



## MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes of October 18, 2023

9:00 AM

Michigan State University  
Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Room 101  
4125 Beaumont Road  
Lansing, Michigan

Chair Hamp called the meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board of Trustees (Board) to order at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 18, 2023, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### I. INTRODUCTIONS

##### a. Delegation of Authority

Clay Summers spoke to a delegation of authority memo from Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Director Bowen delegating authority for the remainder of calendar year 2023 to Deputy Director, Shannon Lott.

Chair Hamp called for a motion to approve the delegation of authority memo from Director Bowen delegating authority for the remainder of calendar year 2023 to Deputy Director, Shannon Lott.

**MOVED BY MACINNES, SUPPORT BY RUSTEM, TO APPROVE THE DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FOR THE REMAINDER OF CALENDAR YEAR 2023 TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR, SHANNON LOTT.  
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

The following Board members were present:

Steve Hamp, Chair; from the City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County  
Bill Rustem; from Alaiedon Township, Ingham County  
Dr. Brandy Brown; from the City of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County  
Chris MacInnes, from the Village of Beulah, Benzie County  
Shannon Lott, DNR Deputy Director; from the Village of Webberville, Ingham County

Clay Summers introduced DNR Director, Scott Bowen. The following DNR Grants Management Section staff introduced themselves: Clay Summers, Section Manager; Jon Mayes, Unit Manager; Mike Chuff, Financial Specialist; Merrie Carlock, Alex Galloway, Charamy Cleary, Samantha Davis and Riley Millard, Grant Coordinators.

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

#### II. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF AUGUST 16, 2023

Chair Hamp called for adoption of the minutes for the August 16, 2023, MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY DR. BROWN, SUPPORT BY RUSTEM, TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 16, 2023, MNRTF BOARD MEETING.  
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

### III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF OCTOBER 18, 2023

Chair Hamp called for adoption of the agenda for the October 18, 2023, MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY RUSTEM, SUPPORT BY DR. BROWN, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA OF THE OCTOBER 18, 2023, MNRTF BOARD MEETING.  
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

### IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Brian Marzolf, Land Protection Manager, Six Rivers Land Conservancy

Six Rivers Land Conservancy is really excited for all the applications this round. Two projects in Oakland County include the Highland Township acquisition and the Turtle Woods acquisition project. These are critical additions in southeast Michigan, and important in multiple regional plans. Brian Marzolf discussed the GREEN initiative in southeast Michigan, and how important MNRTF is in obtaining the goals of the initiative. Six Rivers Land Conservancy is excited for this grant cycle and thanked the Board for their work and time.

b. Greg Weykamp, President, Edgewater Resources

Greg Weykamp discussed the Village of Lexington Harbor project. Greg Weykamp detailed some updates to strengthen the application since he originally presented the application in June.

The Village of Lexington Harbor acquisition includes a parc of land along with 80 slips on Lake Huron (dockage infrastructure on state-owned bottomlands). This focused access is about leveraging all the investments in Lexington Harbor including the Lexington Harbor Master Plan that includes an \$8 million project from the Corp of Engineers to restructure the breakwater and an additional \$8 million grant for all of the uplands. The DNR and the Village of Lexington have been collaborating since there is a piece of private land that separates the two parcels, and this acquisition would close that loop and bring those 80 slips into public ownership.

One question that has been raised is the cost of the acquisition. It is a high cost for the size of the parcel, but what's important to remember is a marina is an operating asset. Greg Weykamp detailed that Point Pleasant Marina in Douglas Michigan was acquired at \$1 million for 15 slips. This acquisition is for 80 slips for \$1.8 million. The village has also increased their match to 36%. It is a small piece of property, but an outsized impact on the access to the Great Lakes, access for fishermen using the public boat ramp, and creating the most efficient use of public infrastructure.

c. Julia Butch, Land Protection Coordinator, Huron Pines

Julia Butch on behalf of Huron Pines is here in support of Oscoda Charter Townships acquisition of the Au Sable River Scenic Preserve, TF23-0207. Huron Pines is in partnership with Oscoda Charter Township to pre-acquire the property that will eventually be known as the Preserve. Huron Pines is currently in the purchase agreement phase working through their due diligence process. A favorable appraisal was returned, and Huron Pines does not anticipate any complications before closing (November 30). If this acquisition application is approved for funding, it would protect over 3,000 feet of river front and enhance outdoor recreation. This parcel bridges a gap between the communities

existing park spaces and some of the more rustic public lands. Additionally, the physical features of the land have huge potential for low impact recreation.

d. Melissa Prowse, Manager, Oakland County Parks and Recreation

Melissa Prowse with Oakland County Parks and Recreation spoke on the Turtle Woods acquisition project. Turtle Woods is a 70-acre parcel of woods and wetlands in the city of Troy. Some points were missed in the initial scoring for not providing clear documentation on how Turtle Woods fits in with local or regional planning and conservation efforts. During the supplemental period Oakland County Parks and Recreation provided a map showing the county's green infrastructure vision that highlighted not only Turtle Woods as a key component of that green infrastructure vision, but that it is identified as a key component based on the size of the property. Acquiring Turtle Woods will provide quality recreation experiences in the more densely populated areas of Oakland County. This acquisition would open a new nature preserve within a 15-minute drive of 300,000 residents of Macomb and Oakland Counties.

e. Kurt Fogelsonger, Alabaster Township Parks and Recreation Committee Member

Kurt Fogelsonger from Alabaster Township presented this project to the Board in August. After initial scoring, supplemental information was provided regarding regional significance, sustainable design, quality of overall design, financial need, and outside input on accessibility.

This project is regionally significant since an existing bike and hiking path runs adjacent to the preserve. New maps were submitted showing the completed portions of the Iron Belle Trail and Alabaster Township as part of that. Alabaster Township has over 4,000 linear feet of beach frontage on Lake Huron, along with forested dunes and swales.

Sustainable design will incorporate benches and trash cans made from renewable and recycled material, a crushed limestone pathway, and native plants at the trailheads.

Alabaster Township's schematic detailing the quality of the overall design was not completed by the original submission date. That schematic design has now been completed by our design professionals.

A financial tool developed by United Way, indicates that 51% of Alabaster Township homes fall below the median household income.

Alabaster Township also shared their plans with the Director of Special Education from Regional Education Service Agency. All accessibility issues brought forward were addressed.

f. Kieran Fleming, Director, Little Traverse Conservancy

Kieran Fleming with Little Traverse Conservancy voiced support for the DNR's Black River Ranch acquisition within the Pigeon River State Forest. It is rare to have the opportunity to magnify Michigan's landscape with an incredible acquisition like this.

V. PRESENTATIONS FROM 2023 DNR GRANT APPLICANTS

a. Opening Remarks

Scott Whitcomb, Director of Office of Public Lands, shared what an honor it is to be here today to kick off the DNR presentations for 2023 grant applications.

Scott Whitcomb shared some changes to the DNR pending and on-going projects.

TF22-0127, Forest Resources Division, Sturgeon River acquisition for \$1.75 million is being formally withdrawn. This property has been sold to a private party.

Two applications regarding Crow Island were submitted for a total ask of \$2.4 million. Those two applications are being withdrawn and funding will be provided from an ARPA allocation for wetlands.

Scott Whitcomb detailed some legal issues that may impact Saugatuck Dunes State Park Addition. That grant application was for \$3 million and will potentially be withdrawn.

Questions from the Board were addressed during each presentation.

The DNR 2023 MNRTF applications presented include:

- b. Forest Resources Division, Kerry Heckman, Forest Land Administrator
  - 1. TF23-0208 Black River Ranch (Cheboygan and Montmorency Counties)
  - 2. TF23-0171 Betsie River Springs (Benzie County)
  - 3. TF23-0172 Doe Lake (Cheboygan County)
- c. Wildlife Division, Val Frawley, Public Land Matters Biologist
  - 1. TF23-0098 Middleville State Game Area (Barry County)
  - 2. TF23-0166 Rogue River State Game Area (Kent County)
- d. Parks and Recreation Division, Matt Lincoln, Land Specialist and Grant Coordinator
  - 1. TF23-0101 Saugatuck Dunes State Park Addition (Allegan County)
  - 2. TF23-0108 Waterloo Recreation Area Addition (Jackson County)
  - 3. TF23-0204 Grand Traverse Greenway Development (Genesee County)
  - 4. TF23-0205 Black River Bridge Replacement – High Country Pathway (Otsego County)
- e. Michigan History Center, Sandra Clark, Director
  - 1. TF23-0181 Hartwick Pines Visitor Center Interpretation (Crawford County)

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Alabaster Township Grant Match, Coastal Zone Management (EGLE) TF21-0022 – Clay Summers

Alabaster Township was awarded a development grant in 2021. Funding in the amount of \$850,000 will be coming to the MNRTF as a grant award from NOAA to supplement the project funding.

Clay Summers recognized and thanked Rhonda Wycheck and EGLE for their role in getting this grant and funding in place.

b. Spark Grant Update – Clay Summers

The Spark Grant program, which allocated \$65 million in ARPA funds in 2022, allowed the DNR to grant awards between \$100,000 and \$1 million. In the first round of Spark Grants, the DNR awarded 21 communities with funding. In the DNR's second and final round, we awarded 31 communities with funding. Part of the DNR's final round was entering into agreements with 14 regional planning units to provide technical assistance to community grant recipients. Michigan Foundations will be working to award the final \$27.5 million.

c. Director's Update –Shannon Lott

Deputy Director Shannon Lott introduced DNR Director Bowen. Shannon Lott discussed a groundbreaking ceremony that was held last week for the new DNR mass timber Newberry Customer Service Center and a second event at the new shooting range in Marquette.

d. Board Representation at the Legislative Convening Meeting – Clay Summers

The DNR is working to schedule the legislative convening meeting. We are looking at the process and we will get it on the calendar before December 1, 2023. Bill Rustem and Shannon Lott will be participating in the convening meeting.

e. Update on MNRTF Staff Activities – Clay Summers

Recreation Grant staff have been busy scoring Spark and MNRTF applications; including all supplemental material.

Grants staff is putting together an onboarding meeting in early November for Spark Grant recipients. The 14 regional planning units will also be invited to this online webinar.

f. Withdrawal of Projects – Jon Mayes

1. TF17-0185 – City of Dearborn, Lower Rouge River Access and Revitalization (Wayne County); Grant Amount \$98,300
2. TF19-0096 – Breen Township, Stromberg Park Campground Renovation (Dickinson County); Grant Amount \$103,600
3. TF22-0217 – Department of Natural Resources, Sturgeon River Corridor Acquisition (Otsego County); Grant Amount \$1,750,000
4. TF18-0239 – Delta County, Rapid River Falls ORV/ATV Campground (Delta County); Grant Amount \$85,000
5. TF17-0204 – Department of Natural Resources – GMO Multi-Use Trail Easement (Ontonagon County); Grant Amount \$49,200
6. TF17-0205 – Department of Natural Resources – Snowmobile Trail #109 Multi-Use Trail Easements (Houghton County); Grant Amount \$56,200

Chair Hamp called for a motion to accept the withdrawals listed above.

**MOVED BY RUSTEM, SUPPORT BY MACINNES, TO ADOPT WITHDRAWAL OF TF17-0185, TF19-0096, TF22-0217, TF18-0239, TF17-0204, and TF17-0205 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,142,300.  
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

VII. BOARD PACKET REFERENCE MATERIALS

Chair Hamp reminded the Board that all remaining meeting materials are contained in the Board's packet of materials and entertained any questions about those materials.

VIII. OTHER MATTERS AS PROPERLY BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD

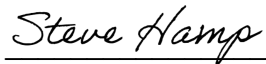
IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board is scheduled for 9:00 AM, Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at the City of East Lansing Hannah Community Center, East Lansing, Michigan. Information will be posted in advance on the Board's [website](#).

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.



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Steve Hamp, Chair  
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund  
Board of Trustees



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

Date: 12/13/2023