

MINUTES

Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

2:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Meeting / (248) 509-0316 | ID: 173 535 073#

PRESENT FOR THE MSPAC

Attending remotely:

Ann Conklin; Canton, Wayne County, Michigan
Shaun McKeon; Owosso, Ingham County, Michigan
Chris Graham; Barton Hills Village, Washtenaw County, Michigan
Bob Hoffmeyer; Clarkston, Oakland County, Michigan
Mike Foote; Ada, Kent County, Michigan
Mary Pitcher; Lake Township, Benzie County, Michigan
Jim Bradley; Ontonagon, Ontonagon County, Michigan

ABSENT

Julie Clark
Mike McDonald
Dave Nyberg

PRD STAFF PRESENT

Ron Olson, Chief
Jacklin Blodgett
Vicki McGhee
Scott Pratt
Kriss Bennett
Tom Bissett
Alyssa Fisher
Kasey Mahony
Brittany Ruff
Christa Sturtevant-Good
Barbara Graves

OPENING COMMENTS

Committee member Ann Conklin called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and asked for a roll call. Member **Conklin** moved public comments to the beginning of the agenda for those who were on the call.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Scott Eric Floyd would like to see campgrounds offer smoke-free options. Vicki McGhee, Planning Unit Chief, PRD, replied that a workgroup is being formed to look at what Parks can do to incorporate changes in the system to accommodate individuals with breathing disabilities.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee member Conklin motioned for approval of the June 8, 2022 minutes. The motion was moved by **Mike Foote**, supported by **Shaun McKeon**, and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ONLY

Christa Sturtevant-Good, Department Analyst, PRD, gave an overview of the reservation system. A Lean Process Improvement (LPI) analysis was completed in 2020, with 649 requirements. In 2021, the contract was put out for bid and implemented this year. The requirements from the LPI are set to be implemented by November of 2023. Any reservation system questions can be directed to her at sturtevantc@michigan.gov, or Jeremy Spell at spellj@michigan.gov.

Ron Olson, Chief, PRD, provided a progress update on the Flint Park, a collaboration between Genesee County and the DNR.

Jacklin Blodgett, Assistant Chief, PRD, provided a report on overall park operations, including budget highlights, staffing, and looking as far ahead as 2024.

Kriss Bennett, Planning Unit Manager, PRD, and Brittany Ruff, Development Planner, Planning & Infrastructure Section, PRD, provided an update on the ARPA projects and shovel-ready projects. The dashboard can be found at <https://www.michigan.gov/stateparksprogress>.

Tom Bissett, working out of class Urban District Supervisor, PRD, gave a presentation on the new bus shuttle service that began operations on Belle Isle in July. The service was started to help transport visitors to the popular attractions around the island and to also help with traffic flow.

Kasey Mahony, Cadillac District Supervisor, PRD, briefed the committee on the water safety initiatives, which now includes a new flag system.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Rowe

Topic Algonac State Park, Algonac Mi.

1- The park is a very popular place for many Michiganders and visitors. It is very much in need of renovation(s).

A: the north bath building needs renovation really bad. With the broken floors, broken and missing tiles it's almost a danger to people.

B: With the increasing need for camp sites as an alternative and affordable vacation many people are entering camping vacations. There is an overwhelming need for more camping sites. Algonac State Park has such a large underdeveloped or should I say under developed area south of the existing south and north camping areas that could be utilized for that need (day use area). Also Algonac State Park stays full from memorial day to labor day and its all year usage. I'm sure the revenue will justify the return in project cost. Again my I state the growing need for Michigan citizens and visitors need for expanding camping here in our great state. I believe that Algonac State Park can help fulfill that need.

C: The roadways could use some repaving. Some of the camp sites could use leveling and new pads.

D: Development of an expanded beach area on the river front. There is an area there but way underdeveloped. It would be a welcome investment for the local area, campers and visitors. Thank for listening to some suggestions I also thank Ms. Graves for presenting this email to the committee. We love our State and enjoy all the wonderful services the DNR offer the great citizens and visitors to this great state. I hope you take these comments as possible future advisement and growth. Algonac State Park is a true gem in Michigan.

P.S please extend to all who work, volunteer and are associated with Algonac State Park a big thank you for doing a great job for all. You should be very proud of them as we the Rowe family say thank you to them.

Sincerely Mark Rowe and family

Elaine Elzinga

Dear council members,

My husband and I are both handicapped, but we still love to camp at Holland beach. Please consider putting in a boardwalk that goes from the campground area to the water. The one that goes to the water is quite a ways away from the campground and there are never any spots left near the water as it is so busy. All the beaches need more accessibility to the water for the handicapped. Thank you, Mrs. Elaine Elzinga

Roger Hatt

With more Michigan residents camping and getting harder to make a reservation at State parks. I think as many others do, the first hour for reservations should be for Michigan residents only. They are Michigan State Parks, so residents should have first chance at camping at them. At your August 10 meeting, let's make a change for the good of Michigan campers. Thank you for your time.

End of public comment

Next regular meeting:

October 12, 2022

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.