



MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes of Wednesday, June 12, 2024
9:00 a.m.

Location: American 1 Credit Union Event Center
Jackson, Michigan

Chair Rustem called the meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board of Trustees (Board) to order at 9:02 a.m., Wednesday, June 12, 2024, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

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

Mr. Bill Rustem, Chair; from Alaiedon Township, Ingham County
Dr. Brandy Brown, Vice-Chair; from the City of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County
Mr. Steve Hamp, Vice-Chair; 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

Present for the Department of Natural Resources (Department):

Clay Summers, Grants Management Section Manager; Jon Mayes, Recreation Grant Unit Manager; Mike Chuff, Financial Specialist; Dan Lord, Chief of Finance and Operations Division; Tim Novak, Trails Section Manager; Grant Coordinators: Charamy Cleary, Merrie Carlock, Riley Millard, Sam Davis.

Also participating were other interested parties.

II. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF APRIL 17, 2024

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

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

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF JUNE 12, 2024

Chair Rustem called for adoption of the agenda for the June 12, 2024, MNRTF Board meeting.

MOVED BY MR. BOWEN, SUPPORTED BY MS. MACINNES, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA FOR THE JUNE 12, 2024, MNRTF BOARD MEETING.

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Mr. Bunch provided an update on the Turtle Woods acquisition project. He also discussed his interest in the continued evaluation of Board Priorities, as well as how to ensure the Trust Fund appropriation bill gets passed more expediently.

Chair Rustem asked staff for an update on the passing of the 2023 Trust Fund appropriation bill.

Dan Lord provided details on the appropriation bill and noted that a discrepancy between versions passed in the House and Senate have delayed sending the bill to the Governor. He noted the respective legislative chambers are working to reconcile the difference.

- b. Rich Bowman, Director of Policy, the Nature Conservancy

Mr. Bowman discussed expanding the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) in Michigan to allow for local units of government to apply for the funds and help leverage MNRTF funds as match. He stated that an amendment would need to be submitted by the Department to the Federal Secretary of Agriculture to amend the State Forest Action Plan and allow for local units to pursue FLP funding. The FLP has recently added \$700 million to its program that must be expended by 2031.

- c. Nicole Fisher, Executive Director, mParks

Ms. Fisher expressed gratitude for the work of the Board and thanked Department staff for attending the June 5, 2024, mParks Director's Summit.

- d. Helen Baldwin, Mayor Pro-Tem, City of Saugatuck

Ms. Baldwin spoke in support of Saugatuck Township's 2024 grant request. She noted the importance of the grant funds to ensure the acquisition is feasible and to avoid private development.

Chair Rustem asked for any additional public comments.

None were offered.

V. PRESENTATIONS FROM 2024 GRANT APPLICANTS

Jon Mayes asked the presenters to adhere to their ten-minute presentation time.

Questions by the Board were addressed during the presentation.

- a. TF24-0044 Chesterfield Township, Jefferson Wetland Preserve Acquisition (Macomb County), Brad Kersten, Township Supervisor and Karen Gharbie, Assistant Supervisor

MNRTF Grant Request: \$560,000
Matching Funds: \$240,000
Total Project Cost: \$800,000

- b. TF24-0070 City of Kentwood, Lamberts Trail Park Acquisition (Kent County), Stephen Kepley, Mayor/City Manager; Shay Gallagher Deputy City Administrator; Spencer McKellar, Lead Recreation Program Coordinator

MNRTF Grant Request: \$129,100
Matching Funds: \$129,100
Total Project Cost: \$258,200

- c. TF24-0098 Village of Sparta, Rogue River Park (Kent County), James Lower, Village Manager

MNRTF Grant Request: \$281,400
Matching Funds: \$100,000
Total Project Cost: \$381,400

- d. TF24-0128 City of Burton, City of Burton Community Complex Acquisition (Genesee County), Duane Haskins, Mayor; Amy Clous, Parks and Recreation Director

MNRTF Grant Request: \$1,275,000
Matching Funds: \$425,000
Total Project Cost: \$1,700,000

- e. TF24-0108 Saugatuck Township, Pine Trail Camp Acquisition (Allegan County), Daniel DeFranco, Township Manager

MNRTF Grant Request: \$2,917,500
Matching Funds: \$972,500
Total Project Cost: \$3,890,000

- f. TF24-0080 City of Chelsea, Main Street Park Acquisition (Washtenaw County), Martin Colburn, City Manager and Joe Ziolkowski

MNRTF Grant Request: \$1,012,500
Matching Funds: \$462,827
Total Project Cost: \$1,475,327

- g. TF24-0218 New Buffalo Township, Marquette Greenway Phase 2 (Berrien County), Marcy Hamilton, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

MNRTF Grant Request: \$300,000
Matching Funds: \$300,000
Total Project Cost: \$600,000

- h. TF24-0199 Calhoun County, North Branch Boat Launch Renovations (Calhoun County), Douglas Ferrall, Assistant Director of Community Development

MNRTF Grant Request: \$222,000
Matching Funds: \$180,000
Total Project Cost: \$402,000

- i. TF24-0037 Jackson County, Minard Mills (Jackson County), Kyle Lewis, Parks Director

MNRTF Grant Request: \$200,000
Matching Funds: \$200,000
Total Project Cost: \$400,000

- j. TF24-0146 and TF24-0147 City of Detroit, Intervale-Roselawn Playground & Clark Park (Wayne County), Christina Peltier, Chief Greenways Planner; Theresa McArleton, Chief Parks Planner

TF24-0146
MNRTF Grant Request: \$400,000
Matching Funds: \$400,000
Total Project Cost: \$800,000

TF24-0147
MNRTF Grant Request: \$250,000
Matching Funds: \$250,000
Total Project Cost: \$500,000

Chair Rustem called for a 15-minute recess at 11:19 a.m.

Chair Rustem called the meeting back from recess at 11:37 a.m.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Status of MNRTF Appropriation Bill – Clay Summers

Provided during Public Comment.

- b. Director's Update – Director Scott Bowen

Mr. Bowen provided details on a tour that he attended with Rich Bowman from the Nature Conservancy pertaining to the Forest Legacy Program.

- c. MNRTF Scoring Review Update – Clay Summers

Mr. Summers provided an update on the review of Department scoring categories for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund program and how staff is engaging internal and external stakeholders to gather input.

- d. Statewide Trails Update – Tim Novak

Mr. Novak provided an update of Department trail construction and management of 13,500 miles of trail; including an overview of how trail development progress has met the current Board priority on trails, but how there is still work to be done to improve the state trail network. Mr. Novak stated that roughly 75% of the Iron Bell Trail has been completed and the priority is on closing existing gaps around the state.

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.

None were offered.

VIII. OTHER MATTERS AS PROPERLY BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD

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

None were offered.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Rustem announced that the next meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at East Bay Township Hall, Traverse City. Information will be posted in advance on the Board's website.

Chair Rustem asked for any additional announcements from the Board.

None were offered.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Rustem called for a motion to adjourn.

MOVED BY DR. BROWN, SUPPORTED BY MR. HAMP, TO ADJOURN.

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

Meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.