



MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes of February 14, 2024

9:00 AM

Location: MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Center
Lansing, Michigan

Chair Rustem called the meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board of Trustees (Board) to order at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 14, 2024, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. The following Board members were present:

Mr. Bill Rustem, Chair; from Alaieton Township, Ingham County
Dr. Brandy Brown, Vice-Chair; from the City of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County
Mr. Steve Hamp; from the City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County
Ms. Chris MacInnes; from the Village of Beulah, Benzie County
Mr. Scott Bowen, DNR Director; from the City of Grand Rapids, Kent County

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

Also participating were other interested parties.

Chair Rustem introduced DNR Director Bowen and welcomed him as a member of the MNRTF Board.

Director Bowen discussed DNR priorities in expanding the Michigan Recreation Passport to become "opt-out" and asked the Board for support in publicizing that effort.

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF DECEMBER 13, 2023

Chair Rustem called for adoption of the minutes for the December 13, 2023, MNRTF Board meeting.

MOVED BY MR. HAMP, SUPPORTED BY MS. MACINNES, TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 13, 2023, MNRTF BOARD MEETING.

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF FEBURARY 14, 2024

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

MOVED BY MS. MACINNES, SUPPORTED BY DR. BROWN, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA FOR THE FEBURARY 14, 2024, MNRTF BOARD MEETING.

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Chris Bunch, Executive Director, Six Rivers Land Conservancy; Turtle Woods Acquisition TF23-0039

Mr. Bunch spoke in support of the 2023 Trust Fund application TF23-0039 submitted by Oakland County and which will likely be resubmitted in 2024. He also voiced support for the MNRTF scoring reassessment that is to take place in 2024 and encouraged further partnership between the MNRTF Board and external partners.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Status of MNRTF Appropriation Bill

Clay Summers provided an update on the status of the MNRTF appropriation bill that provides funding for the 2023 grant awards.

DNR staff discussed conversations had with Legislative Appropriations Committee members in which a request was made for MNRTF funding to be packaged and approved separate from the general budget to help expedite project agreements for the 2023 grant projects.

- b. DNR Recreation Grants Virtual Workshop

Jon Mayes provided an overview of the DNR Recreation Grants Virtual Workshop that was held on February 7, 2024.

Jon Mayes noted that over 400 individuals registered for the virtual workshop and that DNR Recreation Grants Unit staff will also present at the mParks conference in Kalamazoo at the end of February.

- c. Current Status on MNRTF Conversions

Erin Campbell provided a presentation on current MNRTF conversions across existing encumbered lands and efforts underway to assist communities in resolving those conversions.

Currently there are 21 active conversions. Erin Campbell explained the difficulties in resolving conversions and discussed details around what is required for communities to become compliant again.

d. Withdrawal of Projects:

1. TF18-0134 – Department of Natural Resources, Watkins Lake State Park Consolidations (Washtenaw County); Grant Amount \$430,372.15
2. TF21-0108 – City of Petoskey, Skyline Recreation Area (Emmet County); Grant Amount \$187,500.00

Jon Mayes provided an overview of the projects requesting withdrawal.

Chair Rustem called to accept the withdrawal of TF18-0134 and TF21-0108.

MOVED BY DIRECTOR BOWEN SUPPORTED BY MS. MACINNES, TO ACCEPT THE WITHDRAWALS OF TF18-0134 and TF21-0108.

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

e. Summer Tour and MNRTF Meeting Locations

Clay Summers provided an overview of proposed 2024 MNRTF meeting locations and potential site visits in Jackson County (June meeting) and Traverse City (August or October meeting).

Clay Summers noted that Jackson County offered to host the June meeting at the fairgrounds and due to the lack of available accommodations in the Traverse City area during the summer, the “northern” site visit may be held in October, pending internal discussion.

Chair Rustem called to set the meeting dates and locations as suggested by DNR Staff.

MOVED BY MS. MACINNES SUPPORTED BY DR. BROWN, TO ACCEPT DNR STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE.

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

f. Update on MNRFT Staff Activities

Clay Summers provided an update on DNR staff activities in support of the MNRTF. Applications for all recreation grant programs (including MNRTF) are due April 1, 2024. Recreation grant program scoring reassessment will take place in 2024 with recommendations brought before the Board at the October meeting.

VII. BOARD PACKET REFERENCE MATERIALS

Chair Rustem reminded the Board that all remaining reports are contained in the Board's packet of materials.

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

Chair Rustem asked DNR staff about the status of older MNRTF grants received by the City of Flint that had not been completed. DNR Staff provided an update on TF08-075 and TF13-070.

VIII. OTHER MATTERS AS PROPERLY BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the MNRTF is scheduled for April 17, 2024, at the Michigan Nature Association in Okemos, Michigan. Details will be posted in advance of the meeting on the Board's website.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Rustem called for a motion to adjourn.

MOVED BY MS. MACINNES, SUPPORTED BY DR. BROWN, TO ADJOURN.

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

Meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Bill Rustem

Bill Rustem, Chairperson
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
Board of Trustees

Clay Summers

Clay Summers, Manager
Grants Management Section
DNR Finance and Operations Division

DATE APPROVED: 04/17/2024