

MINUTES
Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 21, 2022
Location: Teleconference

Meeting began at 9:00 a.m.

Quorum was established at 9:14 a.m.

PRESENT FOR BIPAC

Attending remotely:

Michael Curis; Detroit, Michigan

Bud Denker; Des Moines, Iowa

Lonnie Peek; Detroit, Michigan

Sommer Woods; Detroit, Michigan

EXECUSED

Brad Dick

Michele Hodges

DNR STAFF PRESENT

Scott Pratt

Karis Floyd

Mike Terrell

Joel Thomas

Amanda Treadwell

Lt. Todd Szyska

Tom Bissett

LaKisha Dansby

Barbara Graves

Nicole Hill

OTHERS PRESENT

Ayo Thomas, Belle Isle Conservancy

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Minutes for June 16, 2022

Moved by: **Bud Denker**

Seconded by: **Sommer Woods**

GENERAL UPDATES

Park Update – Karis Floyd

Karis Floyd provided an update on the bus shuttle service. It has been three weeks and it was busy during the Kite Fest. A second bus was added that is ADA accessible. Healthy Kidz and the Green Door Initiative are back working on the island; a work experience program for youth range in age from 16 - 18. They are working at other state parks as well including working on a tiny house and will be utilized to run the day-to-day operations of the giant slide. The slide will be open from Wednesday through Sunday from 11:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. and will remain open through Labor Day. The youth program is funded by a grant.

The Scott fountain is not running because of safety issues.

They are focusing on cutting grass, trash cleanup, lawn mowing, and bathroom cleaning.

They are in the process of making employment offers to two new rangers.

Sommer Woods

Had questions about the giant slide on Belle Isle. She said that she tried to go online to find out if it was open, but she could not find any information. She had to go onsite to find out that it is not open.

Michael Curis

Had questions about the budget and suggested that the Passport money be used for infrastructure only. Scott Pratt explained that all revenue from the sales of Recreational Passports is used on Belle Isle and is used for infrastructure or other purposes, as necessary.

Law Enforcement Update – Lt. Todd Szyska

Lt. Szyska spoke about summer speeding on the island and how people are going too fast, especially on the bridge. They are also having a problem with alcohol.

The fireworks went great. There were zero incidents and great turn out from the public. They parked a lot of cars in the paddock.

Infrastructure Update - Amanda Treadwell, Urban Field Planner

The funds that were raised from the Grand Prix allowed for a nice budget that will be used on a masonry project at the Scott Fountain. They contracted out a company who is looking at the structure under the marble in the fountain area as well as the lower cascades. They are making sure that any leaks are addressed. Short term goals for the fountain include ensuring that employees are safe, that the fountain has proper ventilation, and that it is up to code. The consultants and engineers will address the mechanical space and the operational space and will include some electric upgrades. The timeline is not absolute because contractors are backed up. Robert Carpenter, who was a DTE employee, has historically been active in the inner working of the fountain, and he is currently working with Amanda and her team on creating an operation manual. He is also assisting with the necessary electrical upgrades.

The boathouse is still being assessed by the architectural team and structural engineer. Many of the access points have been closed off because of the condition of the steps around the building. They are now in phase two which will be a deeper dive into how to address the deteriorated areas

to make the building safe again. They hired a historic restoration contractor who will be assisting also. The structural integrity of the roof has been ruined from the weather causing structure breakdown. The team is also looking for ways to reinforce the concrete.

The Multimodal Transportation Study included aerial imagery on two weekends. They were able to capture the bridge crowding via cameras, where crowds congregate. Some of the cameras were stolen. They are planning a stakeholder input event after the kickoff meeting. They are going to come up with a more refined schedule and implementation plan for how to move forward.

Amanda also discussed the ARPA projects. They plan to do some projects starting mid-August. They are doing bid interviews. Shelter 12 will get a new roof and they will do some structural repairs. There is some bowing in the beams and that will be addressed and then repainted. The Flynn will be on the same schedule as well as window replacements and temporary roof repairs on the casino. This project will also include resurfacing the Driker Trail, which will go out to the lighthouse and around the lagoon. Refining the RFP to be advertised for hazardous materials assessments throughout the park which will include structures like all the shelters which have not been tested yet. The athletic shelter is pretty much complete. They are planning to have the Hype program there. Another project that was wrapped up is the hazardous material removal in the zoo. Amanda also confirmed that the Zoo is not going to be reprogrammed again as a zoo. The traffic study and the MSU survey are going to be used to determine how to utilize this space and other park space that is not currently being used.

Belle Isle Conservancy Updates - Ayo Thomas

The Boat Club crew is hosting a fundraiser Saturday, July 23 from 6:00 - 10:00. The ticket prices include dinner. This year is the 200th birth anniversary of Frederick Law Olmsted, who contributed to the designs for thousands of parks across the nation including Belle Isle. August 4, from 5:30 to 7:00, filmmaker and historian Lawrence Cotton will be doing a presentation entitled Frederick Law Olmsted, Bringing Nature to the City, hosted at the Detroit Historical Society, Dawson, Great Lakes Museum, and the cost is \$10.00 for members and \$20.00 for all other guests. Additionally, there is a Rendezvous Detroit also happening at the Dawson, which is a celebration of Detroit's French-Canadian heritage on August 7 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Ayo asked that everyone continue to patronize and attend the programming at the Nature Center while renovations are underway, including hikes and nature tasks, which is for children two to four, and their caretakers.

Saturday morning, the Gift of Life Walk with the Motec Foundation is 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. The Belle Isle Art Fair is August 6 and 7. August 25 is the Hunters of Color hunting exhibition.

September 16 through 18, is the second year of Michigan trees Tree Climbing Championship on Belle Isle.

The Belle Isle Conservancy is hiring a program coordinator to support programming and some other aquarium needs. Visit belleisleconservancy.org opportunities for more. The Keep Belle Isle Beautiful cleanup season is underway through October. Those cleanups are on the third

Saturdays and those are island-wide on land and water and then the beach cleanups are on the second Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Thursdays from 6 to 7, including this Thursday through the end of August, Yoga in the Park at the Belle Isle Aquarium. Pre-registration is encouraged. You can find information on our social media and on the website.

August 18 through 21 for a weekend of celebration around the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory and 118th anniversary.

This upcoming Sunday is a community fun day at Belle Isle from noon to 4 p.m. which will include performances and activities.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michael Betzold was upset about the racetrack and wants it restored to a green space.

Angela wanted to know what happens after the surveys are analyzed. She too agrees with Michael. She wanted to know if more programming about Native Americans were going to be implemented. Karis assured her that more focus would be placed on Native American programming.

T. Stephens had questions regarding the art on the island and who to contact for self-guided tours. Scott Pratt said that this will be kept in mind and explained that the City of Detroit is responsible for maintaining this art. Mr. Stephens was instructed to contact the Belle Isle Conservancy for more information. Ayo stated that the Detroit Historical Society does operate some tours also.

Robin Heller who made us aware of a fundraiser that is occurring in support of the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory. It will be held on Tuesday, September 13 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The tickets will be available on the Belle Isle Conservancy website.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Thursday, August 18, 2022, 6:00 p.m.



Kenneth Smith

Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update

July 21, 2022 Detroit, MI





Boathouse Structure Assessment



Deteriorated brick masonry near south Main Entrance

Phase 1 Structure Report Complete

- Identified Structure was not safe for public access

Phase 2

- Field Review scheduled for Wednesday, July 27, 2022
- Cost Estimates to be generated for 3 options.
 1. Minimal scope for stabilization of structure – NO ACCESS
 2. Stabilization for building – PROVIDE ACCESS
 3. Improve building – full stabilization
- The report and cost estimates to be submitted by September 2022.

Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, July 2022



Boathouse Structure Assessment



North terrace, east end, exterior wall



Cracked brick masonry

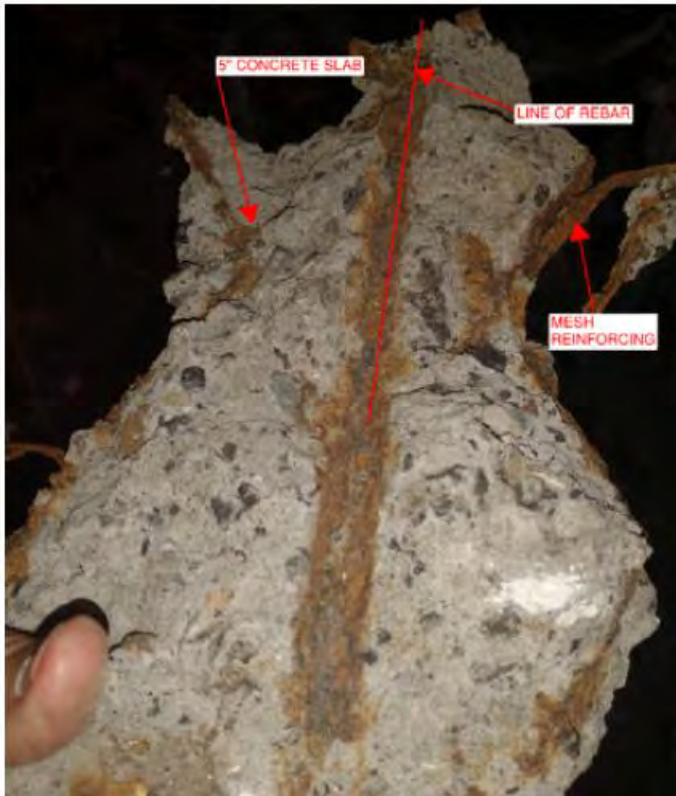


Deteriorated brick masonry, brick missing at steel bearing.

Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, July 2022



Boathouse Structure Assessment



Underside of terrace slab

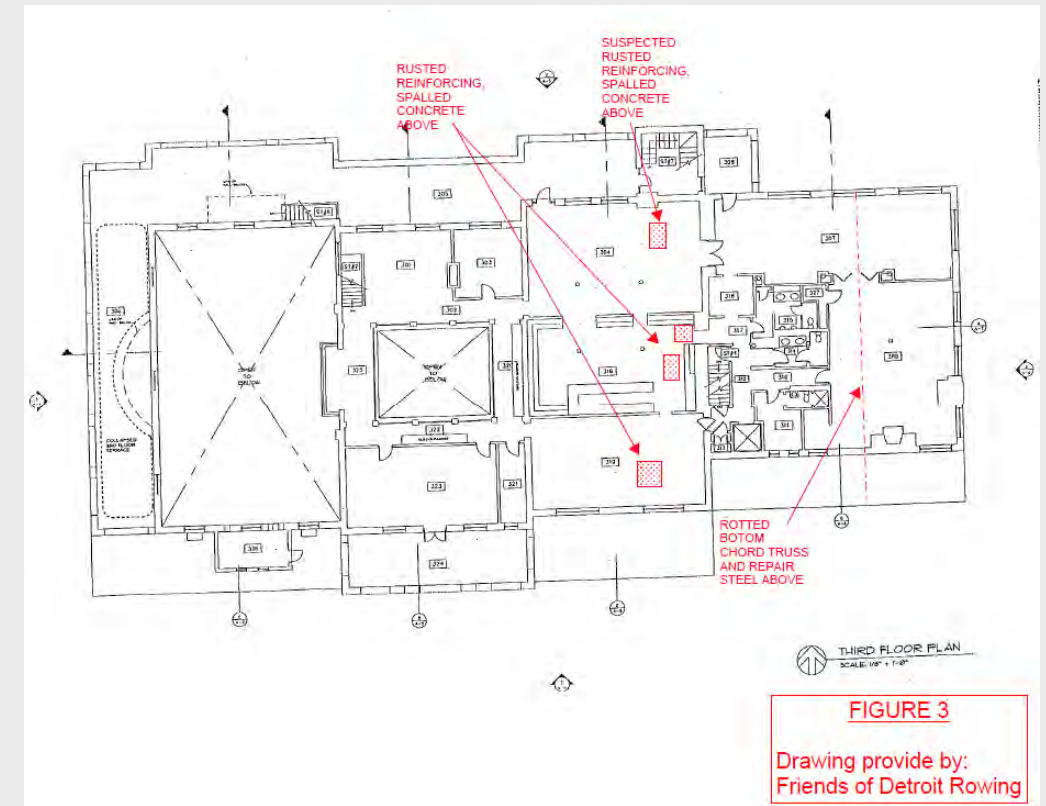
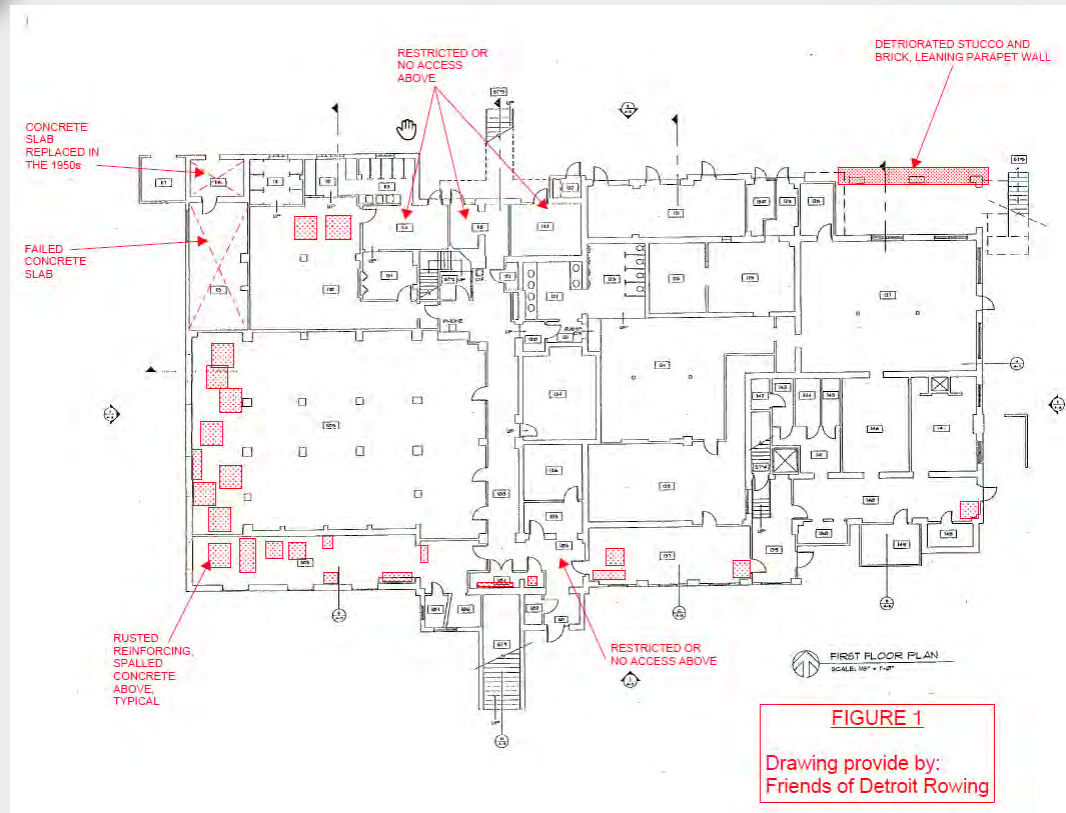


Piece of terrace slab showing rust stain from a rebar and rusted steel mesh

Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, July 2022



Boathouse Structure Assessment, Phase 1



Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, July 2022



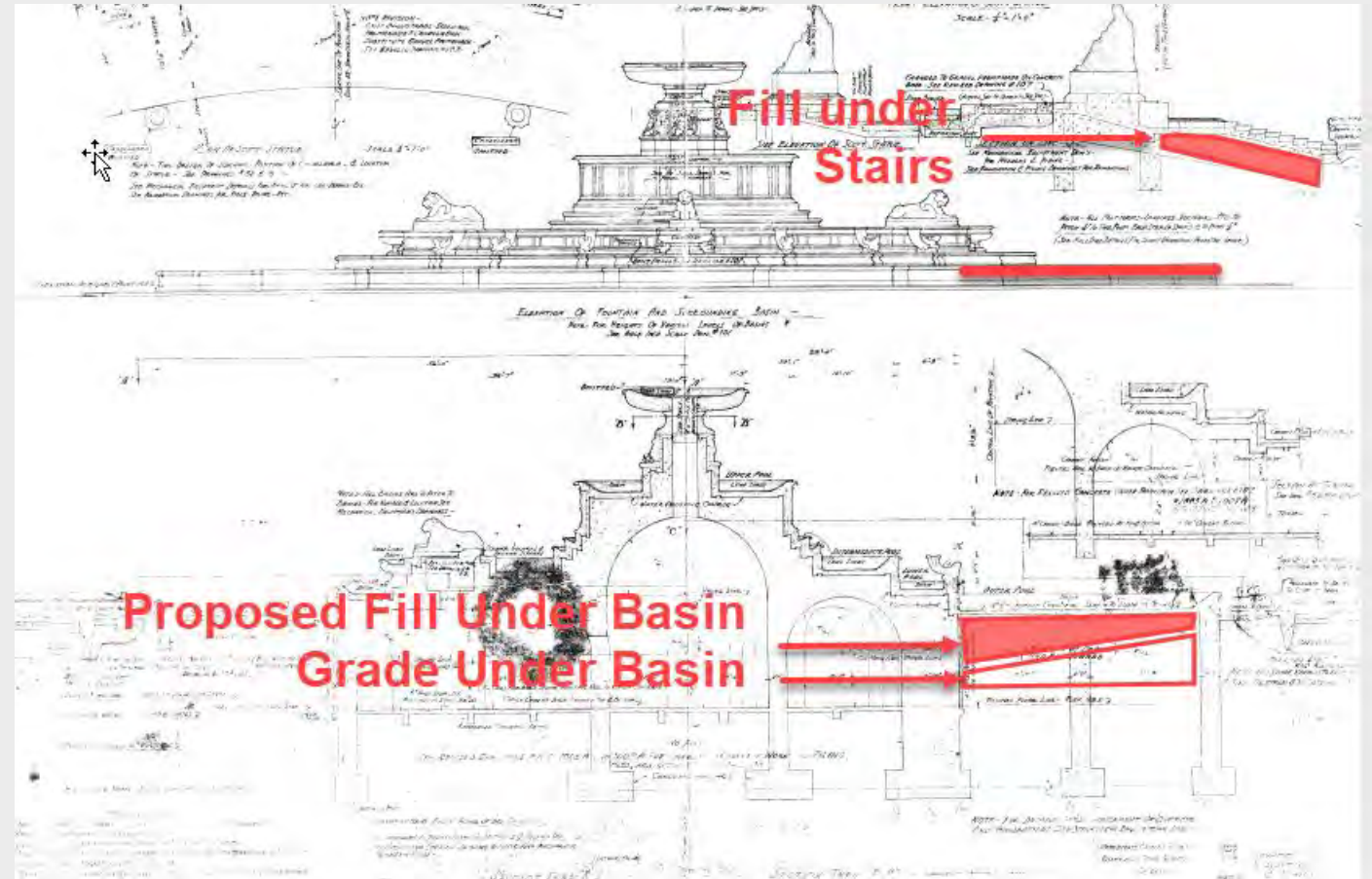
James Scott Fountain

Original Concrete Condition

- Two options for supporting impacted concrete are being estimated for review.

Option 1 – Place flowable fill in void under basin and steps.

Option 2 – Replace horizontal concrete in lower basin.



Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, July 2022



Belle Isle Multimodal Transportation and Traffic Study



Project Status

- **Traffic Counts and Aerial Imagery** photos taken weekend of the 8th and 15th.
- **Data will be reviewed, and results summarized in the next few weeks.**

Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, July 2022



ARPA – Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory

- Bidder interviews this week.
- Award scheduled for next week.
- Construction schedule will be forthcoming after contractor selected.



Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, July 2022



ARPA - Casino

Project Status

- Kick-off meeting on Monday, 7/25.
- Construction to be bid early 2023





Projects starting up

- Shelter #12
- Flynn
- Casino, temporary roof waterproofing
- RFP to be advertised for Ralph Wilson Trail Phase 2
- RFP to be advertised for Hazardous Material Assessment



Athletic Shelter to be complete first week in August

Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, July 2022



Projects wrapping up

- Athletic Shelter
- Handball Courts
- Former Zoo Hazardous Materials



Athletic Shelter to be complete first week in August

Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, July 2022



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

VIA E-MAIL

TO: Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee (BIPAC)

FROM: Karis Floyd, Park Manager, Belle Isle Park, Milliken State Park and Harbor

DATE: July 21, 2022

SUBJECT: Giant Slide Operations

We understand the importance of the Giant Slide to the community, and we continue to find ways to operate the slide every summer. One thing about this slide is that it is considered a carnival ride and the insurance to operate a carnival ride is very high and the oversight has a lot of levels and staff that is needed to cover the requirements to operate. The pandemic gave us a little breather from operations of the Slide, but it also gave us time to try and figure out solutions on how we can operate one of the most iconic and memorable activity on the island.

What we have tried:

- Bidding out the slide to a vendor to operate
 - Due to the high insurance, it was not feasible to operate the slide—the ROI was not adding up for the vendors.
- Volunteers to operate
 - Within our state system we cannot have volunteers handling money
 - These volunteer groups must still hold liability insurance
- DNR staff to operate
 - The staff requirements to operate the slide is a lot. Having our staff operate meant pulling staff from areas around the park that needed attention as well.

Solution and possible progress:

- We have decided to work together with an outside agency and within our Summer Youth Employment Program.
 - Under an MOU operation agreement, we can work with our staff and an outside agency to fulfill the staffing issues and we can use the State's insurance.

- The Summer Youth Employment program is sponsored by the DNR, this program offers on the job work experience along with, experiencing other park projects and activities at different Michigan State Parks.
 - The summer youth workers will gain valuable work experience in the operation and maintenance of the giant slide as part of their work experience at Belle Isle Park.
- Once all agreements are signed and in place the Giant Slide will operate Wednesday-Sunday this summer 2022.



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

VIA E-MAIL

TO: Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee (BIPAC)

FROM: Karis Floyd, Park Manager, Belle Isle Park, Milliken State Park and Harbor

DATE: July 21, 2022

SUBJECT: James Scott Memorial Fountain Operation Update

The James Scott Memorial Fountain is currently not in operation because during an assessment of the pool due to leaking, it was discovered in coring samples, there had been deterioration in the concrete. Immediately we engaged an engineering firm, who was already contracted to do other work on Belle Isle. Testing samples were taken from the lower fountain basin outer pool areas and the stair landing on the north side of the fountain for assessment. The testing found that freeze/thaw cycles have negatively impacted the condition of the concrete and we were advised to perform a more in-depth analysis. Therefore, we exercised extreme caution and have not allowed employees to enter this area until we can confirm and ensure safe access.

Status:

- Once the engineering analysis confirms safe access and remedial electrical repairs are completed, we will commence operating the fountain.
- In addition, the structural engineer team is coordinating with a contractor to prepare a work plan and cost estimates for the mechanical room of the fountain and recommendations for stabilizing the fountain basin and stair slabs.

2022 Season Operations:

- We have expedited the engineering assessment and plan to, if possible, create a structure to enable safe passage to operate the fountain for the remainder of the year.
- Once we have an interim safe plan, we intend to operate the fountain longer into the season through October 16, 2022. Normal operation would have been Memorial Day to Labor Day.

This situation was unexpected, unplanned and it is unfortunate not to have had the fountain operating once it got restarted by the Grand Prix.

BIPAC - James Scott Memorial Fountain Operation Update

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July 21, 2022

cc: Mr. Ron Olson, Chief, PRD
Ms. Jacklin Blodgett, PRD
Mr. Scott Pratt, PRD
Ms. Amanda Treadwell, PRD
Mr. Mike Terrell, PRD