



Accessibility Advisory Council

Minutes

Feb. 13, 2024

DNR Glassen Shooting Education Center
Rose Lake Shooting Range
14500 Peacock Road, East Lansing, MI

Accessibility Advisory Council Members

PRESENT	ABSENT
Scott Norris, Chair	Ken Buchholtz
Bryan Wilkinson, Co-Chair	Tina Nowakowski
Cindy Burkhour	Michael Harris
Jessica Stark	Allen Beauchamp
Billy Vickers	
Robert Winn	
Duncan Wyeth	
Yasmina Bouraoui	
Tyra Khan	
Kimberly Woolridge	
Will Purves	

Present for the Department of Natural Resources

Daniel Lord, AAC Sponsor
Stacy Welling Haughey, UP AAC Sponsor
Kristin Phillips, Deputy Director
Robyn Afrik, Equity and Inclusion Officer
Jolene Haines, Public Information Office
Lindsey Dowlyn, Finance and Operations
Pam Vance, Marketing and Outreach
Lindsay Hiller, Office of Public Lands
Jason Fleming, Parks and Recreation Division

Present for the DNR Accessibility Team (A-Team)

David Haupt, A-Team Chair, Marketing and Outreach
Jeff Sears, ADA Coordinator, Finance and Operations
Charamy Cleary, Finance and Operations
Alexandria Galloway, Finance and Operations
Cindy Krueger, Marketing and Outreach

Others:

Tina Pirlot, Public

Regular Meeting

Opening remarks – Scott Norris

Scott Norris called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the Feb. 13, 2024 Accessibility Advisory Council meeting. Scott Norris took roll call.

Approval of minutes – Scott Norris

Scott Norris asked the council members if they had any additions, corrections or discussion regarding the Dec. 5, 2023 minutes. Scott Norris requested a motion to approve the minutes as written. Duncan Wyeth motioned to approve the minutes; Cindy Burkhour seconded the motion; the motion unanimously carried; the minutes were approved.

Grants subcommittee review – Alexandria Galloway, Charamy Cleary

Alex provided an overview of the grant's application process for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Recreation Passport grant program. One of the DNR applications for these programs is provided to the Grants Subcommittee for an expert review to gain an additional 10 points in the final scoring. The subcommittee meets with the applicant twice over the summer to provide feedback, and ultimately presents at the August/September AAC meeting, which may lead to the endorsement of the project and additional points awarded.

Department updates

ADA coordinator and AAC support transfer – Robyn Afrik

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer Robyn Afrik announced that Brenda Henige has accepted the role of the ADA accessibility coordinator serving in the Executive Division as the department-wide coordinator and technical specialist for the Americans with Disability Act. This is a new position that brings together several accessibility functions from other roles. Brenda will start in this new position on March 18. She will be DNR's primary point of contact and department representative for all public-related inquiries and complaints and will coordinate responses across divisions and with the department's Legislative and Legal Affairs Office. Brenda will lead the department's internal Accessibility Team (A-Team), serving as the executive sponsor to the Accessibility Advisory Council and provide overall support for the DNR diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. Prior to joining the DNR, Brenda served in policy and program roles in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. She holds a bachelor's degree in human resource development/human services from Oakland University and has over 20 years of experience in disability advocacy through multiple settings.

Hunter Instructor Education Academy – Dave Haupt

DNR Accessibility Team Chair Dave Haupt discussed the training for all new volunteer instructors for hunting, ORV and more. Instructor training this year has been changed. Three 2-day trainings will be offered for all new instructors in every program, including hunter, bow, trapper, marine, ORV and snowmobile. This training will be required for all new volunteer instructors, and they will not be certified as an instructor until they attend

the in-person training. Because of this new training, the DNR will not be holding a hunter education instructor academy this summer, but the DNR would like to eventually bring back the specific hunter education instructor academy in a couple of years as a supplement to the new instructor training. The ADA training component will be a part of the new training.

Council business

Quiet Adventures Symposium - Bryan Wilkinson

On March 2, under the pavilion at Michigan State University, there's an opportunity to showcase what the DNR is doing and have its accessibility equipment on display at the Quiet Adventures Symposium. Bryan noted that they'll have the opportunity to talk about the equipment they display so others gain more knowledge on what the DNR is doing in terms of accessibility.

DiverseAbility Day event and update – Dave Haupt

Dave Haupt led discussion on DiverseAbility Day events. This included an event to be held at Maybury State Park on Aug. 22, a possible shooting event at Island Lake State Park, no dates yet determined, and a possible event at Interlochen State Park in 2025.

Robert Winn listed three events that are being set up: Independence Oaks County Park on June 26, at a location in McComb on July 31, and Maybury State Park on Aug. 22 (noted above).

2024 meeting dates – Scott Norris

Several meeting dates were discussed and confirmed, including May 9 at the Rose Lake Shooting Range, Bath, and Aug. 13, location yet to be confirmed.

Expanded trail corridors for adaptive equipment – Jason Fleming

Jason Fleming, Parks and Recreation Division, updated the committee on construction projects that are or will soon be taking place. Updates to Kal-Haven Trail State Park, one of Michigan's first linear state parks, includes three new compliant bridges and 27 miles of resurfacing. This trail connects Kalamazoo and South Haven. Fredrick Meijer White Pine Trail State Park is receiving resurfacing and paving of the last 15 miles, making it a fully accessible rail-trail. Trails in Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park are undergoing resurfacing, and the boardwalk is being replaced. Presque Isle Campground within the park received work as well, connecting the trail. This was completed by Michigan Cares of Tourism volunteers. A contiguous, safe, accessible trail will be built around Higgins Lake, going through North Higgins Lake State Park and South Higgins Lake State Park. The boardwalk and bridge at Wilderness State Park is also on the list of projects. At Tahquamenon Falls State Park, the boardwalk will be replaced and the stairs to the falls will be replaced with an accessible ramp.

Closing business

The next council meeting is May 9, 2024, at the Rose Lake Shooting Range/Glassen Shooting Education Center, 14500 Peacock Road, East Lansing.

Adjourn

Chair Norris requested a motion to adjourn. Duncan Wyeth motioned for adjournment; Jessica Stark seconded the motion; the motion unanimously carried; meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.