

Michigan State Waterways Commission Special Meeting

-Eagle Lake Land Acquisition-

July 12, 2013



Mission Statement:

The Michigan State Waterways Commission works to provide safe public access to the Great Lakes and inland waters of the State of Michigan. Working with partners, the Commission oversees the use of dedicated funds provided by boaters for the acquisition, construction and operation of the infrastructure needed to support boating.

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Presenter:

Paul Yauk

on

Background and Acquisition Process



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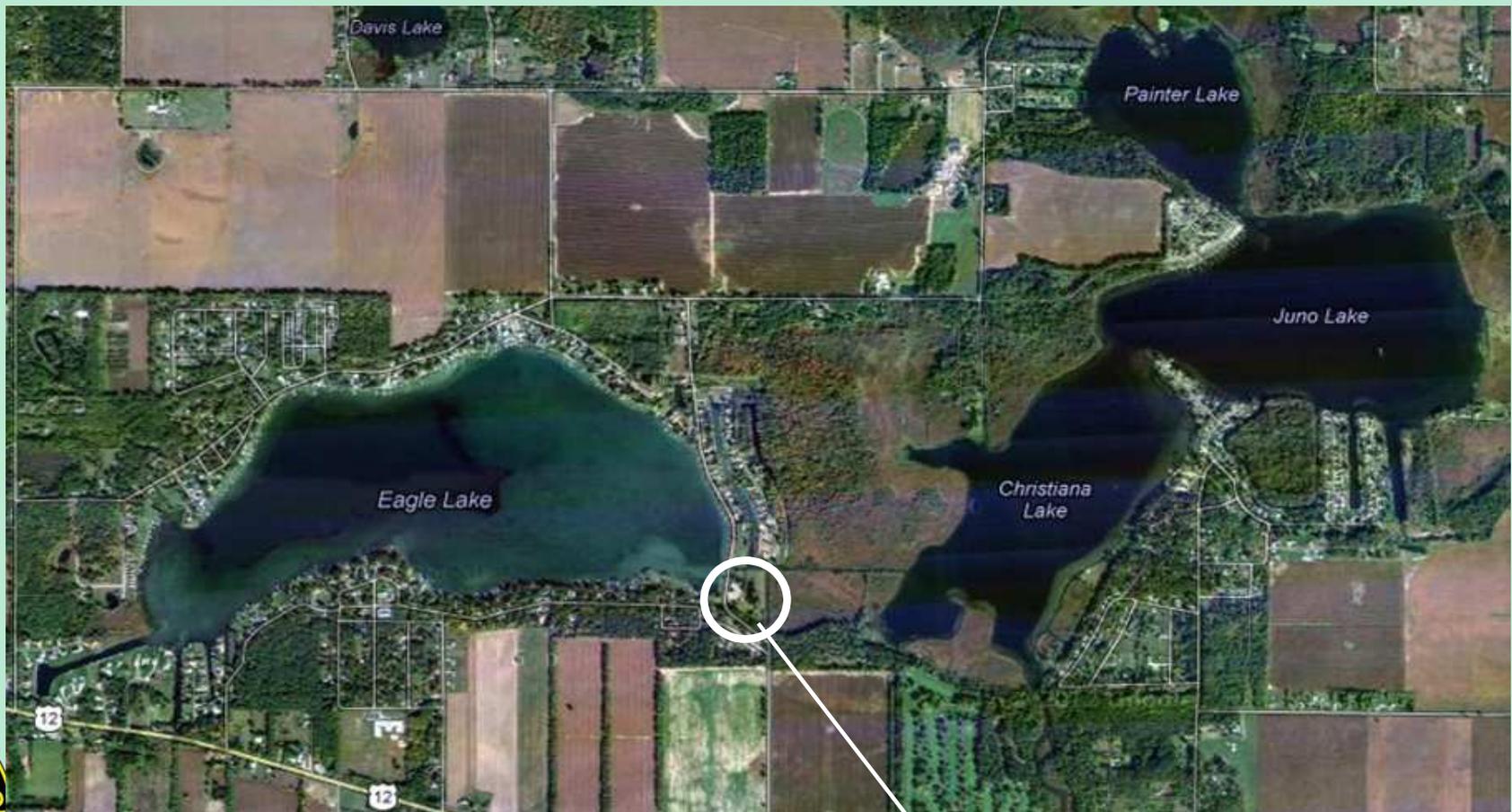
- Appointed by the Governor as an advisory committee to the DNR on matters related to the acquisition, development, and operation of Commission-sponsored public harbors, boating access sites, and locks/dams within the Michigan State Waterways Program.



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Location



Desired Property

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Lake Information, Lake Use, Carrying Capacity

- Public Trust Doctrine – public's right to use of public water.
- Only location on the lake regulated based on identified parking.
- Great variety of boating experiences (canoes, kayaks, fishing boats, sailboats, others):
 - Use patterns of vessels inconsistent; vary based on the time of day, season, fishing conditions, weather, boater preference, and other factors...determination of a capacity is unsupportable.
- Launch existed for 50 years (upwards of 70 vehicles with trailers in the parking lot witnessed). Development goals do not call for this many parking spaces.



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Lake Information, Lake Use, Carrying Capacity



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Lake Information, Lake Use, Carrying Capacity



Taken Thursday, July 4, 2013, 5:14pm



Taken Thursday, July 4, 2013, 5:14pm



Taken Saturday, July 6, 2013, 10am



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Acquisition Process and Land Ownership

- MDNR has been aware of property for sale for some time; property realtor approached the MDNR.
- Public Act 210 – Allows local units of government an opportunity to purchase the property and develop into a site in lieu of the State.
- Land size 9.62 acres.
- Most of ramp falls within same ownership as the structures and property across Eagle Lake Road. The road right-of-way does not include the entire ramp or pier that exists today per Cass County Road Commission.



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Local Gov't & Stakeholder Process/Involvement

- MDNR discussed/met multiple times with various entities including representatives from Cass County, Ontwa Township, Eagle Lake Improvement Association, and Painter/Juno/Christiana Lakes Association.
- Discussions centered on evaluation of the land for purchase and development of a boating access site and opportunity for additional components consistent with a park facility.
- Discussions with Ontwa Township have included zoning requirements
- Township would be willing to work with the MDNR in regard to development of a boating access site and compliance with Township zoning.



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Local Gov't & Stakeholder Process/Involvement

- Sept. 10, 2012 DNR met with Twp reps. and Eagle Lk Impr. Assoc.
- Oct. 7, 2012 DNR attended Twp. All Lakes Coalition meeting
- March 19, 2013 DNR met with Twp, County, and DEQ on site
- April 11, 2013 DNR sends letters to both Twp. and County (PA 210)
- May 17, 2013 DNR met with 2 lake associations and County rep.
- May 30, 2013 Public Open House
- May 30, 2013 June 6, 2013 Collected public comments
- July 12, 2013 Michigan State Waterways Commission Special Meeting
- July 18, 2013 Cass County Rd. Commission Meeting
- August 7, 2013 Ontwa Township Planning Commission Meeting
- August 8, 2013 Natural Resources Commission Meeting



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Presenter:

Jordan Byelich

on

Planning and Development



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Other Launching Facilities, Studies, Demand

- Other locations have been evaluated and do not provide sufficient space.



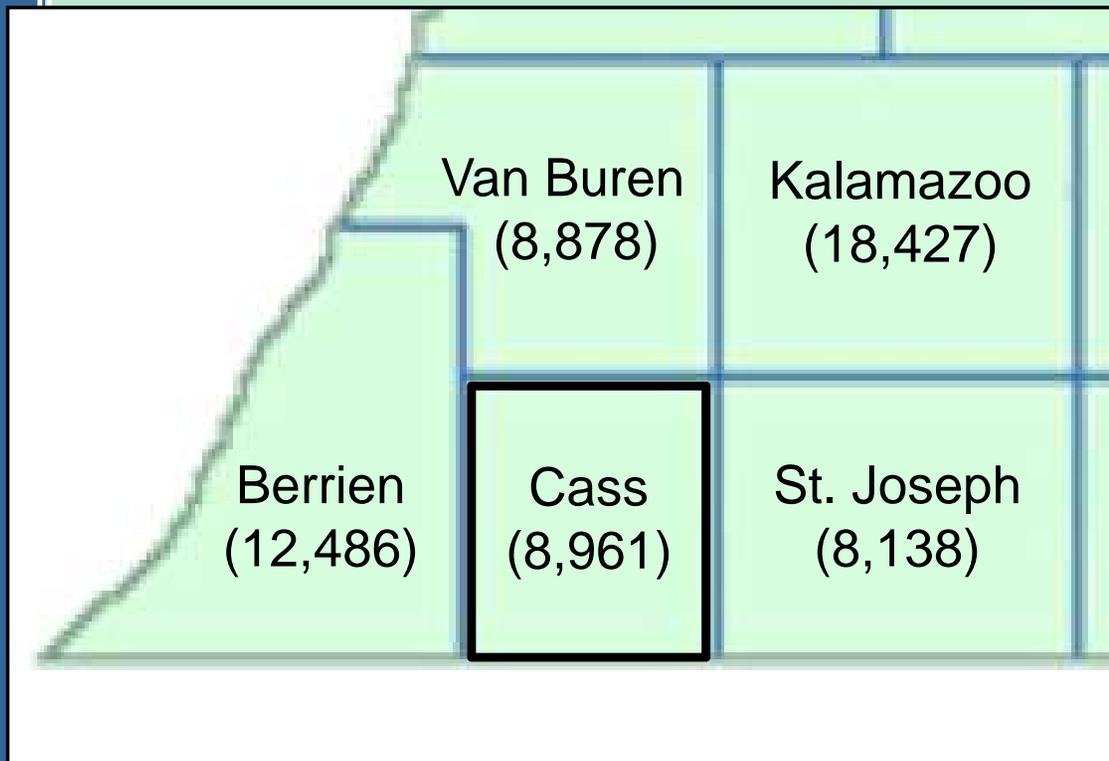
- Lack of space creates concern for public safety.
- Locally initiated petition was provided to MDNR with 342 signatures of support.
- Need/demand for Eagle Lake is very high. One of largest lakes (at 379 acres) in Cass County without a public boating access site.



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Other Launching Facilities, Studies, Demand



Region

a. 56,890 registered watercraft

Cass County

a. 8,961 registered watercraft

b. 22 public boating access sites

c. 279 parking spaces

Note: Registration data per May, 2013

**Equates to 32 registrations/space & not including out of county users*



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Planning and Design

- Land is assessed by researching lake information (size, depth, connectivity to other lakes), wetland presence on site, size and shape of parcel, fisheries, proximity to public road system, number of registered watercraft in county and region, and other factors.
- Boating access site includes a launch ramp, parking area, and maneuver area. (typical “public access” such as a road ending may provide only some of these features).
- Must adhere to all Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) permitting requirements to ensure a viable and safe facility, and protect the natural environment.



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Planning and Design

Adequate Water Depth



Taken Thursday, July 4, 2013, 5:10pm



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Road Influence

- Property on the lake side of Eagle Lake Road has considerable lake frontage and may offer opportunity for an entrance lane.
- Combined with a parking lot layout to support the flow of traffic, would reduce the conflict of stacking on Eagle Lake road.
- Proposed goals to improve road safety include:
 - Clear a portion of the vegetation on site near curve in Eagle Lake Road to create clear vision for traffic.
 - Look to partner with the County for signage.
 - Entrance lane for launching to be located off of Eagle Lake Road.
 - Relocation of vehicles/trailers using Eagle Lake Road for parallel parking.



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Planning and Design - Conceptual



Site/Park Features (Conceptual)

- Boat Ramps (2)
- Maneuver Areas (2)
- Parking for vehicles with trailers
 - Eagle Lake (estimate 25)
 - Channel (estimate 10)
- Fishing Pond
 - Access Pier
 - Vehicle Parking (estimate 10)
- Toilet Facility
- Natural Areas/Buffers
- Shelter Building
- Boat Washing Station
- ADA Compliance

DRAFT 6/19/2013



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Environmental, Invasive Species, Fisheries

- As a public boating access site it will meet DEQ requirements, minimize and manage storm water runoff, and promote several natural buffers.
- Due to existing access points, invasive species risk established for several years (also natural transfer of invasive species by birds and other animals).
- MDNR posts invasive species signage on site and in several free publications.
- MDNR can work with lake associations to post relevant information.
- Partner with group to develop and operate a boat washing station.
- More priority placed on lakes with public boating access for fisheries monitoring, stocking programs, and other initiatives.

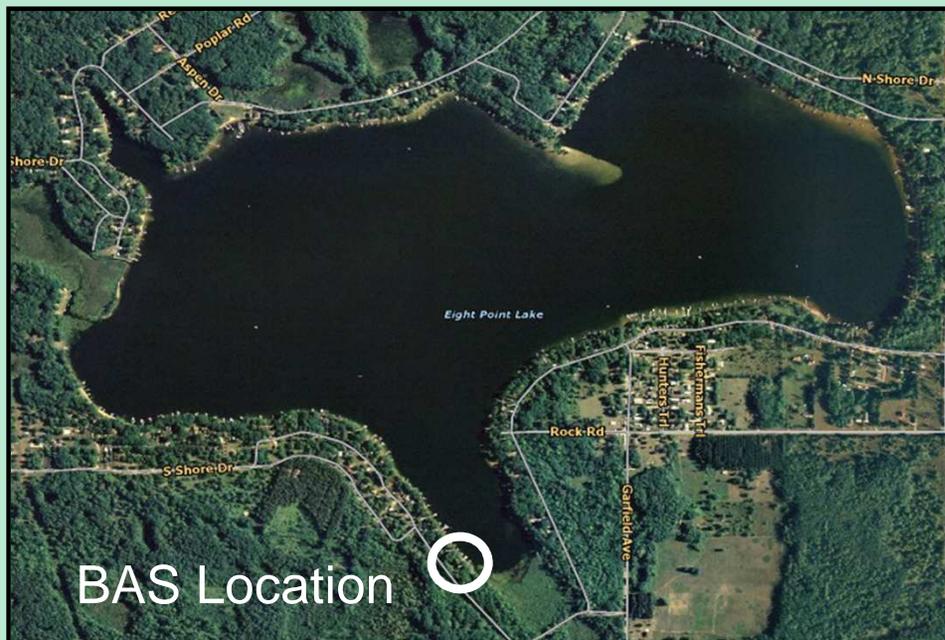


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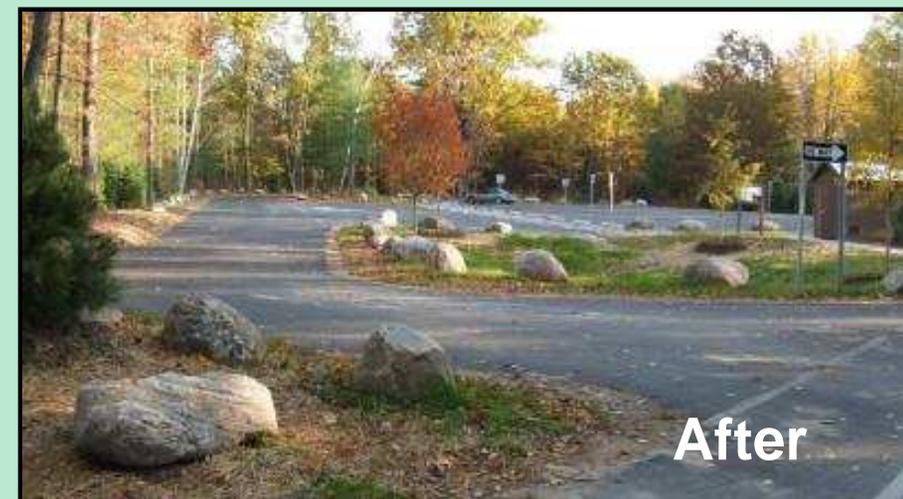


Comparison Analysis

Comparable Location - Eight Point Lake BAS, Clare County



Before



After

- Lake approx. 400 acres
- No prior public BAS present
- One private launching location



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Funding

- Purchase price is \$600,000 – Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund's Southwest Eco-Regional Land Consolidation fund.
- No Waterways Program funding used for the purchase of the property.
- Funding for the development, operation, and maintenance of a boating access site is slated to come from the Michigan State Waterways Program.
- No funding to come from the State's General (tax) fund.



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Presenter:

**Rollie Johnson
on
Operations and Security**



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Present Condition



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Present Condition



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Site Operation and Maintenance

- Operation and maintenance would be handled by MDNR staff, with typical general maintenance tasks performed twice per week.
- MDNR has leased site operations and maintenance to local units of government.
- Onsite attendant is possible and beneficial and can depend on anticipated use patterns, site security, and other factors.
- Site overuse can be controlled through signage, the cooperation of state & local enforcement officers, land use orders of the director, and through local site rules such as night-time site closures.



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Law Enforcement and Marine Safety

- Cooperative effort between MDNR Rangers and COs and local agencies.
- Option to work with MDNR on creation of local watercraft controls.
- 49% of Michigan's watercraft registration revenue used for Marine Safety on Michigan waters (includes State grant funds for local enforcement).
- Development includes a dedicated parking space for authorized personnel such as law enforcement (does not exist currently).
- Site promotes safety by directing boating access to a select area versus boat launching at various, less supportive access points.



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Thank You

