



# Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

Date: April 26, 2023

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual

### Roll Call

#### Attending remotely:

Ann Conklin; Canton Township, Wayne County  
Jim Bradley; Ontonagon, Ontonagon County  
Julie Clark; Grand Traverse, Grand Traverse County  
Mike Foote; Ada Township, Kent County  
Bob Hoffmeyer; Clarkston, Oakland County  
Mike McDonald; Meridian Township, Ingham County  
Shaun McKeon; Lansing Township, Ingham County  
Mary Pitcher; Lake Township, Benzie County  
Chris Graham; Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County

#### Absent:

Dave Nyberg

#### Present for the Department of Natural Resources:

Ron Olson, Chief  
Jacklin Blodgett  
Vicki McGhee  
Jason Fleming  
Scott Pratt  
Michael Desnoyer  
Nicole Hunt  
Nick Van Bloem  
Kasey Cline  
Maia Turek  
Neil Pennanen  
Matt Lincoln  
Deb Jensen  
Linnae Dawson  
Chris Stark  
Barbara Graves

## **Opening Comments**

Committee member Ann Conklin called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

## **Approval of the Minutes**

Committee member Ann Conklin asked for a motion for approval of the February 22, 2023 minutes. The motion was moved by Mike McDonald, supported by Mike Foote, and passed unanimously.

Committee member Ann Conklin asked for a motion for approval of the March 22, 2023 special meeting minutes. The motion was moved by Mary Pitcher, supported by Jim Bradley, and passed unanimously.

## **Action**

Matt Lincoln presented two additional Trust Fund grant applications for Grand Traverse Greenway Development and Black River Bridge Replacement.

Committee member McDonald asked the department to highlight the trailhead in the application for the Grand Traverse Greenway. Committee member Conklin questioned if any special allocation was given for this project. Matt Lincoln said no, ARPA money is focused mainly on the river corridor.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF: Committee member Ann Conklin asked for a motion of support for approval of Resolution No. 04-2023-02 to support the additional 2023 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Applications. Committee member Clark motioned, with Committee member McDonald seconding. The resolution was passed unanimously.

## **Information Only**

Parks and Recreation Updates - Ron Olson, Chief, gave an update on the FY24 budget. The Executive has a \$43 million one-time general fund to Belle Isle Park infrastructure. The Senate version reduced this to \$35 million but added a carveout to Flint State Park to match the endowment. \$3.5 million to build three spray parks in Warren Dunes, Holland and Grand Haven State. The House version reduced it to \$25 million and did not add the other mentioned elements. \$7.8 million in restricted funds remains in both the House and Senate bills to appropriate money from a fund balance to use for increased

operational dollars to help with increased staffing and other needed elements for operations. Pending are the supplementals for the bridgeover funds for the Flint State Park of \$800,000, and \$450,000 to make up for lost Grand Prix revenue.

There is momentum picking up with the opt-out for the Recreation Passport.

#### Land Use Order (LUO) - Alcohol Enforcement

Chief Olson said that this order was amended to include “possession” of alcohol, for enforcement consistency.

#### PRD DAM Assessment

Nick Van Bloem, Panning Unit Manager, gave an update on the DNR Dam Evaluation, a project to review and assess the 40 PRD regulated dams owned by the DNR. PRD criteria are recreation value, environmental value, and support species/habitat.

#### ARPA Projects

Brittany Ruff, Development Planner, gave an overview on the progress of ARPA projects. Highlights included Hoffmaster State Park, Algonac State Park, Brighton Recreation Area, and Sterling State Park projects. Trail project highlights included Kal Haven, Musketawa, CIS, and the White Pine Trail. Some of the emerging hurdles in the process included high-strength wastewater, impacts to the public, and market volatility.

#### PRD All Employee Meeting Topics – The next 3 years

Jacklin Blodgett, Assistant Chief, said that eight DNR All Employee meetings took place throughout the state in January through April. The meetings consisted of morning updates from the department and recognizing staff longevity. The afternoons were spent for division breakout sessions that consisted of updates, recognizing accomplishments, and question and answer sessions. Jacklin provided some examples of what staff thought the division needed to do to be successful in the next three years. Some of the responses were in regard to employee retention and recruitment, staff training, invasive species, accessibility, new employee orientation, capacity at units, campgrounds, and more. The next steps are to review the list at the management team level, compare them to the current plans and actions already being worked on, and address issues of concern.

#### Highlights from the PRD Strategic Plan

Deb Jensen, Park Management Plan Administrator, went through the approved Parks and Recreation Division Strategic Plan and the new format. The plan was trimmed down from previous plans and includes the executive summary, goals, quick facts, and goals and objectives. Jason Fleming, Maia

Turek, Michael Desnoyer, Kasey Cline, and Linnae Dawson highlighted some of the action goals. The completed, approved plan will be placed on the department's website.

**Public Comment**

None

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.



**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

---

**INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION**

---

VIA E-MAIL

TO: Grants Management Section

FROM: Ron Olson, Parks and Recreation Division

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ronald A. Olson".

DATE: May 4, 2023

SUBJECT: 2023 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant Application Additions

Parks and Recreation Division supports the following additional 2023 grant applications. Please direct any questions to Matt Lincoln, the authorized official for these applications.

<b>MNRTF Development</b>	<b><u>Requested Amount</u></b>
1. Grand Traverse Greenway Development – City of Flint	\$300,000
2. Black River Bridge Replacement – High Country Pathway	\$300,000

## **RESOLUTION NO. 04-2023-02**

### **MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)**

### **RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE ADDITIONAL 2023 MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND AND FEDERAL LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROJECT APPLICATIONS**

**ADOPTED: April 26, 2023**

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund (MNRTF) and Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant projects have been identified to meet various objectives; and

**WHEREAS**, the additional list will be submitted to the MNRTF prior to the May 15, 2023 submission deadline;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee supports the grants submitted (see attached list) to the MNRTF;

Submitted by: Ron Olson, Chief, Parks and Recreation Division, with approval of support from the MSPAC.

**Motioned by: Julie Clark**

**Seconded by: Michael McDonald**

**Yeas: 9**

**Nays: 0**

**Abstained: 0**

**Absent: 1**

***This Resolution was adopted by the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee at their meeting on April 26, 2023, as Resolution No. 04-2023-02.***