



MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes of June 14, 2023

9:00 AM

River Raisin Battlefield Park Visitor Center
333 North Dixie Highway
Monroe, Michigan

Vice 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, June 14, 2023, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

The following Board members were present:

Bill Rustem, from Alaiedon Township, Ingham County
Chris MacInnes, from the Village of Beulah, Benzie County
Dr. Brandy Brown, from the City of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County

The following Department of Natural Resources (Department) Grants Management Section staff introduced themselves: Clay Summers, Section Manager; Jon Mayes, Unit Manager; Mike Chuff, Financial Specialist; Merrie Carlock, Charamy Cleary and Riley Millard, Grant Coordinators.

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

Vice Chair Rustem noted that Board members Shannon Lott and Steve Hamp were unable to attend.

II. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF APRIL 19, 2023

Vice Chair Rustem called for adoption of the minutes for the April 19, 2023, MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY DR. BROWN, SUPPORT BY MACINNES, TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 19, 2023, MNRTF BOARD MEETING.
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF JUNE 14, 2023

Vice Chair Rustem called for adoption of the agenda for the June 14, 2023, MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY MACINNES, SUPPORT BY DR. BROWN, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA OF THE JUNE 14, 2023, MNRTF BOARD MEETING.
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Chris Bunch thanked everyone for coming out to see and learn about the area. Chris discussed the transformative long-term process of our investments. Often, we get the big picture in mind, and don't do anything until we can do everything. These investments are incremental and happen over time. Six Rivers motto is to get the land and then you have forever to figure out what to do with it. Southeast Michigan is about to launch a green initiative that talks about substantially increasing the amount of conservation and recreation lands. Currently, there are only 200,000 acres of public land in Southeast Michigan. Chris introduced Mike Bosanac and Scott Bentley, who helped organize the tour. Scott Bentley, National Park Service Superintendent at the River Raisin National Battlefield Park thanked the Board and the Department for the transformative project at the battlefield. Mike Bosanac welcomed everyone to the city of Monroe and thanked the Board for their service to the citizens of the state on behalf of the host committee. Mike discussed the challenges and opportunities that are available in the downriver area of Wayne and Monroe Counties.

b. Amy O'Leary, Executive Director, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Tyler Klifman, Planner with Southeast Michigan Council of Governments presented on Amy O'Leary's behalf. Tyler expressed his thanks for the opportunity to see the projects on the tour and recognized the partnerships and investments that have made these projects possible. Tyler stated there are 25 applications this year from southeast Michigan communities including some acquisition opportunities. Collectively, the southeast communities represent 1.5 million residents, and these investments and improvements have a local and regional impact.

c. David Tobar, City of Detroit, Joe Louis Greenway Construction Update

David Tobar summarized the \$160 million Joe Louis Greenway project. These funds need to be spent by 2026 which is an incredibly fast timeline. In 2023, blight removal is taking place directly impacting communities and neighbors. The Greenway is roughly 30 miles, connecting 23 neighborhoods, and connecting to the Michigan Iron Belle system. Close to 100 outreach meetings have taken place with hundreds of residents and neighbors providing input. To date over 22,000 tires have been removed, 85,000 cubic yards of category 2 debris has been removed, and 5,025 square feet of vacant, abandoned, or dangerous buildings are being removed. David shared a presentation with images and progress made.

d. Karl Schmidt, President of Troy Board of Education

Karl Schmidt thanked the Board for the opportunity to address them. Karl spoke on behalf of TF23-0039 Turtle Woods acquisition. This parcel was acquired by the district in 1967 as a potential site for a high school. That construction never took place, and the 70-acre parcel has been informally used by the community as a quiet oasis and green space. The district never discouraged public use, but they do consider it a financial liability. In 2015, the district began exploring divestiture options. Public comment indicated that 2/3 of Troy residents recommended preserving this parcel.

v. PRESENTATIONS FROM 2023 GRANT APPLICANTS

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

Questions by the Board were addressed during the presentation.

The June 2023 MNRTF applications presented include:

- a. TF23-0003 City of Rochester Hills – Cloverport Park/Clinton River Buffer Acquisition (Oakland County); Matt Einheuser, Natural Resources Manager

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$1,328,000	(49%)
Matching Funds:	\$1,425,000	(51%)
Total Project Cost:	\$2,753,000	

- b. TF23-0039 Oakland County Parks – Turtle Woods Acquisition (Oakland County); Melissa Prowse, Parks Manager

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$3,247,500	(73%)
Matching Funds:	\$1,227,500	(27%)
Total Project Cost:	\$4,475,000	

- c. TF23-0055 Macomb Township – North Branch Greenway Acquisition (Macomb County); Frank Viviano, Township Supervisor

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$1,742,500	(70%)
Matching Funds:	\$746,800	(30%)
Total Project Cost:	\$2,489,300	

- d. TF23-0058 Superior Township – Birdsong Nature Preserve (Washtenaw County); Juan Bradford, Parks and Recreation Director and Jack Smiley

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$1,020,000	(67%)
Matching Funds:	\$520,000	(33%)
Total Project Cost:	\$1,540,000	

- e. TF23-0060 Village of Clinton – Development of Tate Park (Lenawee County); Kevin Cornish, Village Manager

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$230,000	(50%)
Matching Funds:	\$230,000	(50%)
Total Project Cost:	\$460,000	

- f. TF23-0070 Village of Lexington – Harbor Development Acquisition (Sanilac County); Kristen Kaatz, Village President and Greg Weykamp, Engineer, Edgewater Resources

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$1,387,500	(75%)
Matching Funds:	\$462,500	(25%)
Total Project Cost:	\$1,850,000	

- g. TF23-0113 City of Sterling Heights – Rotary Park Expansion at the Clinton River (Macomb County); Kyle Langlois, Parks Director

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$195,600	(71%)
Matching Funds:	\$83,800	(29%)
Total Project Cost:	\$279,400	

- h. TF23-0118 Northville Charter Township – Seven Mile Road Regional Pathway Connection (Wayne County); Bob Belair, Recreation Superintendent

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$300,000	(16%)
Matching Funds:	\$1,693,000	(84%)
Total Project Cost:	\$1,933,000	

- i. TF23-0173 Hillsdale County – Lewis Emery Park Development (Hillsdale County); Derek Ringman, Finance Manager

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$240,000	(74%)
Matching Funds:	\$84,400	(26%)
Total Project Cost:	\$324,400	

Vice Chair Rustem 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 Appropriation Bill – Clay Summers

HB4238 has moved through the House and is in the Senate. The Department anticipates this will move along with the budget negotiations.

- b. American Rescue Plan Act / Spark Grant Update – Clay Summers

The Department is actively in the final round of Department Spark Grants. The application deadline is June 26, 2023. Currently, there are over 1,000 applications started.

- c. Director’s Update – Acting Director Lott

N/A

- d. Update on MNRTF Staff Activities – Clay Summers

Grant Coordinators are looking at applications and setting up site visits. Clay acknowledged his four weeks in this role, and his pleasure to jump in and get integrated in all Department grant programs. Staff work hard and there is so much passion, it’s incredible to see. Vice Chair Rustem welcomed Clay and stated the transition seems seamless.

- e. Withdrawal of Projects – Jon Mayes

TF20-0078 – Village of Sebewaing (Huron County), Grant Amount \$96,600

MOVED BY DR. BROWN, SUPPORT BY MACINNES, TO ADOPT WITHDRAWAL OF TF20-0078, VILLAGE OF SEBEWAING, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$96,600. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

VII. BOARD PACKET REFERENCE MATERIALS

Vice Chair Rustem reminded the Board that all remaining meeting materials are contained in the Board’s packet of materials and will entertain any questions about those materials.

Vice Chair Rustem asked for and was provided brief updates on previously awarded projects.

VIII. OTHER MATTERS AS PROPERLY BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD

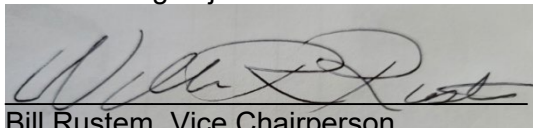
IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board is scheduled for 9:00 AM, Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie. Information will be posted in advance on the Board's [website](#).

X. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Rustem asked for additional comments or discussion. None was offered.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.



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



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

Date: _____