

# MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

### DRAFT MINUTES

October 20, 2021  
Outdoor Adventure Center  
Detroit, Michigan

Chair McDonough called the meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board of Trustees (Board) to order at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 20, 2021, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Linda Walter, the [Outdoor Adventure Center](#) Director, welcomed everyone and gave a brief history and overview of the center and some of the newer exhibits. She encouraged everyone to visit and tour the center, either after the meeting or at another time with their friends or family. She also thanked the MNRTF Board for contributing to the success of the center through their investment with various trust fund grants.

#### I. INTRODUCTIONS

The following Board members were present:

Erin McDonough, Chair; from the City of Williamston, Ingham County  
Sam Cummings, Vice-Chair; from the City of Grand Rapids, Kent County  
Steve Hamp; from the City of Ann Arbor, Ingham County  
Bill Rustem; from Alaiedon Township, Ingham County  
Dan Eichinger, DNR Director; from the Village of Lake Isabella, Isabella County

Dan Lord, Grants Management Section Manager, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), introduced himself and the following staff also introduced themselves: Jon Mayes, MNRTF Grants Program Manager; Mike Chuff, MNRTF Financial Specialist; Andrea Stay, Merrie Carlock, and Alexandria McBride, Grant Coordinators. Erik Eklund, Chief Budget Officer, and Lindsay Ross, grant coordinator, were unable to attend the meeting. The assistant to the Board, Yolanda Taylor, participated via conference call.

Also participating were various staff members of the DNR and other interested parties.

#### II. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF AUGUST 18, 2021

Chair McDonough called for adoption of the minutes for the August 18, 2021, MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY HAMP, SUPPORTED BY RUSTEM, TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 18, 2021, MNRTF BOARD MEETING. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

#### III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF OCTOBER 20, 2021

Chair McDonough called for the adoption of the agenda for the October 20, 2021, MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY EICHINGER, SUPPORTED BY CUMMINGS, TO ADOPT THE  
AGENDA FOR THE OCTOBER 20, 2021, MNRTF BOARD MEETING.  
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

**Chris Bunch, Executive Director, Six Rivers Land Conservancy**

On behalf of the Six Rivers Land Conservancy's host committee, Chris Bunch welcomed the Board and staff and thanked them for their participation in the tour of the City of Detroit and outlying areas on Tuesday, October 19, 2021. They were grateful for the opportunity to showcase some of the fabulous work that is taking place to create parks, link trails, and connect people to exceptional outdoor recreation opportunities.

Chris then played a video of several partnership organizations thanking the Board for their support in creating beautiful outdoor spaces in metro-Detroit and southeast Michigan. The partnership organizations included: Belle Isle Conservancy, Chandler Park Conservancy, City of Detroit, Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, Detroit Parks Coalition, Six Rivers Land Conservancy, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, Midwest Civic Council of Block Clubs, Greater Southern Baptist Church, Heart of the Lakes, Henry Ford Health System, Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance, Huron-Clinton Metroparks, Detroit Parks and Recreation, SEMCOG, and Wayne County Parks. Other partners include county and city governments, their parks and recreation departments, and non-profits. The video also highlighted existing and future projects such as Valade Park, Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Centennial Park, Riverside Park, the Joe Louis Greenway and Romanowski Park, Patton Park, Rogell Park, the Brennan Pool, Splash Pad, Scout Hollow and Prairie Pathway at Rogue Park, and the Parkland Recreation Area, Rouge Gateway Trailhead, and Rouge River Gateway Greenway in Dearborn.

The Board thanked Six Rivers and their partners for coordinating the tours and hosting the meeting in Detroit. It has been a long time since they have been able to get out and engage with the public, so they enjoyed the interaction.

**Janet Briles, Grant/Recreation Coordinator, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority**

Janet Briles thanked the Board for participating in the tours in and around the Detroit area. They cover five counties so there are many more projects that they were unable to show the Board.

**TF21-0138 - Belle River Acquisition, City of Marine City (St. Clair County)**

*Jeff Bohm, Chair, St. Clair County Board of Commissioners*

Jeff Bohm gave a presentation on this project and asked the Board for their support.

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$272,000	(74%)
Matching Funds:	\$ 96,000	(26%)
Total Project Cost:	\$368,000	

**TF21-0156 – Linwood Scenic Access Site, Fraser Township (Bay County)**

*Laura Ogar, Director, Bay County Environmental Affairs and Community Development*

Laura Ogar, on behalf of the Township of Fraser, gave a presentation on this project and asked the Board for their support. The Visitors Bureau could not be present.

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$258,000	(50%)
Matching Funds:	\$258,000	(50%)
Total Project Cost:	\$516,000	

**TF21-0122 – Pinckney and Waterloo Recreation Area Land Consolidation Acquisition (Jackson, Livingston, and Washtenaw Counties)**

*Dennis Brennan, Putnam Township Supervisor; and Coy Vaughn, Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Director*

Dennis Brennan, Putnam Township Supervisor, gave a brief overview and asked the Board for their support of this project.

Coy Vaughn commented that this project was another innovative idea from DNR Parks and Recreation Chief Ron Olson, by piecing together parcels of land and consolidating state ownership spanning three counties. The DNR did not have the resources to acquire the land, so Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation utilized their Natural Area Preservation Program to purchase the 33 acres in Washtenaw County, which is currently being held with the assistance of The Conservation Fund. If the Board approves of this project, their intent is to transfer the property to the DNR once the transaction is complete.

DNR Parks and Recreation will give a full presentation of this project under Item VII of the Agenda.

**TF21-0022 – Lake Huron Coastal Preserve Acquisition (Iosco County)**

*Stephanie Wentworth, Alabaster Township Supervisor*

The Alabaster Township Supervisor was unable to attend so this Public Comment was cancelled.

**Andrea Denham, Executive Director, Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy**

*Upper Peninsula Land/Resource Conservation Barriers and Considerations*

Andrea Denham gave a brief overview of her background as the Executive Director of the Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy. She has been the Executive Director for two years and basically attended the meeting to listen and learn about the Trust Fund process and build relationships. Their conservancy is 22 years old and is the only Upper Peninsula-based, Upper Peninsula-wide conservancy that is accredited by the Land Trust Alliance. They currently protect 6,260 acres of land covering twelve counties. Andrea listed various preservation projects they have been involved with in the Upper Peninsula.

Andrea further commented about the struggles they face. With over 33% of Michigan’s land mass and less than 3% of the state population, they struggle with adequate resources to manage the land base of the Upper Peninsula. Land-based recreation and tourism to the Upper Peninsula has increased significantly in the past three to five years and greatly accelerated during the pandemic, further draining their resources. Therefore, she asked the Board for the following considerations:

- Acquisition of critical lands in the Upper Peninsula needs to happen now; their window is closing. With the current and future effects of climate change, development, demographic shifts, and the influx of people moving to the Upper Peninsula, they are already seeing a massive and staggering shift of land changing hands. Also, with remote work opportunities, people moving to the Upper Peninsula will only increase, further straining the resources. The time for permanent preservation of lands in the Upper Peninsula is now.
- The definitions of public use, public access and recreational use at times need to be considered under different circumstances, especially in the Upper Peninsula. She is hoping as a conservation community they can come up with more clarified definitions of what those uses mean, especially under differing circumstances.

Andrea closed by stating she is looking forward to building relationships with those she met on the tour and at the meeting, and especially with the Board to get more work accomplished together.

**Amy Trotter, Executive Director, Michigan United Conservation Clubs**

*Support of Wildlife Division's proposed acquisitions TF21-0161, Portland State Game Area, and TF21-0162, Berrien Springs State Game Area*

Amy Trotter, on behalf of their 40,000 members around the state, expressed her enthusiastic support of the two proposed state game area acquisitions; the 66-acre addition to the Portland State Game Area (TF21-0161) and the 837-acre acquisition for the Berrien Springs State Game Area (TF21-0162).

She further commented that the perception is that all hunters and anglers recreate in northern Michigan or the Upper Peninsula when, in reality, there are many that live within all areas of the state. Southwest Michigan is home to many of their active affiliate clubs, and hunters and anglers of all types, but is lacking in public lands. These two projects will be a great investment to bring more outdoor recreation to southern Michigan. Access, time, and location are the key barriers to preventing people from getting outdoors. Hunters and anglers spend nearly \$11.2 billion annually pursuing their passions in our state. These two acquisitions will greatly diminish those barriers in southern Michigan.

Director Eichinger thanked the MUCC for their critical role in securing private funding towards the Crystal Waters acquisition to create a new state game area in Monroe County.

**V. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS**

Karen Enriquez, Project Manager for the City of Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Department, gave the Board a presentation on the following trust fund applications:

TF21-0024 (Segment 1), TF21-0025 (Segment 2), TF21-0026 (Segment 3), and TF21-0028 (Segment 4) - Development of Rivers Edge Trail Leonard to Ann (Kent County); and TF21-0049 – Plaza Roosevelt Acquisition (Kent County)

TF21-0024 (Segment 1)		
MNRTF Grant Request:	\$ 300,000	(21%)
Matching Funds:	\$1,082,200	(79%)
Total Project Cost:	\$1,382,200	

TF21-0025 (Segment 2)		
MNRTF Grant Request:	\$ 300,000	(25%)
Matching Funds:	\$ 891,900	(75%)
Total Project Cost:	\$1,191,900	

TF21-0026 (Segment 3)		
MNRTF Grant Request:	\$300,000	(51%)
Matching Funds:	\$287,800	(49%)
Total Project Cost:	\$587,800	

TF21-0028 (Segment 4)		
MNRTF Grant Request:	\$ 300,000	(22%)
Matching Funds:	\$1,087,200	(78%)
Total Project Cost:	\$1,387,200	

TF21-0049		
MNRTF Grant Request:	\$49,200	(50%)
Matching Funds:	\$49,300	(50%)
Total Project Cost:	\$98,500	

Cummings commented that he has been involved in the Rivers Edge Trail by raising private matching funds and through the Iron Belle Trail Fund. He is not sure if this means he has a conflict or not, but he will defer to the Board on their decision surrounding this project and these four grant applications.

VI. MICHIGAN STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP)  
*Brad Garmon, Director, DNR Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry*

Brad Garmon introduced himself and his role as the Director of the DNR Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry. The office was created two years ago and, in partnership with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), works to expand the outdoor recreation economy in the state, build awareness about the importance and value of the businesses - large or small - that comprise the industry, attract and retain businesses and entrepreneurships, collaborate with industry partners to anticipate emerging recreational trends, promote outdoor recreation activities across the state, and create support for the stewardship of Michigan’s natural resources. The Outdoor Recreation Advisory Council makes recommendations to his office, the DNR and MEDC on ways to improve partnerships, collaborative strategies and policies that will increase the outdoor recreation economy, employment, and consumer spending, while supporting conservation and public recreation assets.

In Michigan, outdoor recreation contributed \$10.1 billion in value-added gross domestic product, 123,569 jobs, and \$4.7 billion in compensation. Michigan’s outdoor recreation economy ranks 13<sup>th</sup> largest in the United States, is 5<sup>th</sup> in boating/fishing, and 8<sup>th</sup> in RVing.

Michigan’s Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is a five-year strategic plan that helps shape investments by the State of Michigan and local communities in priority outdoor recreation infrastructure and programming. It is designed to evaluate ongoing and emerging outdoor trends, needs, and issues, and establish priority strategies for achieving outdoor recreation goals. The state and its local outdoor recreation partners utilize the SCORP as an ongoing framework and action plan for guiding their outdoor recreation management and policy decisions.

The department is required to update the SCORP every five years. The 2023-2027 SCORP will focus on economic development, conservation and stewardship, public health and wellness, education and workforce, as well as diversity, equity and inclusion in the outdoor recreation industry. The current plan expires at the end of 2022.

A SCORP core team has been established to work on the 2023-2027 plan, made up of various department representatives, including staff from the Grants Management Section and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Brad shared the timeline for updating the SCORP, with the goal of making it available for public comment beginning in May 2022, and having a final draft submitted to the National Park Service (NPS) for their review and approval by September 2022. The SCORP is also required by the NPS for the department to continue to access Land and Water Conservation funds.

Market Decisions Research will conduct a survey, on a regional basis, to collect the following information:

- Progress against prior SCORP goals;
- The impact of available infrastructure and resources;
- Public health outcomes of outdoor recreation;
- Economic impact of outdoor recreation; and
- Demographic and attitudinal characteristics.

The outreach survey is designed to be an address-based sampling of Michigan residents with a minimum of 2,300 surveys statewide with specific regional targets. Those targets span from Detroit to the western Upper Peninsula with a goal of obtaining reliable information about the entire population and giving regions specific guidance on what people in their regions are doing or would like to do, and what barriers there may be to outdoor recreation access in their communities. Also, COVID caused the highest jump in outdoor recreation that the industry has ever seen. The survey will also gather information on how much the state saves annually in health care costs, and the net economic value or impact of outdoor recreation (i.e. use versus value) for all recreational activities (i.e. how much is a hunting trip worth and how does it contribute to the economy, etc.).

Brad also added that cultural and religious activities will be added to the survey to determine how to define outdoor recreation with changing trends that allow for and incorporate diversity and inclusion. The goal is to get down to the regional levels. Northeast Michigan is going to look and feel a lot different than southeast Michigan, for example.

Bill Rustem commented that the SCORP survey results would be very useful to the Board to understand those regional, cultural, and differing trends. Dan Lord responded that the survey data results will be presented to the Board for their review to determine how they may influence the Board's decisions moving forward. Brad added that they would provide the preliminary data once it is received.

The Board thanked Brad Garmon for the update.

## VII. PRESENTATIONS FROM 2021 DNR GRANT APPLICANTS

Chair McDonough announced the Board will receive five presentations on thirteen DNR trust fund grant applications but, first, they are going to hear about two significant land acquisitions that were recently approved by the DNR Director.

She asked all presenters to adhere to their time. Questions by the Board were addressed during each presentation.

1. Opening Remarks and Recent Acquisitions

*Scott Whitcomb, DNR Senior Advisor for Wildlife and Public Lands*

Scott Whitcomb notified the Board that, since his last presentation at the June 16, 2021, meeting, the department's Public Land Strategy was published and submitted to the Legislature. He provided the Board with an abbreviated version of the Public Land Strategy. Scott has made a few presentations to the house committee on the Public Land Strategy. It is their hope that it will soon be taken up by the Senate and approved by the Legislature.

Scott also commented that land acquisitions, consolidations, and providing new opportunities are important components of the department's land strategy. This Board plays an integral part in that process. Two prime examples include the following MNRTF acquisitions that were approved by the Board and recently approved by the DNR Director:

a. **TF21-0184 – Lake Michigan Dune and Swale Complex (Delta County); DNR Forest Resources**

This 955.38-acre acquisition was approved by the DNR Director at the October 14, 2021, Natural Resources Commission meeting. This acquisition provides a critical connection between two large blocks of state forest land and includes a winter deeryard complex. It provides an additional 1.5 miles of frontage on the Lake Michigan shoreline, 220 acres of wooded dune and swale complex, 27 acres of sand dunes, 308 acres of wetlands, and the entirety of Little Sucker Lake. Recreational opportunities will include hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, snowmobiling, and birdwatching as it is located on a flyway for migrating songbirds and raptors and provides habitat for these birds.

b. **TF16-0115, Crystal Waters Land Acquisition (Monroe County); DNR Wildlife**

This 680.16-acre acquisition was approved by the DNR Director at the May 13, 2021, Natural Resources Commission meeting. This transaction closed on September 20, 2021. This acquisition will create a new state game area in southeast Michigan that will be managed for deer, turkey, small game, and waterfowl habitat. It will also provide hunting, fishing, and passive outdoor recreation opportunities in this underserved region of the state.

The October 2021 DNR Trust Fund applications presented include:

2. Scott Whitcomb, on behalf of DNR Forest Resources

a. **TF21-0185 – Sturgeon River Corridor Acquisition (Otsego County)**

440-acre acquisition within the Pigeon River Country State Forest.

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$1,700,000	(100%)
Matching Funds:	\$ 0	( 0%)
Total Project Cost:	\$1,700,000	

3. Scott Whitcomb, on behalf of DNR Wildlife

a. **TF21-0161 – Portland State Game Area Acquisition (Ionia County)**

66-acre acquisition that will provide access along the Grand River within the Portland State Game Area.

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$350,000	(100%)
Matching Funds:	\$ 0	( 0%)
Total Project Cost:	\$350,000	

b. **TF21-0162 – Berrien Springs State Game Area Acquisition (Berrien County)**

837-acre acquisition that would create a new state game area in southwest Michigan.

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$4,700,000	(100%)
Matching Funds:	\$ 0	( 0%)
Total Project Cost:	\$4,700,000	

c. **TF21-0163 - Gourneck State Game Area Phase II Development (Kalamazoo County)**

Development project within the Gourneck State Game Area to make improvements and renovations.

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$300,000	(100%)
Matching Funds:	\$ 0	( 0%)
Total Project Cost:	\$300,000	

4. Matt Lincoln, Land Specialist, DNR Parks and Recreation

Matt first highlighted the counties where the DNR Parks and Recreation Division has submitted grant applications for 2021. He presented seven of their most significant projects.

a. **TF21-0122 – Pinckney and Waterloo Recreation Area Land Consolidation Acquisition (Jackson, Livingston, and Washtenaw Counties)**

403.8-acre acquisition of four separate parcels in Jackson, Livingston, and Washtenaw counties to consolidate land ownership within the Pinckney and Waterloo Recreation Areas. All parcels are currently threatened with development.

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$3,750,000	(100%)
Matching Funds:	\$ 0	( 0%)
Total Project Cost:	\$3,750,000	

Matt then provided a list of all development projects that the DNR Parks and Recreation Division has submitted, but only presented the following six development projects:

**b. TF21-0042 – Pinckney Recreation Area Potawatomi Trail Renovation (Washtenaw County)**

Development project to address erosion along the trail.

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$300,000	(100%)
Matching Funds:	\$ 0	( 0%)
Total Project Cost:	\$300,000	

**c. TF21-0044 – Fort Custer Recreation Area Kalamazoo River Valley Trail Development (Kalamazoo County)**

Development of a 1.5-mile paved, regional non-motorized trail along the northern portion of the Fort Custer Recreation Area.

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$300,000	(43%)
Matching Funds:	\$400,000	(57%)
Total Project Cost:	\$700,000	

**d. TF21-0046 – William G. Milliken State Park Accessible Berm Development (Wayne County)**

Development project to address erosion and create a paved pathway for scenic viewing of the Detroit River with fitness stations.

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$300,000	(100%)
Matching Funds:	\$ 0	( 0%)
Total Project Cost:	\$300,000	

**e. TF21-0047 - Lime Island Recreation Area Renewable Energy Development (Chippewa County)**

Proposed replacement of existing solar shingles and energy storage for four cabins, and expand solar capacity for the island's water and sewer pumps.

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$300,000	(100%)
Matching Funds:	\$ 0	( 0%)
Total Project Cost:	\$300,000	

**f. TF21-0082 – Mitchell State Park Restroom Building Replacement (Wexford County)**

Proposed replacement of existing toilet/shelter building at the Lake Mitchell day-use swimming beach area and improvement of access. This project was reviewed and endorsed by the DNR's Accessibility Advisory Council.

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$300,000	(50%)
Matching Funds:	\$300,000	(50%)
Total Project Cost:	\$600,000	

Director Eichinger asked the division to address the traffic flow and parking area issues that exist with this day-use area in the next phase. Matt responded that the division is looking at

the day-use area holistically and planning for those improvements as part of these upgrades.

**g. TF21-0050 – Douglass Houghton Falls Scenic Site Development (Houghton County)**

Proposed development of a scenic overlook and viewing site at the falls.

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$300,000	(49%)
Matching Funds:	\$315,000	(51%)
Total Project Cost:	\$615,000	

**5. Paul Stowe, Natural Resources Manager, DNR Fisheries**

**a. TF21-0153 – Platte River State Fish Hatchery Accessibility, Interpretive and Solar Improvements (Benzie County)**

Development grant for accessibility, interpretive signage, and solar improvements at the fish hatchery. This project was reviewed and endorsed by the DNR’s Accessibility Advisory Council in 2019, and the hatchery had a site assessment endorsed by the Disability Network of Northern Michigan.

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$300,000	(100%)
Matching Funds:	\$ 0	( 0%)
Total Project Cost:	\$300,000	

**6. Sandra Clark, Chief, DNR Michigan Historical Center**

**a. TF21-0123 – Straits State Park Learning Center Construction (Mackinac County)**

Development grant for the construction of a new Learning Center to provide interpretation using active encounters with nature and culture built on Anishinaabe and French heritage, in partnership with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$300,000	(49%)
Matching Funds:	\$311,900	(51%)
Total Project Cost:	\$611,900	

Steve Hamp applauded the decision to house the Michigan History Center within the DNR. There is so much rich history in this state, so it ties well with the department’s mission of preserving pristine, historical sites around the state, and Michigan’s history.

Vice-Chair Cummings took over as Chair McDonough had to leave the meeting early. He asked if there were any additional comments or questions regarding the presentations; none were offered.

The Board thanked the presenters and department staff for the presentations.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Development Program Data and Population**

Dan Lord commented that these data sets have been presented to the Board periodically

throughout the year to help them gain an understanding of how many grant applicants have been successful, or unsuccessful, in obtaining grant funding geographically around the state. At the last presentation, the Board asked for additional information based on population.

Based on the Board's request, Dan presented information regarding only development applications that have been granted from 2014 through 2020 that identified the applicants, the number of applications submitted during this time period, the counties, and population based on the 2010 census. The data also identified grants that have been awarded by applicant, the total number of grants awarded to each successful applicant, the county, total grant awards (in dollars), and populations, as well as unsuccessful applicants, the number of applications submitted, total dollar amounts and population. The information provided involved local grants only; it did not include any state projects. This information also does not include scoring or federally funded projects. This interactive information will assist the Board in making their decision in December and provide flexibility with funding development projects for 2021, especially since the passage of Proposal 1.

Director Eichinger commented that this data provides the grant coordinators with insight into those communities that may need assistance with filing grant applications to make them more successful. It also provides the Board with valuable information moving into their decision-making process in December to be more sensitive to those under-represented communities, and ensure the Board is being fair and equitable in the distribution of funding for projects geographically around the state.

## 2. Withdrawal of Projects

The following project withdrawal was presented to the Board for approval:

- TF17-0183 – Letts Creek Linear Park, City of Chelsea (Washtenaw County)  
Grant Amount: \$130,700

Jon Mayes reported that this withdrawal is a result of the property changing hands, and the new owner's unwillingness to grant an easement.

Vice-Chair Cummings asked if there were any additional questions regarding the withdrawal request. No additional information or questions were offered.

Vice-Chair Cummings called for a motion to accept the withdrawal of this grant application.

**MOVED BY RUSTEM, SUPPORTED BY EICHINGER, TO ADOPT  
WITHDRAWAL OF TF17-0183 – LETTS CREEK LINEAR PARK, CITY OF  
CHELSEA (WASHTENAW COUNTY); TOTALING \$130,700.  
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

## 3. Update on MNRTF Staff Activities

Dan Lord thanked Six Rivers and their partners for the site visit tour to help the Board and department staff understand the importance of their projects, and for hosting the Board meeting. He also thanked all presenters, department staff, Board members and the public for making the trip to Detroit to participate in the meeting.

He also reminded the Board that the annual consensus meeting with the House and Senate Appropriation Chairs, the Governor's Office, the Director, and the Michigan Department of Treasury is scheduled for November 29, 2021, which also requires one member of the Board to be present.

Bill Rustem volunteered. Vice-Chair Cummings nominated Bill Rustem to participate in the consensus meeting; all Board members were in favor.

Dan further reported that all supplementals have been received so staff has been busy with the final scoring of grant applications for 2021. A final list of recommended Trust Fund projects for 2021 will be provided to the Board for decision-making at the December meeting. They will also be submitting their 2021 recommendations on Land and Water Conservation and Recreation Passport funding to the Director.

In closing, Dan reported the department is conducting its fiscal year-end closing. Many thanks to Mike Chuff and his financial team for pushing through year-end closing. The section is also working on putting three new programs into the MiGrants system, and they are starting to have conversations about holding grant workshops in January and/or February 2021.

He also mentioned the department is continuing to have conversations with the Legislature on the American Recovery Plan dollars that the Governor announced for state parks (\$250 million) and local parks (\$150 million).

Director Eichinger reported that the department is in the same place it was in August. They are still waiting to hear further from the Legislature on an operating budget or supplementals. In the meantime, they are doing a lot of work internally to identify capital outlay projects so they will be prepared and ready to move forward when further direction is announced by the Legislature. The dollars must be obligated within three years and can only be applied to capital outlay improvements. The funds cannot be allocated toward acquisitions. The Director will provide updates as new information is received.

Vice-Chair Cummings asked where the Department of Treasury is on year-end figures. Dan Lord responded they are currently crunching the numbers and should have preliminary figures available around mid-November.

#### IX. BOARD PACKET REFERENCE MATERIALS

- MNRTF Financial Report
- DNR Real Estate Report – MNRTF State Acquisitions
- MNRTF Completed Projects Report
- MNRTF Open Projects Status Report

Vice-Chair Cummings asked the Board if they had any questions regarding the reference materials; none were offered.

#### X. OTHER MATTERS AS PROPERLY BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD

None.

#### XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice-Chair Cummings announced the next meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board is scheduled for Wednesday, December 1, 2021, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The meeting is currently scheduled to be held in Lansing. Information regarding the location and format of the meeting will be posted on the Board's website.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

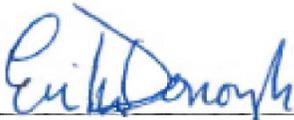
Vice-Chair Cummings asked for additional comments or discussion. None were offered.

He then asked for a motion to adjourn.

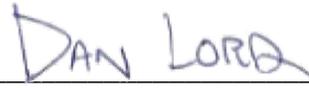
**MOVED BY EICHINGER, SUPPORTED BY HAMP, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

Vice-Chair Cummings thanked the Board members, department staff, presenters, and the public for attending, and also thanked the Six Rivers Land Conservancy and the Outdoor Adventure Center for hosting the meeting and the tour.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.



Erin McDonough, Chairperson  
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund  
Board of Trustees



Dan Lord, Manager  
Grants Management Section  
DNR Finance and Operations Division

12/06/2021

DATE