Township, Corps of Engineers and the West Michigan Park Association to create a recreation experience for visitors to Ottawa Beach and Holland State Park, despite the less than ideal property configuration.

The county is seeking a development grant of \$300,000 to construct 1,300 feet of waterfront walkway along Lake Macatawa with overlooks, interpretive displays and wildlife viewing areas. The project will connect two existing segments of waterfront walkway, providing a continuous 2,400-foot walkway with universal access linking to Holland State Park.

Mr. Rob Hillard, City Manager; and Mr. Aaron Haskin, Director of Public Works, City of Allegan – 11-029, Hooker Road/Bond Street Trail Development

Mr. Rob Hillard, City Manager for the City of Allegan, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Hooker Road/Bond Street Trail Development project (11-029). This is part of the larger Allegan County Trail project. The county trail starts from Plainwell and goes to the Holland area. This project is included as part of the seven-county non-motorized transportation plan to the Michigan Department of Transportation and is included in the county's master plan.

Mr. Hillard pointed out the trail aspects and route via the PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Aaron Haskin, Director of Public Works for the City of Allegan, continued outlining specifics of the trail project. The proposal would be for a 10-foot concrete pathway to Eastern Avenue down to a ravine and Rossman Creek at the bottom. A boardwalk area would be developed before reaching the creek, which would include a scenic overlook and prefabricated bridge. There would also be a 14-foot wide boardwalk up the hill. Benches and trash receptacles would also be included in the project. The trail would lead to Rossman Park.

Safety issues on the street are a problem. The trail would provide a safe area for walkers, bikers, people using strollers, and wheelchairs. The trail would also be maintained in the winter for trail users.

Chairperson Garner asked if it was completely necessary to use concrete for the trail. Mr. Haskin responded that some asphalt could be used.

Mr. Hillard continued by pointing out some further photographs of the area via the PowerPoint presentation. There is collaboration with other municipalities. The Michigan Department of Transportation has given preliminary approvals for a non-motorized transportation grant. There is also participation from non-profit organizations and individuals.

The trail project would be a tremendous asset to the city and would provide connections between neighborhoods, businesses, housing and individuals with disabilities. In addition, it would enhance the DNR property that is close by.

The city also works closely with the adjacent township, as well as the road commission. They will be providing some paved shoulders for bicyclists to travel more safely.

Chairperson Garner asked if the city has considered acquiring the small DNR area. Mr. Hillard responded there has not been any formal attempt, but it has been an identified goal by the city council to inquire about acquisition.

Director Stokes asked if the .9-mile of trail would connect to other trails. Mr. Hillard responded that basically it does not directly connect to other trails other than M-89. It is a regional concept throughout the county. Director Stokes wondered, if it does not connect to other trails, why not just develop a sidewalk. Mr. Hillard responded that there is an overall plan for the aspects of the trail to connect the park and M-89 so it accesses the downtown and the commercial corridor. It will connect to the sports complex that the township is widening the shoulders of the road. The Michigan Department of Transportation has recognized this as a regional trail opportunity.

Mr. Richard Pabalis, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, Bay County; and Mr. Rob Eggers, Spicer Engineering – 11-093, Prindle Property Acquisition

Mr. Richard Pabalis, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds for Bay County; and Mr. Rob Eggers, Spicer Engineering, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Prindle Property Acquisition project (11-093).

Mr. Eggers outlined the acquisition project. He pointed out aspects of the property via PowerPoint. The property is adjacent to the Pinconning Nature Preserve (38.5 acres). The Prindle property is 54 acres and contains wetlands (19 acres), woodlands (35 acres)

and 3,500 feet on the Pinconning River. The property would connect to the existing Pinconning County Park.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) did a study of the Great Lakes and identified 30 areas of concern. The Saginaw Bay area was one of the areas of concern. A study was funded – the Saginaw Bay Coastal Zone Initiative – and parcels were identified as priorities to protect the coastal area. This property was identified as one of the 16 most desirable properties to preserve to help with the coastal initiative.

The property would be used in the future for hiking trails, nature interpretation, camping, and fishing. The property originally was a campground.

Mr. Eggers further stated that this acquisition fits into the Board's goals of resource protection, water access, community recreation and economic development.

Mr. Tom Kruger, Supervisor, Clay Township; Mr. Chuck Moore, President, Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Association; and Mr. Tom Dueweke, President, Harsens Island Conservation Association – 11-121, Harsens Island Conservation Area Acquisition, Clay Township

Mr. Tom Kruger, Supervisor of Clay Township, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Harsens Island Conservation Area Acquisition project (11-121). There is much support from local, civic groups, state and regional agencies.

Mr. Moore, President of the Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Association, continued the presentation. The property is 440 acres and is within sight of the City of Detroit. The acquisition project ranks very high using the Board's scoring criteria – Trails/Greenways (Blueways), Wildlife Ecological Corridors and Winter Deer Yard Acquisitions, and Located Within an Urban Area. The property is located in the flats of the St. Clair River. This property is only about four to five miles from the mainland.

In the township's recreation and master plan, one of the items identified is the relative proximity to other recreational areas within the metropolitan area. In the area, there are three state-owned properties – St. Clair Flats Wildlife Area, St. Johns Marsh and Algonac State Park.

Mr. Moore further stated that there are two primary reasons for the project: development pressure and the township is lacking in recreational acreage and access. The St. Clair Flats Wildlife Area abuts the proposed acquisition. This would represent a wildlife corridor from one end of the island to the other. In addition, there are no DNR boat landings for access to the water on the island. There are three fishing access sites, but they are internal – going to a canal around the edge of the St. Clair Flats Wildlife Area. The township intends to make use of existing drainages (blueways) by opening them up using phragmites control.

The township manages only four acres at the present time, and this property represents the cornerstone of the township's recreational development plan. The township has the 25 percent match committed at this time, as well as operation and maintenance funds. In addition, the Clay Township Phragmites Program and volunteers have committed their time.

The conservation area would be an excellent addition to the Bridge to Bay Trail. It would also provide educational opportunities.

Mr. Cummings stated that this is a very large request, and asked if the property could be split up for purchase. Mr. Moore responded that there is a window of opportunity to re-evaluate the value of this property through a new assessment process. There may be some alternatives. He is asking the Board to give the township the opportunity to do its due diligence and see what happens. Mr. Cummings also asked about the estimated appraised value of \$20,000 per acre. Mr. Moore responded that this was in 2009. This will be re-examined.

Mr. Charters asked about the \$2.2 million donated land value. The response was the owner took the entire package of the 440 acres and based on the 2009 appraisals, this figure was put in the application submitted. There is a commitment letter from the owner. Upon new appraisals, the 25 percent donation will be on a sliding scale.

Mr. Greg Orner, Director of Recreation; and Mr. Eric Peterson, Deputy Director of Recreation, City of Dearborn – 11-053, Camp Dearborn Non-Motorized Trail Development, City of Dearborn

Mr. Greg Orner, Director of Recreation for the City of Dearborn, made a presentation in support of the Camp Dearborn Non-Motorized Trail Development project (11-053). A handout was provided to the Board. This project would connect to property in the Village of Milford. The City of Dearborn operates 53 parks.

Mr. Eric Peterson, Deputy Director of Recreation for the City of Dearborn, continued the presentation. He pointed out various aspects of the property via the map included in the handout. The project consists of a one-third mile, eight-foot wide universally accessible pathway that would connect Camp Dearborn from its main public beach to the newly established Milford Trail System at General Motors Road.

The trail connection will cross the Huron River via a steel truss bridge and include a combination of fishing/observation platform and canoe/kayak launch that will provide handicap-accessible access to the Huron River. The pathway begins at General Motors Road, proceeding along the riparian corridor of the Huron River and through a natural area crossing the Huron River at a former bridge site.

Justification for the project includes the fact that over 250,000 people visit Camp Dearborn annually, with approximately 112,500 being Dearborn residents. The current entrance into the camp is geared primarily for motorized vehicles with no crosswalks or sidewalks existing for pedestrian foot or bike traffic from General Motors Road. This trail would provide a safe, non-motorized free access connection, linking Camp Dearborn to the Oakland County Regional Trail System, via the Milford Trail, as well as other state and local trails in the area. This project was identified as a priority in the city's recreation master plan.

The total estimated cost is \$384,100, with the grant amount request being \$268,900. The city will be providing a 30 percent match of \$115,200. This is the second time the city has submitted an application for this project (in 2009 with a 26 percent match).

At this point, Mr. Orner continued the presentation. He outlined recreation activities that users are able to enjoy at Camp Dearborn. He pointed out where the trail would connect to the camp via a map included in the Board's packet. This project would provide access to the Huron River for kayaking and boating. The trail would also de-emphasize the use of traffic within the park and to become more "wellness-oriented."

Director Stokes asked if the park was open to the public. Mr. Orner responded that it is open for day users. There is currently an entrance admission fee into the park. The trail would provide pedestrian access, bicyclists, joggers, etc. free access to the park. Director Stokes asked if there was a different fee for residents and nonresidents. Mr. Orner responded that there was - \$3.00 for residents and \$5.00 for nonresidents per vehicle.

Ms. Denise Parisian, Village Manager, Village of Dimondale – 11-005, Island Park Development-Phase I, Village of Dimondale

Ms. Denise Parisian, Village Manager for the Village of Dimondale, made a presentation in support of the Island Park Development-Phase I project (11-005). She provided a handout to the Board depicting the proposed project.

Ms. Parisian stated that the village owns approximately 15 acres of green space as parkland that spans the Grand River in the heart of the community. The property is easily accessed by walking, biking or canoeing.

The village began to look at the property for development in the mid-90's. At that time, it was owned by the Lansing Board of Water and Light. It was also encumbered with a potential contaminated site and a deteriorated dam. Over the years, discussions were held with the Board of Water and Light as to how this property could benefit the village and be developed. In 2003, a baseline environmental assessment was completed and a small landfill closed. In 2004, the village took ownership of the property, and in 2006 an Inland Fisheries Grant was secured, whereby the dam was removed and a weir was constructed in the river. From 2006, improvements were made to the property.

The project area was cleaned up by civic groups and citizens and a simple pathway system was built, as well as a picnic area by the river.

In 2010, a master plan was developed for the five-acre island and the adjacent property. The primary focus of the master plan was access to the river and five-acre island. Universal accessibility and historical components are also proposed. The master plan identifies a pavilion, fishing platforms and improved access.

Phase I development would consist of two canoe-kayak docks, fishing platform, permanent bridge to the island, improved parking and a network of paths.

The project has been well received by the community. At this time, this is the only park and green space, existing or proposed, in Windsor Township. The closest public access to the river is several miles away.

Mr. Cummings asked about the village's match. Ms. Parisian responded that \$55,000 has been target for the match. The bridge to the island is the first priority if the project

needs to be approached on a limited basis. Corporate sponsors have been identified, as well as local businesses and individuals, to solicit for donations.

Chairperson Garner asked about the fishing platform. Mr. Parisian responded that the platform proposed will be accessible.

Director Stokes noticed on the map that in Phase I the proposal is for one bridge, but where the boat dock is there is a concrete span across the spillway. Mr. Parisian responded that the intent is to get around the weir. The weir creates rapids in that area of the river. The canoe and kayak launches will be placed on either side. That is intended to create portage around the area and also to create an entrance point that circumvents the rapids area. Director Stokes advised Ms. Parisian to talk to the village's engineer about this issue. Ms. Parisian stated she will do so and these are preliminary designs.

Mr. Chuck Korn, Supervisor, Garfield Charter Township; Mr. Ross Biederman, Chair, City of Traverse City and Garfield Charter Township Recreational Authority Board of Directors; and Ms. Karen Matte Schmidt, Chair, Botanical Garden Society of Northwest Michigan – 11-109, Historic Barns Park and Garden Development, Garfield Charter Township

Mr. Ross Biederman, Chair, City of Traverse and Garfield Charter Township Recreational Authority Board of Directors, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Historic Barns Park and Garden Development project (11-109). This project is a collaboration between Garfield Charter Township and the City of Traverse City. A recreational authority has been formed between these two local units of government.

The authority has acquired 56 acres that was formerly used by the old Traverse City State Hospital for their farming operation to create a public park. The request is for a trail and interpretive center. The trail (3,300 feet) will link the existing trail system in Garfield Charter Township with the system in the City of Traverse City. This also ties in with the "Safe Routes to Schools" program. An interpretive center would also be developed.

Ms. Karen Matte Schmidt continued the presentation. The park itself is located in the Grand Traverse Commons, the site of the old State Hospital. The buildings are in the process of being converted into condominiums, restaurants, and businesses. The barns area is where the park is located.

The project is three-fold. The 3,300-foot trailway would link to existing trail networks, schools, neighborhoods, and shopping area, as well as the Munson Medical Center. It would also tie into the 55-mile regional TART Trail system.

The 3,000-foot interpretive center would be to redevelop the old grainery from the State Hospital with restrooms, displays and classrooms. This could also be rented out for wedding receptions and other activities.

The picnic grove would be an area for wildlife viewing and picnicking. There are 114 species of birds on the site. There will be a barrier-free viewing platform.

There was a lot of public involvement and support for this project. A millage was passed to purchase the hospital property in 2004; and the redevelopment and master site plan was done in 2010. Over \$500,000 in local funds has been raised for the development of this project.

Mr. Ron Wruble, Director, Parks and Recreation, City of Harbor Beach – 11-052, Waterfront Development Project, City of Harbor Beach

Mr. Ron Wruble, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Harbor Beach, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Waterfront Development project (11-052).

The City of Harbor Beach has approximately 1700 residents. The city has industry, but wants to increase tourism. There is a harbor which has a breakwater of 640 square acres. The city also owns the lighthouse that was transferred to them last year. In addition, the city owns a sandy beach and 114-slip marina. There are five parks that are spread out through the city: Memorial, Waterworks, Davidson, Bathing Beach and North.

Mr. Wruble pointed out the bike path area in the city via maps on the PowerPoint presentation. The city's existing bike path joins North Park in the northern part of the city limits. The trail traverses around the downtown area to the visitor's center. The Waterfront Development project would enable the city to connect four of the five parks. Phase IV would connect all of the parks together, including the marina.

The Waterfront Development project would include a new restroom, an extension of the bike and pedestrian path and playground equipment.

When the property was acquired by the city in 2003, the goals as to how the property was to be used included that it be open for public use, provide new restrooms, extend the bike path, provide new playground equipment and make it more aesthetically pleasing.

In the Waterfront Development project, it includes three of the top five projects included in the city's five-year recreation plan: Restrooms at Bathing Beach Park, Bike and Pedestrian Path Extension and Playground Equipment at Bathing Beach Park.

Chairperson Garner commented that this is a beautiful part of the state with excellent fishing opportunities. The only issue it is a hard area to get to. Mr. Wruble responded that the city is a "peninsula within a peninsula." The city council has been very proactive in dealing with this to encourage visitors.

Ms. Stephanie Hurlbut, County Administrator, Ionia County; and Mr. Jason Eppler, City Manager, City of Ionia – 11-059, Rail-Trail Development-Phase I, Ionia County

Ms. Stephanie Hurlbut, County Administrator for Ionia County, made a presentation in support of the Rail-Trail Development-Phase I project (11-059). She stated that this is a collaboration with Ionia County, City of Ionia and Village of Saranac. A handout was provided to the Board.

Mr. Jason Eppler, City Manager for the City of Ionia, continued the presentation. Phase I will be the section from the City of Ionia to the Village of Saranac. He outlined the

Midwest Regional Rail-Trail Network, totaling 125 miles. Some of it is already constructed and all of it is in public ownership. He pointed out the Rail-Trail Development-Phase I project via a map. The regional trail goes from Alma to Edmore, Greenville to Lowell, to Ionia, St. Johns and Owosso. The Rail-Trail Development project that has been submitted will be contiguous to the Ionia State Recreation Area—the Village of Saranac would be on the west and the City of Ionia on the east.

Mr. Eppler outlined aspects of the trail network via photographs in the handout.

Partnerships for the trail network are Ionia County, City of Ionia, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority and an endowment from the Meijer Foundation. Dollars have been set aside for future trail maintenance for all 125 miles as provided by the Meijer Foundation.

The cost for the project is \$1.6 million, with \$300,000 being requested from the MNRTF. An application has been submitted to MDOT's Trail Enhancement program for \$950,000. In addition, the Recreation and Trails Program will provide \$100,000 and the Meijer Foundation \$200,000.

The trail will include five miles of paved surface and five miles of crushed limestone surface, site grading and drainage, bridge improvements, signage, landscaping and access management and control.

Mr. Don Janernoa, Chairman, Green View Point Park Restoration and Improvement Committee, Ionia County – 11-088, Green View Point Park Improvement-Phase I, Ionia County

Mr. Don Janernoa, Chairman of the Green View Point Park Restoration and Improvement Committee, Ionia County, made a presentation in support of the Green View Point Park Improvement-Phase I project (11-088). He provided a handout for the Board.

In 2004, the county received a development grant of \$144,700 for the Green View Point Park. In addition to the grant, the county received volunteer labor and materials for the park, as well as \$230,000 in cash contributions. The property of 4.6 acres was acquired in 1926.

As a result of the 2004 grant, the park has an overlook, bike racks, restrooms (duplicates of MDOT's state roadside park restrooms), picnic tables, stairwell, and pedestrian bridge.

An endowment fund for the park was established and currently has a balance of over \$119,000. Maintenance for the park is approximately \$3,000 per year.

The application submitted this year would include an observation/ fishing deck, pedestrian bridge, picnic table shelters, trails, interpretive signage, driveway repairs, irrigation system and drinking fountain/water line.

Mr. Janernoa stated that several members of the Restoration Committee have passed away or moved, with several other surviving members aging. He expressed his

appreciation for the Board's support in the past and wishes to get the park improvements completed soon.

Mr. Greg Stewart, City Administrator, City of Luna Pier – 11-108, Luna Pier Harbour Club Acquisition, City of Luna Pier

Mr. Greg Stewart, City Administrator for the City of Luna Pier, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Luna Pier Harbour Club Acquisition project (11-108). He introduced Ms. Janelle Theisen from Representative Dale Zorn's office.

Ms. Theisen stated that Representative Zorn is very supportive of the project submitted by the City of Luna Pier.

Mr. Stewart stated that the city is part of the International Refuge Program for wildlife. The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge owns property on the other side of the Harbour Club property. The Erie State Game Area is also near the property, as well as deeryards.

The property is a public launch which the city and DNR will be expanding. The area will not only be used for boat launching, but for camping as well.

Although not part of this application, the city has been looking at the Heritage Trail and how it can connect two ports.

Mr. Stewart proceeded to identify, via the maps on PowerPoint, various parts of the property and what is being proposed for its use.

The city's master recreation plan was developed in 2010. The City of Luna Pier is within an hour of the Cities of Ann Arbor, Monroe, Detroit, Bedford Township, and Toledo, Ohio. Several events are being held in the city.

The city is moving forward with the trails and water aspects.

Mr. Charters asked if the existing marina was profitable at the present time. Mr. Stewart responded it has been profitable in the past. There were some hard times in 2009, but it is coming back. Mr. Charters asked why the city just doesn't do a local bond issue. Mr. Stewart responded that part of what the city is doing is to make it a comprehensive recreation facility.

Chairperson Garner asked what would be done with the store on the property. Mr. Stewart responded the city discussed leasing it out. In addition, the city would make sure the parking area is not mixed with the business area and will keep them separate. Chairperson Garner asked about dredging equipment. Mr. Stewart responded that would come with the acquisition.

Mr. Charters asked about the total grant request and wondered if the equipment would be something that the Waterways Fund would grant. Mr. Stewart responded that it is up to the MNRTF what would be funded. Mr. Charters responded that the MNRTF Board has an obligation of awarding grants for certain things and it bothers him when the acquisition or development components of a project are not clearly defined. Mr. Stewart responded that the equipment portion would be taken out of the grant request.

Mr. Cummings asked what would happen if the MNRTF does not award the grant. Mr. Stewart responded that the city would still be moving forward with the trails and try and work with private entities to help expand the campgrounds. The project just might not have the scope that it would have if it had been funded by the MNRTF.

Chairperson Garner made the comment that sometimes things that are not made aware to the Board have a way of not being recommended for funding. Mr. Charters stated that the city may have to do an appraisal on just the portion that the MNRTF would possibly be funding. Mr. Stewart asked if the MNRTF does not fund equipment, does that include slips that the city would like to repurpose out into the pier area. Mr. Cummings responded that a slip would be a permanent fixture of the property.

Mr. Stewart stated that the project cost will be itemized and adjusted.

Director Stokes left the meeting at 11:30 AM.

Ms. Judith Kell, Grant Coordinator, Muskegon County – 11-086, Rotary Park Development, Muskegon County

Ms. Judith Kell, Grant Coordinator for Muskegon County, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Rotary Park Development project (11-086). She introduced additional supporters of the project who were in attendance with her.

Ms. Nancy Crandall, Past President of the Muskegon Rotary Club, gave a brief history of the project. In 2007, one of the goals of the club was to establish a park in downtown Muskegon. The Muskegon Family YMCA had offered a portion of their property for sale. It was suggested that the portion adjacent to Heritage Landing, which is a county park, be purchased by the Rotary Club for the park and then deeded to the county to become Rotary Park at Heritage Landing. The county would then be responsible for the development and maintenance of the park. After discussions and an appraisal of the property, it was decided that the county would purchase the property for the assessed value and the Rotary Club would be involved with development of the park.

There is overwhelming support for this project. Development would accomplish several goals: would keep lakefront property in public ownership, provide access to the lake through a public park, establish a permanent Rotary Park downtown, increase the size of an urban park for recreational and festival activities, provide an accessible playground area for public use and assist the YMCA in keeping their organization healthy.

The park property has been enhanced by the cleanup of Muskegon Lake, the Shoreline Restoration Project and the upcoming cleaning of the lagoon property.

At this point, Ms. Kell continued the presentation. The park is 1.8 acres in size and is adjacent to Heritage Landing. The park will provide:

- Access to residents, including walking trails, city sidewalks and access to the transit system.
- Access to three elementary schools within walking distance to the park.
- Public/private partnership between Muskegon County, Grand Valley State University Water Institute, the Marsh Monitoring Project and local schools.

Ms. Kell outlined aspects of the project via a map on PowerPoint. The lagoon is currently being cleaned up through the Great Lakes Legacy Act and NOAA funds. On a portion of Heritage Landing, there is habitat restoration occurring. The county has also applied for Ice Mountain Stewardship funds to continue to do the habitat restoration along the lagoon area.

This park will be the only one in the county that will be an all-inclusive, handicapped accessible park. Water sports activities for individuals with disabilities, such as canoeing and kayaking, will also be included in the development.

The park also protects the habitat by:

- Developing land held in public trust.
- Creates a buffer of native marsh and wetland vegetation.
- Increases the habitat for migratory and nesting ducks.
- Increases opportunities for fishing.

There are many partners involved in the project. These include:

- Muskegon County – park development and maintenance.
- Muskegon Rotary Club – match and support for disability access to waterfront.
- United Way of the Lakeshore – 2012 Day of Caring.
- YMCA – programs for inner-city youth.
- Great Lakes Legacy Act, EPA and NOAA, Ice Mountain Fund – cleanup of sediment, habitat restoration, cleanup of scrap and rubble at bottom of inlet bays.
- Muskegon Public Schools – use of park for education and access for inner-city students for recreation.
- Muskegon Lake Watershed Partnership – marsh and wetlands protection.
- Marsh Monitoring Program – evaluation of health of Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands.
- Grand Valley State University Water Institute – partners in supporting requests for funding to retain wetlands and protect endangered species.

Mr. Cummings commented that Muskegon has done a great job with the waterfront and development of the downtown area.

Mr. Jim Baier, Supervisor, Oscoda Township – TF08-016, Oscoda Beach Park Observation and Fishing Pier

Mr. Jim Baier, Supervisor of Oscoda Township, thanked the Board for their generous grant of \$460,000 for the Oscoda Beach Park Observation and Fishing Pier project. This was awarded to the township in 2008. The township's match was 40 percent of the project.

The pier needed to be redesigned and because of this factor, the Department of Environmental Quality advised the township the pier would need to be re-permitted. The pier was bid and the low bidder was a company in Trenton. At the last minute, the company backed out. As a result of this, the pier will be rebid.

Mr. Lukas Hill, Community Development Director; and Mr. John Nash, Supervisor,
Spring Lake Township – 11-049, Jerusalem Bayou Bridge Pathway Development

Mr. Lukas Hill, Community Development Director for Spring Lake Township, made a presentation in support of the Jerusalem Bayou Bridge Pathway Development project (11-049). He provided a handout for the Board.

He pointed out the location of the existing bike path via a map provided to the Board.

The development project would be to construct a pathway on the Jerusalem Bayou bridge and pathway approach on Spring Lake Road. This is the last gap to connect with the existing 12-mile path system that encompasses Spring Lake. In addition, at the present time bike path users need to use the roadway in this stretch, which is dangerous when crossing the narrow bridge with no shoulder.

This bike path is heavily used for bikers, walkers and runners. The township looks at the path as a sustainability initiative and providing multi-use forms of transportation and recreation. The roadway has a 45-mile per hour speed limit, but drivers tend to drive faster in this area.

At this point, Mr. John Nash, Supervisor of Spring Lake Township, made some comments. The bridge is scheduled for redecking in the summer of 2012. As there was no bikeway in the original plan, none was planned in this schedule. The township would like to see this pathway developed at the time of the bridge redecking. The last time the bridge had work done was 34 years ago. By constructing the pathway at the same time frame as the bridge work will save on engineering and maintenance costs to the township.

Chairperson Garner commented that even if the township receives a MNRTF grant, it still needs to go through the legislative process before the funds can be released. In addition, there will be less money for acquisition and development grants than last year. He suggested that the township also look at other funding sources, as well. Mr. Nash responded that they have been looking at other sources of funding, and will continue to do so.

IV. OLD BUSINESS.

2011 MNRTF Applications

Mr. DeBrabander advised the Board that staff is now in the process of scoring 2011 MNRTF applications, and wished to compliment staff for being so conscientious in reviewing each application. He made mention that Ms. Jule Stafford has been of great assistance to the new Grant Coordinators, as well as himself and Mr. Mayes. She has a wealth of knowledge of the program and processes.

The preliminary scoring evaluation worksheets will be mailed out to applicants early to mid-September and the applicants will have until October 3 to provide Grants Management with any supplemental information they feel would improve the scoring of their project.

Chairperson Garner asked when the Board would be provided with the preliminary scores. Mr. DeBrabander responded that the Board can be provided with a list as soon as they are available (before the Board's October meeting).

Mr. DeBrabander further stated that staff will discuss and resolve issues communities may have with the scoring of their projects prior to the Board's December evening meeting.

2012 Board Priorities

Mr. DeBrabander advised the Board they have had the same Board Priorities for a few years and wondered if there was a need to revisit them for any changes.

Mr. DeBrabander suggested tying in the review of the Board Priorities into the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The SCORP will expire in 2012 (a five-year plan).

The purpose of the SCORP is it allows the State of Michigan to qualify for funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to have an overall plan for recreation. One of the things staff does in updating the plan is conduct a survey to identify what the public outdoor recreation needs are from within the state. Staff has drafted survey questions and will be using a "survey monkey" to electronically receive questions to an on-line questionnaire. This same data that is being used for the development of the SCORP could help the Board in looking at Board Priorities in the future.

Mr. DeBrabander suggested to hold off on the evaluation of the Board Priorities until survey information is evaluated, which should be the first part of next year.

Mr. Cummings asked who the recipients of the survey would be. Mr. DeBrabander responded they would be local units of government, counties, conservancies, and DNR, as well as using mailing lists from the Michigan Townships Association, Michigan Recreation and Park Association, Michigan Municipal League and Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority.

Chairperson Garner asked how much Land and Water Conservation Fund monies Michigan receives per year. Mr. DeBrabander responded it is about \$1 million, but this is now in jeopardy due to the fact that it is federal funding.

Mr. DeBrabander also added that Board Priorities should be finalized earlier in the year, as staff is updating materials for the next funding cycle in October or November.

The Board consented to Mr. DeBrabander's suggestion to wait on evaluating Board Priorities until results of the survey being conducted for updating the SCORP is completed.

MNRTF Sign Recognition – Department Projects – **UPDATE**

Mr. DeBrabander updated the Board on the status of the MNRTF signs. The current sign approved by the Board has a cost of \$1,655.00 per sign. Signs have a tendency at times to get destroyed or stolen. To replace a sign would be very costly for local units of government and DNR divisions (for state projects).

The Board had given their approval to investigate a less costly sign, but still use the same language as approved by the Board. This would include the development of two sizes for recognition – a round sign that could be incorporated into the community's existing site sign and a traditional size.

Once the design has been approved and the material selected, it will be sent out for bids to establish a vendor.

Mr. Charters stated that he is still having issues finding DNR sites that have been signed. Mr. DeBrabander stated that since the Board's last meeting he has met with the DNR land liaisons for the land management divisions. He conveyed to them the Board's concern regarding the lack of signage for DNR projects. At the Board's October meeting, the division liaisons will be updating the Board on their sign recognition efforts.

V. NEW BUSINESS.

TF09-165, Sheldon-Mead Greenspace Acquisition, City of Rochester Hills – PROJECT WITHDRAWAL

Mr. Jon Mayes, Unit Manager, Recreation Grants, Grants Management, outlined the project withdrawal request from the City of Rochester Hills.

MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY MR. CUMMINGS, TO ACCEPT THE WITHDRAWAL OF TF09-165, SHELDON-MEAD GREENSPACE ACQUISITION, CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

TF09-064, Grand River Greenway Trail Acquisition, Village of Spring Lake – PROJECT WITHDRAWAL

Mr. Mayes outlined the project withdrawal request from the Village of Spring Lake.

MOVED BY MR. CUMMINGS, SUPPORTED BY MR. CHARTERS, TO ACCEPT THE WITHDRAWAL OF TF09-064, GRAND RIVER GREENWAY TRAIL ACQUISITION, VILLAGE OF SPRING LAKE. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

Mr. Cummings asked about 11-094, Swing Bridge Property Acquisition, City of the Village of Douglas, and wondered if this application has been withdrawn. He has visited this property and noticed that the developer who had previously or currently owns the property is moving forward with the condominiums. Ms. Shamika Askew-Storay responded that she had received a phone call from Douglas last week. They are moving forward with the application, but may not purchase the entire parcel of land. She informed the community that they may submit supplemental information prior to the final scoring of the application.

VI. STATUS REPORTS.

MNRTF Financial Report

Mr. Joe Frick, Assistant Chief, Finance and Operations Division, DNR, outlined the MNRTF Financial Report. There are no changes from the prior report the Board received in June. It is still estimated that there will be approximately \$40 million available to award for 2011 projects. Project withdrawals need to be retabulated to determine what that balance will be.

Next year the administrative expenses will decrease significantly, but there will be an increase in the Payments in-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments.

Mr. Charters asked what administrative expenses will be gone. Mr. Frick responded expenses that will be gone, reduced or transferred to the Park Endowment Fund will be:

- Department of Information Technology (now Department of Technology, Management and Budget) expenses.
- Land Ownership Tracking System.
- Forest Mineral and Fire Management expenses.
- Oil and Gas Audits.
- Cost Allocation Charges (Admin. and Rent).

Mr. Frick suggested that the Board revisit and reaffirm their spending strategy for grants.

Chairperson Garner emphasized for the audience that future MNRTF funds will be reduced greatly, and, in particular, will be a very small amount for development projects.

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

None.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The next meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board is scheduled for 9:00 AM, Wednesday, October 19, 2011, Clark Historical Library, Baber Room, Central Michigan University, 250 East Preston, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

IX. ADJOURNMENT.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM.

Bob Garner, Chairperson
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
Board of Trustees

Steven J. DeBrabander, Manager
Grants Management

DATE