

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes of June 13, 2012  
American Legion Hall, 610 W. Munising, Munising

The meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board of Trustees meeting commenced at 9:03 AM.

The following Board members were present:

Keith Charters  
Sam Cummings  
Bob Garner  
Rodney Stokes

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

Chairperson Garner thanked Natural Resources Commissioner John Madigan for taking the Board and staff on a boat cruise of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore last evening.

I. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF APRIL 11, 2012.

Chairperson Garner called for the adoption of the minutes for the April 11, 2012 MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY DIRECTOR STOKES, SUPPORTED BY MR. CUMMINGS,  
TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 11, 2012 MNRTF BOARD  
MEETING. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF JUNE 13, 2012.

Chairperson Garner called for the adoption of the agenda for the June 13, 2012 MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY MR. CUMMINGS, TO  
ADOPT THE AGENDA FOR THE JUNE 13, 2012 MNRTF BOARD MEETING.  
PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

III. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

Mr. Tom Bailey, Executive Director, Little Traverse Conservancy

Mr. Tom Bailey, Executive Director of Little Traverse Conservancy, made some comments on the Village of Mackinaw City's application (12-022). The village now has commitments for half of their local match and fund-raising continues.

Mr. Bailey also stated that a lot of the land conservancies have been in contact with their legislators regarding the MNRTF bill that is currently in the Legislature. Discussion with legislators has focused on the “second guessing” of the MNRTF Board in their grant recommendations and land cap bill.

Mr. Bailey further stated that in the spirit of the Governor’s goals to reinvent Michigan, there needs to be a way to reinvent the payments in-lieu of taxes (PILT) and swamp taxes. This is a revenue-sharing issue with state and local governments and not natural resources, land or recreation issue.

Chairperson Garner stated that the reason for the hold-up of the passage of the bill is the result of three legislators questioning some projects that are recommended for funding (2011 projects). Mr. Charters added that if or when the bill is passed, it raises the question of what happens if it is not passed, what happens with the projects the Board will be recommending for 2012 funding. This will create more work for Grants Management staff to handle. Mr. Bailey mentioned that by delaying passage of the bill, it hurts the economy.

Mr. Douglas Scheuneman, President, Alger County Fish and Game Alliance

Mr. Douglas Scheuneman, President of the Alger County Fish and Game Alliance, made comments regarding the DNR’s Au Train Basin Waterfowl Refuge Project, which was acquired in two phases (TF07-134 and TF10-139) for \$2.5 million. He inquired about the status of these grants. Chairperson Garner responded that there was an email that the Board received from Mr. Earl Flegler of DNR’s Wildlife Division where some of the problems were outlined. Mr. Charters provided a copy of the email to Mr. Scheuneman to review.

Director Stokes added that staff needs to look at the first grant (TF07-134) received. If the project cannot be completed, this money will need to be put back in the fund for other projects.

Mr. Doug Miron, Vice-Chair, Alger County Fish and Game Alliance – 12-039, Munising Bay Universal Access Site-Anna River, City of Munising

Mr. Doug Miron, Vice-Chair, Alger County Fish and Game Alliance, made a presentation in support of the Munising Bay Universal Access Site-Anna River application submitted by the City of Munising (12-039). This project would provide improvements for the universally-accessible fishing pier. This pier is used from early spring until it becomes icy. Improvements are greatly needed.

Natural Resources Commissioner John Madigan further stated that this is the most utilized fishing pier in the community. It is the only area in the community for those who want to fish and do not have access to a boat can go.

Commissioner Madigan welcomed the MNRTF Board to Munising. He also thanked the Board for awarding grants to local communities in the Upper Peninsula.

At this point, Chairperson Garner outlined the history of the MNRTF Program. A bill was passed in 1976 which stated that the oil and gas revenues and minerals that come from the state’s portion be placed in a fund. This fund would take a nonrenewable resource

and use it for acquisition of recreation property. The Legislature was raiding the Trust Fund and in 1984, the issue was placed on the ballot for a constitutional amendment to protect the fund from diversion. To date, almost \$900 million in acquisition and development projects have been provided by the MNRTF.

Mr. Cummings commented that MNRTF monies came from and belong to the people of the State of Michigan. It is not fair game to raid for special projects.

Director Stokes stated that the two Natural Resources Commissioners from the Upper Peninsula – Commissioners John Madigan and J. R. Richardson – are fighting for the Upper Peninsula all the time.

At this point, Mr. Steve DeBrabander, Manager, Grants Management, DNR, introduced the Grants Management staff: Mr. Jon Mayes (Unit Manager, Recreation Grants), Ms. Janet Liesman (Financial Analyst), Ms. Linda Harlow (Administrative Assistant and Secretary to the MNRTF Board), Ms. Jule Stafford (Grant Coordinator), Ms. Shamika Askew-Storay (Grant Coordinator), Ms. Christie Bayus (Grant Coordinator) and Grants Management's new Grant Coordinator, Tamara Jorkasky. Ms. Jorkasky briefly outlined her previous work experience for the Board.

Mr. Rich Sullenger, City Engineer, City of Alpena – 12-063, NEST Alpena Regional Trailhead, City of Alpena

Mr. Rich Sullenger, City Engineer for the City of Alpena, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the North East State Trail (NEST) Alpena Regional Trailhead project (12-063). This project is a partnership with Alpena County, Alpena Township and the Thunder Bay Soccer Association.

The project will develop a trailhead at the south terminus of the NEST. The NEST comes into the City of Alpena and terminates just off the bike path system. This project will provide the interlink and trailhead for the City of Alpena.

The property is outside of the city (in Alpena Township) and under the control of the Thunder Bay Soccer Association. The soccer fields were donated to Alpena County for the soccer association to use. There is a use agreement on the property.

Alpena Township has allowed the construction of the trailhead on property they own as well as Alpena County. This is a multi-jurisdictional cooperation. The City of Alpena will be lead agency for the grant writing and project coordination. The trailhead will be maintained by the city, township and Thunder Bay Soccer Association through a cooperative agreement. Long-term maintenance has been negotiated with these three parties.

Development will also include a parking lot, pavilion, and restroom/storage building.

The city is requesting \$245,000 from the MNRTF. The Top of Michigan Trails Council, Alpena Township, City of Alpena and other funding sources will be providing the match.

Director Stokes asked about the lease and if it would be for the life of the project. He wondered if there were a certain amount of years to the lease. Mr. Sullenger responded that as long as there is a trailhead, we will have control of it. The County of Alpena owns

the property and there was a letter of intent signed by the county relinquishing control of it to the City of Alpena. Director Stokes wondered what instrument of control it was going to be—a lease or deed. There has to be some legal mechanism for the MNRTF to provide funding. Whoever the grantee is has to have control of the property. Mr. Sullenger responded that there will be a deed restriction on the property which will secure the control of the property.

Mr. Charters asked how big the parking lot was. Mr. Sullenger responded that it will be for approximately 25-30 cars with some overflow parking area. Mr. Charters wondered if this parking lot will be for the trail or soccer. Mr. Sullenger responded it will be more for the trail users.

Ms. Katherine Reynolds, Executive Director, Alger County Chamber of Commerce – 12-076, AuTrain Township Heritage Trailhead Development, AuTrain Township

Ms. Katherine Reynolds, Executive Director, Alger County Chamber of Commerce, made a presentation in support of the AuTrain Township Heritage Trailhead Development project (12-076). She pointed out aspects of the project via a map.

Ms. Reynolds stated that this area has become very popular for canoeing, kayaking and fishing. At this time there is no public access or handicap accessibility to the river.

The development would include a universal accessible fishing and kayak/canoe launch. An “EZ Dock” for accessibility would be installed. In addition, there would be an accessible boardwalk, pavilion, parking lots, interpretive center, and picnic tables.

This area would provide an economic boost to the area. The township has never received a MNRTF grant and is asking \$246,700 in funding.

Mr. Bruno Wojcik, Treasurer, Briley Township – 12-102, Thunder Bay Riverfront Park Improvements, Briley Township

Mr. Bruno Wojcik, Treasurer for Briley Township, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Thunder Bay Riverfront Park Improvements project (12-102). There are many supporters of this project, including NEMCOG, Montmorency County, Atlanta businesses, Montmorency EDC and the County Road Commission.

The project would implement a broader waterfront plan, upgrade and add amenities to an aging park, provide multiple fishing and river access opportunities, universal access principles, utilize local funds, volunteer labor and leverage other grant funding.

Development will include replacing fishing dock with universal accessible (UA) floating dock, new UA playground renovations, renovation of Old Chamber building, and UA restroom.

Ms. Marlene Fountain, Clerk, Hayes Township – 12-036, Camp Seagull Acquisition-Lake Charlevoix, Hayes Township

Ms. Marlene Fountain, Clerk of Hayes Township, made a presentation in support of the Camp Seagull Acquisition-Lake Charlevoix project (12-036). She provided handouts of

maps, a photograph of the area and letters of support for the project for the Board's information.

The project is for a 20-acre parcel on the north shore of Lake Charlevoix, with 1400 feet of lake access. Acquisition would provide access to Lake Charlevoix for residents and visitors for fishing, swimming and boating access. The property is currently a girl's summer camp. A band camp is also held on the property.

A "Committee to Protect Hayes Township", who has been in opposition to the acquisition, has pledged \$100,000 towards the match if the project is modified to include a non-motorized boating component that eliminated the parking and boat launch area down by the lakefront. The township turned this proposal down, as we are just in the acquisition stage at this point, and not development. Also, the township did not feel it was fair to remove amenities based on a donation.

Ms. Fountain further stated that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity, and have had overwhelming support in public hearings, however, there are some residents opposed to the project. She provided a copy of a newspaper article where residents expressed their opposition.

The property is centrally located between Boyne City and Charlevoix.

The MNRTF grant request is for \$3,375,000. The township has committed \$500,000 towards match, and is in the process of fund-raising the remaining \$625,000.

Mr. Charters pointed out that this project would be seven miles from a state park. Since the MNRTF has reached its cap, the DNR and the MNRTF Board need to come up with a strategic plan to define what the MNRTF's goals are. We need to determine how far from public lake access points do we want. He is not just talking about state access, but townships, counties and cities/villages as well. In the future, the MNRTF cannot afford to buy a public access site because it is the last great piece of property. Strategic goals for acquisition need to be developed.

Director Stokes responded that he agrees with Mr. Charters, and the DNR will be developing a state strategic plan, but at the same time the local units of governments also have desires, as well. We need to make sure that what we develop as a state agency does not infringe on the rights of others. It is hoped that this strategic plan is a guide that both state and local units of governments can use.

Director Stokes asked where, as referenced in the newspaper article, "Park #134" came from. Ms. Fountain is not sure where that came from---perhaps the number in the county or in the whole state. The residents opposed to the project came up with this number.

Mr. Cummings added he supports Mr. Charters' concerns regarding the need for a strategic plan for the MNRTF. He also added he supports Mr. Charters' concern as to spending \$3,375,000 for public lake access when there is a state park seven miles away. He was also skeptical about the purchase price---this is more than \$200,000 per acre. Ms. Fountain responded that an appraisal had been done, and new appraisal may come in at a little less amount.

Mr. Warren Nugent, Hayes Township Resident – 12-036, Camp Seagull Acquisition-Lake Charlevoix, Hayes Township

Mr. Warren Nugent, a resident of Hayes Township, made a presentation in opposition to the Camp Seagull Acquisition-Lake Charlevoix project submitted by Hayes Township (12-036). He does not know what the “Park 134” means.

Mr. Nugent stated he is not opposed to the park, but rather the high cost of the property. This is a small township and some of the large uses of the park, such as the boat launch, he is opposed to. He would be in support of a compromise of the acquisition by making a smaller park. He believes the majority of the people would like to see this property preserved and not developed. With the proposed park plans, this would be a development.

Mr. Nugent asked the Board to look at both the township’s presentation and the opposition’s information.

Chairperson Garner stated that it is not the Board’s position to change a community’s proposal. The Board merely approves or disapproves projects. The application will go through a complete review by Grants Management staff and be scored.

Director Stokes added that he has a problem when an individual offers \$100,000 to keep the public off the lake.

Mr. Scott Erickson, City Manager, City of Ironwood – 12-123, Michigan’s Western Gateway Trail Improvements, City of Ironwood

Mr. Scott Erickson, City Manager for the City of Ironwood, made a presentation in support of the Michigan’s Western Gateway Trail Improvements project (12-123). He provided handouts of the project for the Board’s information.

The city has been working with a regional trail technical working group on this project for the past three years, as well as DNR staff. The trail starts in Ironwood and borders Wisconsin to the west. The Western Gateway Regional Trail will connect to Hurley, Wisconsin on the west and travel through Ironwood, Bessemer and Wakefield.

The City of Ironwood has been working with Gogebic County, cities of Bessemer and Wakefield, townships and other organizations on this project. The “Strengthening Our Niche” work group created the Regional Trail Concept in 2008. There are about 100 people involved in this work group.

The project will include trail construction along the rail corridor. There are two trail corridors parallel to each other from Wisconsin to Wakefield. One of the corridors is a motorized trail corridor and the other non-motorized. There are two trailheads that have been approved in 2011 (Depot Park Trailhead) (cities of Ironwood and Bessemer) and are awaiting funding approval.

The trail project will be for 2-1/2 miles of an approximately 11-mile trail from Ironwood to Wakefield. The rail corridor acquisition will be going to the Natural Resources Commission for approval on June 14.

The project has been embraced by the Western U.P. Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Ironwood Tourism Council is helping the city with part of the match.

Additional comments in support of the project were provided by the Mayor Pro-Tem for the City of Ironwood.

Mr. Erickson further stated that more motorized and non-motorized trail communities are working together to get both these trail functions into public use and ownership.

The grant request from the MNRTF is \$300,000 and the Western U.P. Convention and Visitors Bureau has offered \$70,000 in match, with the City of Ironwood \$5,000.

Director Stokes stated that at the Natural Resources Commission meeting tomorrow, it will be recommended to approve the acquisition of this trail (7.4 miles).

Mr. Cummings asked how the motorized and non-motorized components of the trail divided. Mr. Erickson responded that they are right next to each other and at one point they cross at a bridge. They just parallel each other.

Ms. Maureen Templeton, Township Trustee, Long Lake Township – 12-071, Timbers Recreation Area Acquisition, Long Lake Township

Ms. Maureen Templeton, Township Trustee for Long Lake Township, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Timbers Recreation Area Acquisition project (12-071). The project is located six miles west of the City of Traverse City and centrally located within Long Lake Township and near schools.

The property is a former Girl Scouts camp and consists of 250 acres with 9,000 feet of waterfront which includes Long Lake and other inland lakes. There would be public access to three inland lakes. Fern Lake (22 acres, 4500 feet of water frontage) would provide access to the public for the first time. Another inland lake is Page Lake (12 acres, 2400 feet of water frontage, with three-quarters of the frontage within the Timbers Recreation Area. The other areas are private ownerships. The Cove on Long Lake would provide 2,000 feet of water frontage.

Ms. Templeton pointed out various aspects of the acquisition via photographs on PowerPoint.

There are five islands within Long Lake and they are open to the public.

Ms. Templeton further stated that the property includes a mature northern hardwood forest, riparian wetlands and deer habitat. Hunting will be allowed on the property.

In 2006, the township had a Natural Features Inventory report done. It was noted in the report that this property was the most significant in the township due to the number of habitat types of the lakes and wetlands, overall size and extent of buffers and general composition of the woodland habitat.

Since the property has been used as a Girl Scouts camp, there are a number of existing trails. There are many recreational activities that could be enjoyed by users.

Mr. Charters stated that he is familiar with this property and it is very beautiful.

Director Stokes asked how far the property was to state parks. Ms. Templeton responded it is about 15 miles from the Keith J. Charters Traverse City State Park. The closest county park is Twin Lakes, which is approximately 10 miles away.

Director Stokes asked if a development plan was developed. His concern is we acquire properties and the public is not always aware that they exist or have access to it. He would like to know how soon development plans could be in place. Ms. Templeton responded that the township had a couple of natural areas that were acquired with a millage (and one with MNRTF funding). When this was approved, the township's park and recreation committee formed a community committee to come up with a long-range plan. The conservation district was hired to mark where trails could go. The township wants the public to be able to use this property.

Director Stokes made the suggestion that Hayes Township (Camp Seagull acquisition) and Long Lake Township should talk to their support groups and partners for some type of donations to help reduce costs and obligations.

Mr. Cummings asked if there was existing public access to the islands. Ms. Templeton responded yes, all four are open to the public, but not managed by Long Lake Township. One is privately owned, but has a conservation easement. These areas are accessible by kayak, canoe or boat. Mr. Cummings asked how many public access points were on Long Lake. Ms. Templeton responded there are two public beaches operated by the township with one of the areas having a boat launch. In addition, there is a road-end boat launch. Mr. Cummings asked if future development would include an additional boat launch. Ms. Templeton responded that this had not been discussed. The property is being looked at for more passive recreation.

Director Stokes reiterated that public access to these recreation areas is very important. Signage needs to be in place to make the public aware that these areas are open and access is available. This includes state properties, as well.

Ms. Sheila Aldrich, City Manager, City of Manistique – 12-074, Traders Point Lot 7 Acquisition and 12-119, Lake Michigan and Manistique River Waterfront Acquisition, City of Manistique

Ms. Sheila Aldrich, City Manager for the City of Manistique, made a presentation in support of the Traders Point Lot 7 Acquisition (12-074) and Lake Michigan and Manistique River Waterfront Acquisition projects (12-119). She provided maps of the acquisition areas. Ms. Aldrich introduced Carrie Yott from the Soo Tribe, who is working on a project that goes beyond the city's acquisition project.

The Lake Michigan and Manistique River Waterfront Acquisition would provide for a swimming beach along Lake Michigan, natural open space and multi-use path traversing Manistique River.

The Traders Point Lot 7 Acquisition project would be to acquire property on the west side of the Manistique River to provide more accessibility and parking. The city has been interested in acquiring this property for years. The Downtown Development Authority would be looking at a campground on the property.

At this point, Ms. Yott, representing the Strategic Alliance for Health (collaboration between City of Manistique, Soo Tribe, Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital, school, health department, Schoolcraft County Chamber and EDC) outlined the non-motorized transportation plan via a map provided to the Board. This shows what the Strategic Alliance would like to see as non-motorized transportation access throughout the City of Manistique. It is three miles long and would connect both ends of the city's existing boardwalk, as well as widens this area. The city is not asking for grant money for this development, but for grant assistance to acquire the land along the river.

The non-motorized trail would be used for walking, biking, roller-blading and motorized wheelchairs to increase their access.

Mr. Nyle Wickersham, Supervisor, Metz Township – 12-013, Metz Fire Trailside Park Development, Metz Township

Mr. Nyle Wickersham, Supervisor of Metz Township, made a presentation in support of the Metz Fire Trailside Park Development project (12-013). He provided a map and information on the project for the Board.

This project coincides with the City of Alpena's NEST Alpena Regional Trailhead project (12-063). Metz Township's project is to include a trailside park and interpretive trail. It will also include historical information about the township fire (the township will provide this funding).

The Metz Township trail will be strictly non-motorized with bicycles and horses allowed on the trail. Other development will include a picnic area with enclosed pavilion, picnic tables, grill areas, restrooms, children's play area, bicycle racks, hitching post for equestrian trail users and parking area, with all areas of the park being handicap accessible.

Metz Township will be providing a 30% match towards the project. The township is seeking a MNRTF grant of \$116,200.

Director Stokes asked if the township hall was on the site. Mr. Wickersham responded it is, but no MNRTF funds are being sought for the hall.

Mr. Tim Ervin, Interim Director, Alliance for Economic Success, Onekama Township – 12-089, Langland Park Development, Onekama Township

Mr. Tim Ervin, Interim Director for the Alliance for Economic Success, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Langland Park Development project submitted by Onekama Township (12-089).

Mr. Ervin thanked the Board and staff for their MNRTF project recommendations in 2011 and, in particular, DNR, Fisheries Division's Little Manistee River Weir Development (TF11-125) and the City of Manistee's Manistee First Street Beach House Development (TF11-026). Residents and visitors to the area look forward to these two projects. Since the Legislature has not passed the bill for funding the 2011 projects, this will cause an economic loss to the area due to the inability to start these projects (loss of construction season for 2012).

Mr. Ervin stated that Onekama Township has had a steady growth in population over the past years, however, are lagging behind with the rest of the state in terms of median and per capita income.

The township's project, Langland Park, is an 8.8-acre park. Development of the park would bring more people to visit, stay and invest in hotels/motels and restaurants to help support the economy. In addition, people of all ages, needs and abilities need a way to access, enjoy and recreate in water.

In 2008, the township put together a watershed plan. As a result of the plan, there was a call for more collaboration between the village and the township and a joint master plan was developed, with a joint ordinance to implement the plan. An economic development plan was also developed. On August 7<sup>th</sup>, the electors of the village and township of Onekama will be voting on the matter of disincorporating the village and township. If this happens, it will be a first in the State of Michigan.

This is about coming together for a vision and plan for the future. "The Lakes of the Land Regional Initiative", which stretches from Onekama to Frankfort and inland, has been formed. There are fourteen townships working together to develop joint master, recreation and implementation plans. Many contributors (state, federal, local, private foundations/companies and private individuals) have provided funds towards these planning efforts.

Mr. Ervin further stated that the Langland Park Development project would be one of a series of linked parks within the Onekama community. These links would all be on the water.

Out of Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Coastal Zone Management funding, six parks are to be developed, Langland Park is one. The goal is to provide a non-motorized pathway.

Development of Langland Park will include a restroom facility, increase access to the beach and pier, boardwalk, mobi mats, expand parking and create a non-motorized trail to all the other sites. The township is asking \$87,000 from the MNRTF.

Mr. David Kallio, Supervisor, Sands Township – 12-008, Blueberry Ridge Warming Hut, Sands Township

Mr. David Kallio, Supervisor of Sands Township, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Blueberry Ridge Warming Hut project (12-008). Sands Township is located six miles south of the City of Marquette and is well located on State Highway M-553.

The Blueberry Ridge ski trail has been in existence for about 33 years. It is one of the most popular and successful cross-country ski trails in Michigan. The "Friends of Blueberry Ridge", Superiorland Ski Club, and others, have supported this project.

The township's recreation plan was modified to include this project. In addition, some zoning modification was done. A number of public hearings were held with no opposition.

Mr. Kallio introduced several people with him today who support the Blueberry Ridge ski trail and the proposed warming hut project.

The project will be to build and maintain a warming hut at the Blueberry Ridge cross-country ski trails with lighted loop parking lot on the south side. Sands Township will partner with the DNR and community through existing invested groups.

Development of the warming hut would:

- Promote and enhance use of trails during the winter for area residents.
- Encourage tourism to area.
- Increase value of properties and desire for the area and generate revenue for economy.
- Provide winter activities such as skiing, snowshoeing, birding and tracking that can easily be accessed with existing trails.
- Blueberry Ridge ski trails are open and groomed all winter long.

Director Stokes stated he has visited this site and it is beautiful. The trails get a lot of use. He encouraged Board members to visit this area.

Several people attending the meeting with Mr. Kallio made brief comments in support of the warming hut project.

Ms. Shanna Draheim, Public Sector Consultants – Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) – Process and Updates

Ms. Shanna Draheim of Public Sector Consultants, outlined the process and updates in conjunction with developing the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for the DNR. Several public forums will be held throughout the state to gain input.

The SCORP is a five-year plan for outdoor recreation providers/decision-makers. It identifies outdoor recreation trends, needs and issues and lays out goals and priority strategies for achieving outdoor recreation goals and making investment decisions. The plan is required by the federal National Park Service to access Land and Water Conservation funding.

Steps that have been or will be taking place to obtain public input include:

- Local park and recreation administrator survey.
- Randomized public opinion survey.
- Online public survey.
- Five small community conversations in Kalamazoo, Detroit area, Traverse City, Cheboygan and Munising.
- Webinars or small group meetings in July.
- Meetings with related stakeholder committees.

These efforts to obtain public input will help shape the development of specific goals and strategies.

A summary of survey results included:

- Park and Recreation Administrator Survey - online survey was completed in March – 241 responses.
- Public Opinion Survey – 10- to 15-minute phone survey completed in April, total of 400 responses and was weighted to match demographics of state population.
- Online Public Survey – over 3,000 responses.

Key findings that were relayed as a result of the surveys were:

- Nearly 84% of Michigan residents feel outdoor recreation is very important or moderately important to them.
- Over half spent more than 100 days recreating outdoors.
- About 24% feel that children in their household participate less in outdoor recreation than they did as a child.
- Biggest limitations – dislike of pests, lack of time and money or health reasons.
- Top ten recreation activities are biking, camping, fishing, walking outdoors, hiking, outdoor games/sports, hunting or trapping, swimming, boating and visiting playgrounds.
- More than three-quarters are satisfied or very satisfied with amount and quality of outdoor recreation in Michigan.
- Thirteen percent felt the state does not need to improve outdoor recreation—doing a good job, with 8% identifying more advertising/marketing.
- Community needs identified as high priority were: trails, universal access, playgrounds, sports fields, picnic areas, access to lakes and rivers, undeveloped open space and swimming/water features.
- Communities plan to invest 72% in trails, 51% in universal access and 45% in outdoor playgrounds over the next five years.
- Recreation providers feel the state should be addressing trails, water access/development, redevelopment/maintenance of existing facilities and state/local partnerships.

Based on initial feedback from the surveys and other department plans, the DNR developed initial draft objectives for the 2013-2018 SCORP. Public opinion survey participants were asked whether they supported or did not support the draft 2013 objectives.

Public opinion responses were as follows:

- Increase individual awareness and appreciation for Michigan's natural resources (24%)
- Attract tourists (14%)
- Improve individual health (13%)
- Contribute to an individual's fun and relaxation (11%)
- Increase state economic development (10%)
- Attract new residents to the state (8%)
- Increase property values (6%)
- Other (5%)

Michigan's vast suite of outdoor recreation opportunities should be utilized to:

- Advance local and state economic development
- Attract tourists and new residents to the state
- Contribute to individuals' fun and relaxation
- Improve individual health
- Increase individual awareness and appreciation of Michigan's natural resources
- Cooperation/collaboration on the provision of outdoor recreation

Mr. Cummings asked when the SCORP was to be completed. Ms. Draheim responded by the end of this year.

Director Stokes stated that in the past the SCORP was prepared to receive federal Land and Water Conservation Fund monies. The dollar amount has been so low over the years that the last couple of SCORPs prepared were to just meet the federal obligation to receive these funds. What the DNR is trying to do this year is to utilize the SCORP process to drive where we are going as it relates to the MNRTF, the DNR and other funding sources. It is key to get people involved. There are wonderful spots to visit in this state and citizens and visitors need to be aware of them. The DNR wants to partner with local units of government to market these areas to the public.

Mr. Rich Bowman, Director of Government Relations, The Nature Conservancy – Update on Kamehameha Property

Mr. Rich Bowman, Director of Government Relations for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) provided a PowerPoint presentation of an update on the Kamehameha Property development rights that were acquired in phases.

The Kamehameha property is located in the Upper Peninsula. Mr. Bowman pointed out the property via a map on PowerPoint. The project ended up being just less than 250,000 acres. An easement is held by the DNR of 43,500 acres. TNC owns the Two-Hearted River Forest Reserve. This assures residents and visitors permanent access to numerous streams, rivers, ponds and lakes. It includes over 35,000 acres of unique wetlands habitats and provides buffers and linkages for over 2.5 million acres of state and federal forests, including Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Seney National Wildlife Refuge and Porcupine Mountains and Tahquamenon Falls State Parks.

In 2001, TNC learned that the King Kamehameha Trust owned a large amount of land in the Upper Peninsula and was for sale. A proposal was put together for the State of Michigan to buy these lands in fee simple. The land was offered for bids and a package was put together and the state's bid came in second. The lands were purchased by a timber investment management organization. Even though there was a new owner, there was an uncertainty as to what was going to happen to the lands and their impact. Discussions were held with donors of the original bid proposal to get them to agree to support acquisition of a working forest conservation easement. This began in 2002 and over the next eight years, private funding, public funding and donations were secured. There were four different closings between 2005 and 2010, which resulted in 247,000 acres.

TNC facilitated the closings and assisted the state with the acquisitions. In addition, via a memorandum with the DNR, TNC agreed to do the monitoring of the easements until 2012, whereas it would transfer to the State of Michigan. In February of 2012, the leadership of the monitoring transferred from TNC leading and DNR participating to DNR leading and TNC continuing to participate through this year.

Having these lands remain intact provide some ecological benefits, access benefits for the public, keeps the lands on the tax roll, lands keep producing timber and supporting jobs across the Upper Peninsula.

The total cost of the 247,000 acres of easement was over \$39 million. Of this \$39 million, the MNRTF provided \$16.1 million, the federal government's Forest Legacy Program \$9.5 million (over four years) and TNC raised from the private sector \$13.5 million. Thirteen million dollars was used by TNC as a cost-share to match the MNRTF and Forest Legacy funding. The remaining \$500,000 was used for appraisal costs and other expenses.

TNC bought 23,500 acres in fee simple of the Two-Hearted River Watershed in Luce County. TNC is the sixth largest owner of commercial forest land in the State of Michigan. Mr. Bowman provided the Board with a publication where this area was featured.

Mr. Karl Zueger, Assistant City Manager, City of Marquette – 12-030, McCarty's Cove Permanent Restrooms, City of Marquette

Mr. Karl Zueger, Assistant City Manager for the City of Marquette, made a presentation in support of the McCarty's Cove Permanent Restrooms project (12-030). He provided a handout for the Board's information.

The project would be to develop permanent restrooms at McCarty's Cove Park. This is the community's most popular recreation destination. The park has a bike path that connects several of the parks together. In addition, there is a youth playground facility as well as a beachfront.

The city has made a transformation of its waterfront from industrial to recreation. As a result, the city has developed a waterfront safety plan. This is an award-winning plan, and the Michigan Recreation and Park Association has looked at it as a model plan.

The left side of the current restroom is non-functional and the city is in dire need of a new facility.

This project is identified in the city's recreation plan as a high priority project.

IV. OLD BUSINESS.

2012 Application Review – Thumb Drives/Notebooks

Mr. Steve DeBrabander, Manager, Grants Management, DNR, advised the Board that they have received the option of having the 2012 MNRTF application materials in notebook or thumb drive format.

## “MNRTF Phase II: Refining the Vision for a New Era” – UPDATE

Mr. Cummings provided an update for the “MNRTF Phase II: Refining the Vision for a New Era.” At the last Board meeting, an informative session was held to discuss plans for the MNRTF in the future.

A strategic planning exercise is being proposed following the next Board meeting, if practical. The SCORP information will be used in the strategic planning.

Mr. Charters and Mr. Cummings have had discussions with staff in the Governor’s office to understand the current Constitutional latitude (Article 9, Section 35), which reads: “The amount accumulated in the Trust Fund in any state fiscal year shall not exceed \$500 million exclusive of interest and earnings and amounts authorized for expenditures pursuant to the section.” The question is: Does this limit the MNRTF’s ability to grow the corpus beyond \$500 million or does it establish a basis of \$500 million, assuming that all growth of the corpus from the date of reaching \$500 million forward are deemed to be interest and earnings.

Mr. Cummings further stated that the Board’s goal for the MNRTF is to be an entity in perpetuity. He also reminded the audience to keep reminding the public of what the MNRTF is all about. The MNRTF has twice been voted by the people of the state to keep it intact.

Chairperson Garner expressed his appreciation for all the work that Mr. Charters and Mr. Cummings had put into this issue.

## V. NEW BUSINESS.

### Update on MNRTF Staff Activities

Mr. DeBrabander advised the Board of the following updates on staff activities:

- MNRTF Recognition Signs – the signs are now completed, with order forms available online. The MNRTF sign is now \$209.80 and includes hardware for installation.

Director Stokes stated that these signs should be placed where people can actually see them.

- Application Site Inspections – staff is in the early stages of 2012 application site inspections. Preliminary scores will be sent out to applicants in September.
- Outreach Workshops – staff has been involved with the Michigan Place Making Tools Workshop, which includes five public departments (Michigan Economic Development Corporation, DNR, DEQ, MDOT and Michigan State Housing Development Authority) involved with grant programs. The first workshop was June 5, with two additional workshops to be held August 28 and November 7.

TF10-150, Coolbough Natural Areas Addition, Brooks Township – PROJECT WITHDRAWAL

TF06-020, Lake Lansing Trail, Ingham County – PROJECT WITHDRAWAL

**MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY DIRECTOR STOKES, TO ACCEPT THE WITHDRAWAL OF TF10-150, COOLBOUGH NATURAL AREAS ADDITION, BROOKS TOWNSHIP; AND TF06-020, LAKE LANSING TRAIL, INGHAM COUNTY. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

2012 MNRTF Applications – Invitations to Make Presentations at August Board Meeting in Lansing (Southern Lower Peninsula)

A list of proposed applicants to be invited to make a presentation at the August 15<sup>th</sup> Board meeting were provided in the Board package.

Chairperson Garner stated that if Board members wish to have any others invited, let Linda Harlow know by July 22, 2012.

VI. STATUS REPORTS.

DNR Real Estate Report – State Acquisitions

Mr. Joseph Frick, Assistant Chief, Finance and Operations Division, DNR, outlined the DNR Real Estate Report for the Board.

Mr. Frick advised the Board that Mr. Steve Sutton has been selected as the new Real Estate Services Section Manager. Mr. Sutton formerly worked in Fisheries Division.

Mr. Frick further stated that there will be a state land auction coming up. The DNR will be partnering with the Michigan Land Bank.

An audit report will be released today on the Real Estate Services Section.

Five acquisitions were completed since the Board's April 11, 2012 meeting: Siler Track, Petroglyphs Tract, Boomers-Foster Tract, Hendricks Tract and Ironwood to Bessemer Railroad Corridor and State Line Trail – State Trailways Initiative. Mr. Frick complimented Mr. Roger Storm of Real Estate Services Section for his work on the Ironwood to Bessemer Railroad Corridor acquisition.

MNRTF Financial Report

Mr. Frick outlined the MNRTF Financial Report for the Board. He advised the Board that there were no changes in figures from the last meeting. There will be some development lapses.

Mr. Charters asked about the ending balance as of September 30, 2011 of \$509,102,168. He wondered if we spend interest on the \$509,102,168 or \$500 million. Mr. Frick responded that we are multiplying the \$509 million figure times the 5%. One of the reasons for doing this, by building the interest it allows for more spending.

Mr. Charters also asked about “Public Act 89 of 2012 appropriates an additional \$2.2 million in MNRTF for payments in lieu of taxes. Treasury estimates FY 12 payments as \$1.1 million.” Mr. Frick responded that the projection for payments in lieu of taxes, from the final report, is estimated to be \$1,133,000, but \$2.2 million was appropriated.

Mr. Frick stated that the estimated amount that will be available for 2012 acquisition projects is \$17 million; however, there are not a lot of acquisition projects at this point.

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, August 15, 2012, Lansing Community College West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone, Lansing, Michigan.

IX. ADJOURNMENT.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:56 PM.

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

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Steven J. DeBrabander, Manager  
Grants Management

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DATE