



MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Michigan Nature Association
2310 Science Parkway, Suite 100
Okemos, Michigan

Date: February 18, 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, February 18, 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

Absent from the Board:

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; Erin Campbell, Compliance and Stewardship Specialist; and Grant Coordinators: Merrie Carlock, Charamy Cleary, Samantha Davis, and Weston Hillier.

Also participating were other interested parties.

II. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF DECEMBER 10, 2025.

Chair MacInnes called for adoption of the minutes for the December 10, 2025, MNRTF Board meeting.

MOVED BY VICE-CHAIR HAMP SUPPORTED BY MR. RUSTEM, TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2025, MNRTF BOARD MEETING.

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 18, 2026

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 18, 2026, BY MR. RUSTEM, SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR HAMP.

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Mr. Bunch spoke regarding upcoming acquisition applications in Sterling Heights and Brownstown Township.

- b. Nicole Fisher, Executive Director; mParks

Ms. Fisher invited the Board to attend the annual mParks conference in Lansing beginning March 3, 2026, at which the opening session will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the MNRTF.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Update on MNRTF Staff Activity – Clay Summers

Mr. Summers indicated that staff were busy reviewing recreation plans submitted by the February 1 deadline. He noted the 2025 MNRTF Annual Report was available and provided to the Board. Mr. Summers acknowledged and thanked the partners including Heart of the Lakes, mParks, The Nature Conservancy, Michigan Trails and Greenway Alliance, and Michigan Environmental Council for assisting in planning the events to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the MNRTF.

- b. October 14, 2026, Board Meeting – Clay Summers

Mr. Summers noted the locations of the remaining 2026 Board meetings:

- April 15 - Flint
- June 10 - Detroit
- August 12 - Marquette
- October 14 - Traverse City

He indicated that although the October 14, 2026, date was approved by the Board at the December 2025 meeting, it does not align with the Outdoor Summit held in Traverse City at the end of September. The Board may wish to consider moving the date to align with the Outdoor Summit which will capture additional audience.

MOVED BY MR. RUSTEM, SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR HAMP TO MOVE THE OCTOBER 14, 2026, BOARD MEETING DATE TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2026, TO ALIGN WITH THE OUTDOOR SUMMIT.

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

- c. Outdoor Participation Trends – Jonathan Jarosz

Mr. Jarosz presented the latest Outdoor Participation Trend data. The presentation was provided to the Board via email.

d. Status of the MNRTF Appropriation Bill – Clay Summers

Mr. Summers indicated that the Governor had presented her budget bill last week. The MNRTF bill has not yet been introduced but will originate in the Senate this year.

e. DNR Recreation Grant Virtual Workshop – Jon Mayes

Mr. Mayes announced that approximately 240 people attended the virtual recreation grant workshop this year held February 5, 2026. The workshop is available online.

f. Current Status of MNRTF Conversions – Erin Campbell

Ms. Campbell presented the most recent conversation data which was also provided in the Board packet. She indicated there are 13 conversation sites that affect 19 MNRTF agreements. Overall, there are 44 conversion sites statewide.

g. Withdrawal of Projects – Jon Mayes

Mr. Mayes presented two withdrawal requests per the Board memo: TF23-0171 and TF24-0124.

MOVED BY MR. RUSTEM, SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR HAMP, TO ACCEPT THE WITHDRAWAL OF TF23-0171 AND TF24-0124.

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

h. 50th Anniversary MNRTF Locations – Clay Summers

Mr. Summers indicated the 2026 meeting locations have been determined and this year there will be 4 statewide meetings instead of the traditional 2 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary. Mr. Summers noted that two grants from the Mott Foundation and the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation provided funding to create a short video as well as other items celebrating the 50th Anniversary.

Mr. Bowman of the Nature Conservancy invited the Board to visit the Keweenaw Heartlands Project the day before the Upper Peninsula meeting.

VI. BOARD PACKET REFERENCE MATERIALS

Chair MacInnes reminded the Board that all remaining reports 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, April 15, 2026, location in Flint to be determined. 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 10:57 a.m.