



MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes of August 17, 2022

9:00 AM

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary – Education Room
Alpena, Michigan

Chair Cummings called the meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board of Trustees (Board) to order at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 17, 2022, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

The following Board members were present:

Sam Cummings, Chair; from the City of Grand Rapids, Kent County
Steve Hamp, Vice-Chair; from the City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County
William Rustem; from Alaiedon Township, Ingham County
DNR Director Daniel Eichinger, from the Village of Lake Isabella, Isabella County

Michael Chuff, Acting Grants Section Manager, introduced himself.

Jon Mayes, Recreation Grants Manager; Alex McBride, Grant Coordinator; Merrie Carlock, Grant Coordinator; Charamy Cleary, Grant Coordinator; and Scott Whitcomb, Director of the Office of Lands introduced themselves.

Also participating were various staff members of the DNR and other interested parties.

Brad Jensen, Huron Pines Executive Director, thanked the board for coming to the northeast region of the state. This region has tremendous opportunities to protect rare ecosystems. As we think about how to protect those, we have some challenges and opportunities. We are seeing communities shift from old industrial to outdoor-based economies. Community leaders are engaged, and the MNRTF will begin to see more applications from northeast Michigan.

Jeff Gray, Superintendent of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, thanked everyone for coming to the region. The National Marine Sanctuary is a federal marine protected area, consisting of 4,300 square miles that protects about 200 historic shipwrecks, with the goal to protect the Great Lakes rich history. The sanctuary extends from just north of Presque Isle to the southern end of Alcona County all the way over to the International Border.

II. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JUNE 15, 2022

Chair Cummings called for adoption of the minutes for the June 15, 2022, MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY EICHINGER, SUPPORTED BY HAMP, TO ADOPT THE MINUTES
OF THE JUNE 15, 2022, MNRTF BOARD MEETING.**

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF AUGUST 17, 2022

Chair Cummings called for adoption of the agenda for the August 17, 2022, MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY EICHINGER, SUPPORTED BY HAMP, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA
FOR THE AUGUST 17, 2022, MNRTF BOARD MEETING.**

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Bunch, Executive Director, Six Rivers Land Conservancy, thanked The Nature Conservancy and everybody else involved with yesterday's tour. Chris stated how great the tours are for staff to get out and see these projects and meet the people you are working with. Chris is also the Chair of the Heart of the Lakes Board. Chris introduced Alyssa Walters, Outreach Coordinator with Heart of the Lakes.

Alyssa thanked the Board and staff for their time and dedication to protecting Michigan's land and water. Alyssa expressed excitement to continue the eastern region tour on behalf of Heart of the Lakes, Conservation Fund, Saginaw County Parks and Recreation, and Bay Area Community Foundation for the upcoming October Board meeting in Bay City. The tour in October will showcase urban conservation, recreation, and trail projects in the Saginaw Bay area. The working itinerary will begin with a campsite lunch on the bay, a visit to the rail trail, a tour of an urban conservation waterfront park in Saginaw and finish up with dinner in Bay City where business partners will share what it means to have access to public lands.

Brian Marzolf, Land Protection Manager, Six Rivers Land Conservancy and Rick Hamill, Highland Township Supervisor, co-presented a request for \$300,000 to purchase 60 acres of land in Highland Township, Oakland County. Rick stated that before this land was listed on the market, he approached Six Rivers Land Conservancy and partnered on this request to preserve the land. This parcel is largely flat but has some great features including 16 acres of marsh land. Community and public support are strong. The match of \$130,000 will be coming from Highland Township.

Cindy Fowler, Alabaster Township Parks and Recreation Committee, provided an update on the Lake Huron Coastal Preserve project and thanked multiple partners and organizations. The Lake Huron Coastal Preserve includes a beautiful beach, dunes and swales. When the acquisition is complete, following steps will include a trail system and accessible features.

V. PRESENTATIONS FROM 2022 GRANT APPLICANTS

Chair Cummings announced the Board will receive nine presentations on various MNRTF grant applications/projects. Jon Mayes asked that presenters adhere to their ten-minute presentation time.

Questions by the Board were addressed during each presentation.

The August 2022 MNRTF applications presented include:

- a. TF22-0040 Iron Ore Heritage Trail Recreation Authority (IOHTRA) – Iron Ore Heritage Trail Extension to Lakenenland Park (Marquette County); *Carol Fulsher, IOHTRA Administrator*

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$300,000	(50%)
Matching Funds:	\$306,400	(50%)
Total Project Cost:	\$606,400	

- b. TF22-0086 City of Gladstone – John and Melissa Beese Sports Park Pickleball Court Development (Delta County); *Rich Beauvais, Gladstone Area Pickleball Club, and Jason Davis, City of Gladstone Director of Parks and Recreation*

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$300,000	(74%)
Matching Funds:	\$110,000	(26%)
Total Project Cost:	\$410,000	

- c. TF22-0091 Village of Elk Rapids – Improvements to Elk Rapids Rotary Park (Antrim County); *Deanna Jerdee, Paddle Antrim Executive Director; and Bryan Gruesbeck, Village of Elk Rapids Manager*

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$300,000	(46%)
Matching Funds:	\$353,600	(54%)
Total Project Cost:	\$653,600	

- d. TF22-0098 Marquette County – Lake Independence Lakeshore Improvements at Perkins Park (Marquette County); *Sven Gonstead, Marquette County Planner/Recreation Coordinator; and Thyra Karlstrom, Manager of Planning, Community Development, Forestry and Recreation*

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$182,000	(70%)
Matching Funds:	\$ 78,000	(30%)
Total Project Cost:	\$260,000	

- e. TF22-0177 Marquette Charter Township – Ed Scott Memorial Recreation Area Acquisition (Marquette County); *Jason McCarthy, Marquette Charter Township Planning and Zoning Administrator*

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$1,120,000	(70%)
Matching Funds:	\$ 480,000	(30%)
Total Project Cost:	\$1,600,000	

- f. TF22-0182 City of Gladwin – Gladwin County Park Improvement Project (Gladwin County); *Christopher Shannon, City of Gladwin Administrator*

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$300,000	(51%)
Matching Funds:	\$293,900	(49%)
Total Project Cost:	\$593,900	

The Chair called for a break at 10:45 a.m. The Board reconvened at 10:55 a.m.

- g. TF22-0189 (Section 1); TF22-0195 (Section 2); and TF22-0196 (Section 3) Benzonia Township – Betsie Valley Trail Paving Project (Benzie County); *Jim Gribble, Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail, and Jason Barnard, Benzonia Township Supervisor*

TF22-0189 (Section 1)		
MNRTF Grant Request:	\$ 300,000	(26%)

Matching Funds:	\$ 874,800	(74%)
Total Project Cost:	\$1,174,800	

TF22-0195 (Section 2)		
MNRTF Grant Request:	\$300,000	(32%)
Matching Funds:	\$641,500	(68%)
Total Project Cost:	\$941,500	

TF22-0196 (Section 3)		
MNRTF Grant Request:	\$300,000	(35%)
Matching Funds:	\$559,900	(65%)
Total Project Cost:	\$859,900	

- h. TF22-0191 Midland County Parks – Smith Crossing Historic Bridge Renovation (Midland County); *John Schmude, Midland County Parks Director*

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$ 300,000	(8%)
Matching Funds:	\$3,853,100	(92%)
Total Project Cost:	\$4,153,100	

- i. TF22-0215 St. James Township – Beaver Island Beach Expansion on the Harbor Acquisition (Charlevoix County); *Kathleen McNamara, St. James Township Grant Writer, and Cynthia Pryor, St. James Township Deputy Supervisor*

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$525,000	(60%)
Matching Funds:	\$350,000	(40%)
Total Project Cost:	\$875,000	

Director Eichinger MOVED to recommend TF22-0215 to the legislature at the December MNRTF Board meeting, due to project characteristics and timing requirements.

**MOVED BY EICHINGER, SUPPORTED BY CUMMINGS, TO RECOMMEND
TF22-0215 TO THE LEGISLATURE ON DECEMBER 14, 2022, FOR \$525,000.**

Chair Cummings asked if there were any additional comments or questions on the presentations; none were offered.

The Board thanked the presenters and department staff for coordinating the presentations.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Status of MNRTF Appropriations Bill

Michael Chuff reported that Appropriations Bill, PA 151 of 2022, was signed by the Governor July 19, 2022.

- b. Calculation of Inflation on Development Grants

Chair Cummings discussed the current development grant max of \$300,000. That figure has not been revised or adjusted for inflation since 2011. Chair Cummings asked if that number should be evaluated. Based on CPI escalations, the \$300,000 max adjusted for today's dollars is \$365,000.

Chair Cummings asked for the Departments thoughts on increasing the max. Eichinger stated that increasing the max may cost us smaller projects. Another consideration is the availability of other grant programs that can contribute within this space. And finally, the max of \$300,000 may not be obsolete, as applicants may be stacking grant opportunities.

Chair Cummings asked to add this topic to the October agenda for further discussion

c. Spark Grant Update

Michael Chuff reported that \$200 million has been allocated for local parks and trails. Of the \$200 million, \$135 million was dedicated to three specific projects:

- \$60 million to the Detroit Joe Louis Greenway;
- \$55 million to the Grand Rapids Greenway project; and
- \$20 million to Copper Peak to rebuild the world's largest Olympic-style ski jump.

The Department has been working on the project agreement the past few weeks. The agreement has been reviewed and approved by the DTMB Compliance Team and is currently being reviewed by our legal department. Once we receive approval from our legal department, we will be providing the project agreement to the City of Detroit, Grand Rapids and Copper Peak.

Alexandria Galloway discussed the remaining \$65 million for the statewide competitive grant program. The Department recently wrapped up gathering input from an advisory group that consisted of; MDOT, Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Association of Regions (SEMCOG and SWMI), mParks, Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance, Council of Michigan Foundations, and Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation.

The statewide competitive grant program will focus on community's that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 and have historically not had reinvestments in their park systems. Leveraging data from ALICE (United Way), physical and mental health and park density will be utilized in the scoring and prioritization of applications.

The content on the Spark website will be updated soon. Our team is moving into application design and development within MiGrants and are hoping to launch applications in October and provide round 1 awards by the end of the calendar year, with rounds 2 and 3 occurring in 2023. We will bring a full overview at the October Board meeting.

d. Director's Update

Director Eichinger commented that this has been another banner year in terms of outdoor recreation. Campgrounds have been full, motorized and non-motorized recreation is high, and watercraft usage and use of waterways remains high. We remain above pace for outdoor recreation, relative to pre-pandemic levels.

Director Eichinger shared that Mark Hoffman, Chief Administrative Officer, will be retiring at the end of this calendar year. Mark has been absolutely critical to the high functioning programs he has touched. Marks replacement will be shared at the October Board meeting.

e. Update on MNRTF Staff Activities

Michael Chuff reported that the staff has completed site visits for the current cycle and are currently scoring applications.

Mike Chuff introduced Lance Brooks, our MiGrants System Administrator.

VI. BOARD PACKET REFERENCE MATERIALS

Chair Cummings asked the Board if they had any questions or discussion about the remaining meeting materials. No discussion of the meeting materials took place.

VII. OTHER MATTERS AS PROPERLY BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD

None were offered.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Cummings announced the next meeting of the Board is scheduled for October 19, 2022, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at the Pere Marquette Depot, in Bay City. Details will be posted in advance of the meeting on the Board's [website](#).

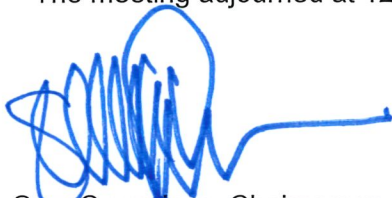
IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cummings asked for additional comments or discussion. None were offered.

Chair Cummings then asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOVED BY RUSTEM, SUPPORTED BY EICHINGER, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

The meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.



Sam Cummings, Chairperson
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board
of Trustees



Michael Chuff, Acting Manager
Grants Management Section
DNR Finance and Operations Division

APPROVED: