



**MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**Minutes of Wednesday, April 17, 2024
9:00 AM**

Location: Michigan Nature Association
Okemos, Michigan 48864

Chair Rustem called the meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board of Trustees (Board) to order at 9:07 a.m., Wednesday, April 17, 2024, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

The following Board members were present:

Mr. Bill Rustem, Chair; from Alaieton Township, Ingham County
Mr. Steve Hamp, from the City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County
Ms. Chris MacInnes; from the Village of Beulah, Benzie County

The following Board members were absent:

Dr. Brandy Brown, Vice-Chair; from the City of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County
Mr. Scott Bowen, DNR Director; from the City of Grand Rapids, Kent County

Clay Summers, Grants Management Section Manager, introduced himself and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff; Jon Mayes, Recreation Grants Manager; Mike Chuff, Financial Specialist; Charamy Cleary, Merrie Carlock, Riley Millard, Alexandria Galloway, and Samantha Davis, Grant Coordinators.

Also participating were other interested parties.

II. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF FEBURARY 14, 2024

Chair Rustem called for adoption of the minutes for the February 14, 2024, MNRTF Board meeting.

MOVED BY MR. HAMP SUPPORTED BY MS. MACINNES TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE FEBURARY 14, 2024, MNRTF BOARD MEETING.

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF APRIL 17, 2024

Chair Rustem called for adoption of the agenda for the April 17, 2024, MNRTF Board meeting.

MOVED BY MR. HAMP SUPPORTED BY MS. MACINNES, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA FOR THE APRIL 17, 2024, MNRTF BOARD MEETING.

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Mr. Bunch spoke in support of the existing collaboration between land conservancies and the MNRTF. He also commented on the need to continue conservation efforts in Southeast Michigan.

b. Rich Bowman, Director of Policy, The Nature Conservancy

Mr. Bowman spoke on expanded funding opportunities coming via an increase of funds available for the Forest Legacy Program, administered through the DNR's Forest Resources Division. He covered eligible entities and discussed ways to increase participation in the program to ensure funds are utilized efficiently before their expiration date in 2030.

Chair Rustem requested that DNR staff invite Forest Resources Division to the MNRTF meeting in June to provide a presentation on the Forest Legacy Program.

c. Jonathan Jarosz, Executive Director, Heart of the Lakes Conservancy

Provided an overview of the upcoming MNRTF tour of Northwest Michigan to be held in August in Traverse City.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Status of MNRTF Legislative Appropriation Bill

Clay Summers provided an update on the status of the MNRTF appropriation bill that is to provide funding for the 2023 grant recommendations. Mr. Summers noted the bill is currently in the Senate (SB817) awaiting approval before it will move to the House of Representatives.

b. DNR Grants Webinar / mParks Summary

Riley Millard provided an overview of recent recreation grant outreach and educational efforts.

c. 2024 Application Summary

Alex Galloway provided an overview of applications received for the 2024 cycle of the MNRTF grant program.

d. DNR Acquisition Grants Appraisal Requirements

Clay Summers provided information on the Department-set monetary threshold that causes the requirement for two appraisals to be conducted on grant-funded acquisition projects. Mr. Summers shared information with the Board on a possible inflationary adjustment to that threshold from \$750,000 to something higher.

Chair Rustem voiced support for the threshold adjustment from \$750,000 to \$1.2 million.

e. Director's Update

On behalf of Director Bowen, Clay Summers provided a quick update on proposed Recreation Passport adjustments that are currently being included in State of Michigan budgetary discussions.

f. Update on MNRTF Staff Activities

Clay Summers provided an overview of current DNR staff activities including 5-Year Recreation Plan reviews that began February 1, 2024, three recreation grant program's (including MNRTF) application reviews which began April 1, 2024, and grant application site visits to be conducted in early summer. DNR Finance and Operations Division in-service will be held on Mackinac Island May 8-10, 2024.

g. Withdrawal of Projects

- a. TF21-0080 – Tittabawassee Township, Midland-Freeland Path Connector Acquisition, Saginaw County; Grant Amount \$71,300
- b. TF18-0113 – Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Division, Iron Bell Trail; Marquette and Ontonagon Counties; Grant Amount \$200,000

Jon Mayes provided an overview of the projects being withdrawn.

Chair Rustem called to accept the withdrawal of TF21-0080 and TF18-0113.

MOVED BY MS. MACINNES SUPPORTED BY MR. HAMP, TO ACCEPT THE WITHDRAWALS OF TF21-0080 and TF18-0113.

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

h. MNRTF Board Priorities

Clay Summers provided an overview of current MNRTF Board Priorities that are considered during the scoring of MNRTF grant applications. Mr. Summers requested the Board review current priorities and recommend changes as desired.

Chair Rustem requested that DNR staff provide data on the impact of existing Board Priorities by the June MNRTF Board Meeting to help inform Board decisions.

VI. BOARD PACKET REFERENCE MATERIALS

Chair Rustem requested that stronger emphasis on Project Agreement deadlines be established for MNRTF-funded projects to ensure grants are completed in a timely manner.

VII. OTHER MATTERS AS PROPERLY BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the MNRTF Board is scheduled for June 12, 2024, and will be held in Jackson, Michigan. Details will be posted in advance of the meeting on the Board's website.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Rustem called for a motion to adjourn.

MOVED BY MS. MACINNES, SUPPORTED BY MR. HAMP, TO ADJOURN.

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.