



## MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Flint Farmers Market, Ramsdell Room  
300 East 1<sup>st</sup> Steet  
Flint, Michigan

Date: April 15, 2026  
Time: 9:00 AM

Chair MacInnes called the meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board of Trustees (Board) to order at 9:05 a.m., Wednesday, April 15, 2026, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **I. INTRODUCTIONS**

Present for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board (Board):

Ms. Chris MacInnes, Chair; from the Village of Beulah, Benzie County

Mr. Steve Hamp, Vice-chair; from the City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County

Mr. Bill Rustem, from Alaiedon Township, Ingham County

Dr. Brandy Brown, from the City of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County

Mr. Scott Bowen, Department of Natural Resources Director; from the City of Grand Rapids, Kent County

Present for the Department of Natural Resources:

Clay Summers, Recreation Grants Section Manager; Jon Mayes, Trust Fund Program

Manager; Mike Chuff, Financial Specialist; Dan Lord, Finance and Operations Division Chief;

and Grant Coordinators: Merrie Carlock, Charamy Cleary, Samantha Davis, Weston Hillier, and Riley Millard.

Also participating were other interested parties.

Flint Mayor, Sheldon Neeley welcomed the Board to Flint followed by a warm welcome from former Representative Dan Kildee.

#### **II. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 18, 2026.**

Chair MacInnes called for adoption of the minutes for the February 18, 2026, MNRTF Board meeting.

MOVED BY MR. RUSTEM SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR HAMP, TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 2026, MNRTF BOARD MEETING.

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

#### **III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF APRIL 15, 2026**

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR APRIL 15, 2026, BY MR. RUSTEM, SUPPORTED BY DIRECTOR BOWEN.

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- a. Chris Bunch, Executive Director; Six Rivers Land Conservancy

Mr. Bunch thanked Wendy at Achatz Pie for providing pies for the Board meeting and spoke regarding two Trust Fund applications TF26-0011 (Sterling Heights) and TF26-0027 (Brownstown Township).

- b. Nicole Fisher, Executive Director; mParks

Ms. Fisher provided a summary of the MNRTF 50<sup>th</sup> kick-off event at the mParks annual conference in March.

- c. Justin McKoan, absent

- d. Deb Apostol, Citizen

Ms. Apostol congratulated the Trust Fund on its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and commented on her past experiences with the MNRTF as a former DNR Grant Coordinator and Program Manager.

- e. John Cherry, former Lieutenant Governor of Michigan from the Flint area

Mr. Cherry congratulated the MNRTF on its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and spoke about its impact on the residents of the City of Flint.

#### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Genesee County Strategic Trails Plan – Jacob Maurer, Division Manager, Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Organization and Patrick Linihan, Genesee County Parks Director

Mr. Maurer and Mr. Linihan presented the vision for the Genesee County Strategic Trails Plan, Happy and Resilient Communities by 2030. More information is available at [Geneseetrails.com](http://Geneseetrails.com).

- b. Chevy Commons Revitalization – Christina Kelly, Director of Community Impact, Genesee County Land Bank Authority; Scott Lautzenheiser, Wade Trim; and Ryan Londrigan, Brownfield Redevelopment Unit Supervisor, Department of Energy, Great Lakes, and Environment

Ms. Kelly, Mr. Lautzenheiser, and Mr. Londrigan presented the history and revitalization of the Chevy Commons Project.

- c. Directors Update – Director Bowen

Director Bowen gave an update on the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) budget as well as an update on the status of the Cheboygan Dam and dam infrastructure throughout the state.

d. Update on MNRTF Staff Activities – Clay Summers

Mr. Summers began by giving an update on the 2025 Appropriation Bill introduced in the Senate. He also noted that staff are currently doing administrative review on all the recreation applications submitted on April 1 and preparing for site visits this spring/summer. He also noted that Spark will be ending this year and to date 17 projects have been completed and closed out with many more coming before October 31. Finally, he pointed out in the Board material that staff have been working hard to close old grants and the spreadsheet included for the Board reflects that effort.

e. Status of the MNRTF Appropriation Bill – Discussed by Mr. Summers during Staff Activities.

f. 2026 Application Summary – Samantha Davis

Ms. Davis presented a summary of the 2026 MNRTF applications received which is included in the Board packet.

g. August 12, 2026 Trust Fund Board Meeting – Clay Summers

Mr. Summers extended an invitation to the Board from the DNR, Forest Resources Division to attend the opening celebration for the Michigamme Highlands Project on August 18 which is a week after the scheduled August Board meeting in Marquette.

Mr. Bowman and Ms. Taylor of the Nature Conservancy again invited the Board to visit the Keweenaw Heartlands Project the day before the Upper Peninsula MNRTF meeting.

MOVED BY MR. RUSTEM, SUPPORTED BY DIRECTOR BOWEN TO MOVE THE AUGUST 12 BOARD MEETING DATE TO **AUGUST 19** TO ALIGN WITH ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT WEEK.

**VI. BOARD PACKET REFERENCE MATERIALS**

Chair MacInnes reminded the Board that all remaining reports, including information presented, are contained in the Board's packet of materials.

Chair MacInnes asked the Board if they had any questions or discussion about the remaining meeting materials.

None were offered.

**VII. OTHER MATTERS AS PROPERLY BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD**

Chair MacInnes asked for any other matters properly brought before the Board.

None were offered.

## **VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair MacInnes announced that the next meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 10. The meeting notice will be posted in advance on the Board website.

Chair MacInnes asked for any additional announcements from the Board.

None were offered.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.